

## **How was the idea for the project developed**

The Project idea was developed with Dumfries & Galloway Councils Waste Management Team and we were provided supported by CEIS, McRoberts Solicitors, Community Resources Network for Scotland to develop a business plan to maximise the environmental and social return when the building was constructed and services delivered from it.

It had input from numerous local groups and people from the local area.

## **Who was involved in the Project, Individuals and Organisations.**

During the development phase of the project we consulted numerous local groups including the Community Council and Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway and Community Reference Group.

We regularly sought the views of our customers to ascertain which services and activities should take place at the centre. We did this at our old premises.

## **What was the main aim and objective of the project.**

The main aim was to construct a showroom, warehouse, offices, workshop and training facility that would provide the opportunity to reuse goods including household furniture, electrical appliances, children's toys, clothing and books. Our main aim is to relieve poverty and we do this by providing these materials to people who are disadvantaged or marginalized with our community.

In 2016 we had over 20 volunteers undertake over 2479 hours of non paid work. From April 2017 to October 2017 we had 21 volunteers undertake over 3942 hours of non paid work. From November 2017 to the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018 we had 28 volunteers undertake 5202 hours of non paid work. This is an increase of 45 hours per week on average and up 1260 hours in total from the first part of the year.

## **How was the funding package assembled.**

The funding came from Holywood Trust who awarded £50,000, Robertson Trust who awarded £6,875, Social Investment Scotland who awarded £5,771.17 and Dumfries and Galloway LEADER who awarded £60,000

## **When did the Project take place?**

The Project commenced the end of November 2016 and concluded March 2018. This included the construction programme and the commencement of the service deliver.

## **What actually happened?**

The internal works for the new Community Reuse Centre have been completed. The work was completed on or before the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017 with a practical completion certificate being issued by building standards in February 2018.

The work included internal building work.

- This was the formation of block work to create a warehouse, showroom, offices, toilets, workshops, store room, kitchen, hall and training facilities. In addition, all plaster boarding and plastering.
- joinery included all facing, skirting, door and window frames and fire doors along with ceiling joists. Fitting of kitchen units, doors and worktops.
- UPVC windows & doors.
- electrical, wiring/cabbling, conduit, light fittings, sockets and switches.
- glazing of windows and doors, metal doors and plumbing works including kitchen fittings and bathroom (toilet) fixtures & fittings.

All payments to the contractor have been made.

The Furniture Project have moved in to the building and started reusing furniture and a wide variety of other items.

We have started to use the building for a variety of different activities including volunteering and training programmes for people from across Wigtownshire who are effected by poverty or disadvantaged. We have also started upcycling workshops and have a bike recycling programme due to commence.

Without hesitation it can be evidenced visually that the quality of the project has improved due to the investment from LEADER. In addition it can be confirmed that the funding allowed the project to proceed and to secure match funding.

The funding has enabled the organisation to sustain a free collection and delivery service to rural communities for large goods that can be reused.

The users of the new centre have increased and the feedback is very positive from visitors.

The scrape store infrastructure is set up and we are in the process of populating the facility for children and groups to be able to access it.

The new building has brought an array of new organisations that are motivated to work in partnership with us to provide services. The NHS and Dumfries & Galloway Councils Community Safety Team are working with us to provide classroom based and practical cycling proficiency for primary aged children.

### **Detail how the project fits with the local development strategy?**

**Sustainable Settlements;** The centre has allowed us to provide a series of services to people living in poverty. We supply free school uniforms in partnership with Tesco. In partnership with Loreburn Housing Association we supply furniture starter packs to their tenants who have been identified as at risk of losing their tenancy.

We work with people who are young and old, able and disabled, disadvantaged and advantaged, so together the team can collectively deliver services to the wider community whilst learning new skills, sharing skills, building self confidence, reducing social isolation and improving physical & mental health and wellbeing.

**Economy;** We have young people come to work with us on training programmes, volunteer programmes and through employment. We deliberately work with young people who require support and guidance so they can learn new skills in a supportive environment.

**Community facilities;** Over the LEADER funding period we have been involved in many local initiatives that have developed from the centre or meant that local people visits the centre as part the project activity. Examples include, but not limited to upcycling workshops, Stranraer Scottish Week and new Community café for people socially isolated.

**Economic Strategy;** We projected that the project will add 2.9 million to the local economy over a 20 year period. Based on evidence to date with have upgraded that forecast to 3.5 million. We have recruited to the three posts earlier than forecast and are above forecast on the numbers of people on placement.

### **How was the project delivered?**

The construction phase was delivered by a construction team, AP Steel Buildings, Bladnoch. The project activities have since been delivered by a wider group of volunteers, supported by seven employees and in partnership with lots of local agencies and businesses. These activities have been supported by the general public who, who on average 240 visit the centre on a daily basis to reuse goods.

### **What marketing was undertaken?**

The project activities are advertised on Facebook on a daily basis. We also have a website; [www.reuseshop.org.uk](http://www.reuseshop.org.uk). We have had various projects reported in the local Freepress Newspaper, our Wigtownshire magazine and DG Local.

### **Who benefitted from the project?**

There are three distinct groups of beneficiaries, the general public across Wigtownshire, patrons of the Community Reuse Centre, who undertake upcycling or visit to donate and reuse goods and the users who volunteer or undertake a training placement with us.

### **How did the final budget turn out.**

The final spend with regard to the LEADER project is concerned was £122,646.17 however the LEADER grant had to be reduced to £50,773.06 due to VAT having to be removed from the grant.

### **What lessons have been learnt?**

Fine detail is the key in the planning stage to delivering a project on forecast. We spent over two years researching the project, with visits across Scotland, the UK and Europe, to learn about other Reuse services and how they integrate in to community life, the business model they use, demographics, partnerships and building design.

This information, coupled with the information we already had enabled us to be confident in our projections.

We had too many visitors in the early stages, that caused us to lose focus, because of the time committed to entertaining delegations.

We should have managed that element better, as it delayed implementation of certain parts of the project, so slowed down the growth of the project.

We under estimated how successful the project could be a different levels, from reuse services to new partnerships. As a result we have set up a Community Café and a Community Action Team.

### **Will the project be mainstreamed or transferred?**

Currently we expect the project to be used as a model for other projects to develop from across Scotland. We have had significant interest from Third Sector Groups, Councils, Government departments and Support agencies throughout Scotland, who are seeking to replicate or create a similar model in their areas.

We have facilitated groups from the Borders, Perth, Oban who are interested in learning from our operation and how it went together. More locally community reference groups, Job Centre Plus, Dumfries & Galloway Housing Partnership & Loreburn Housing Association, Police Scotland, Council Officers and Directors and local Councillors have all visited.

### **Detail the sustainability of the project or exit strategy.**

The sustainability of the project is produced from the income from sales of goods that we now sell in the shop at the Community Reuse Centre.

This has enabled us to become a sustainable community enterprise.

<b>Project outputs and outcomes</b>		
<b>Economy</b>		
<b>More training, jobs and employment opportunities for people living in the region by 2020</b>		
	<b>Target</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
No of individuals trained/gaining new skills or re-skilled	20	40
<b>Improved opportunity for young people to access employment in the region</b>		
No of young people trained/gaining new skills or re-skilled	5	11
<b>Land Coast and Marine Environments</b>		
<b>Promoting a Greener lifestyle</b>		
No of projects promoting an environmentally and resource efficient economy	1	1
<b>Sustainable settlements</b>		
<b>Improvement in rural community capacity</b>		
No of participants involved in delivery of LEADER funded projects	20	2
<b>Improved provision of community facility across the region</b>		
No of community facilities created	1	1
<b>Improvement in community capacity</b>		

No of projects demonstrating a commitment to community capacity building	1	1
No of people accessing training/development opportunities	30	40
No of people accessing training/development opportunities	20	21
<b>Increased Volunteering opportunities</b>		
No of projects promoting volunteering opportunities	1	1
No of volunteers engaged	20	21
No of people reporting an improvement in health & well being	10	5