

Small Grants Fund Case Study



Kingsbarns Community Development Trust

What activity did you run?

We are running an ambitious community consultation to help produce a Local Place Plan. This plan will help shape ideas and opportunities for the future of our local area. We will present the final plan to Fife Council, who will include it in their longer-term Local Development Plan.

The Local Place Plan addresses several issues, such as:

- proposals for new homes (including affordable housing), local employment, tourism and community facilities
- sites which support new renewable energy projects or climate adaptation measures (such as flood mitigation)
- improvements to open space, play facilities and active travel
- conservation of the natural and built environment
- land for community food growing

To encourage people to engage with the Local Place Plan process we designed a simple short survey questionnaire. We shared it through social media and door-to-door to reach as wide an audience as possible.

The survey will help prioritise the ambitions and needs of the community for further in-depth discussions in a series of community visioning workshops, which will ultimately feed into a Local Place Plan.

The Grant from Climate Action Fife has been pivotal to the success of setting up the initial steering group meetings (hire of the meeting hall), design and development of marketing materials, website and online survey, to launch the Local Place Plan process.

For the short survey, the Local Place Plan steering group wanted to help those completing the survey to think more about the climate emergency and how this impacts how and where we live. For example, one of the questions asked: 'Do you have any radical thoughts about this place?', with a simple prompt that read 'The climate emergency requires radical thinking about how we live. Imagine money was no object. This is your chance to dream!'

By simply providing a prompt relating to climate change, this led to a raft of responses with climate change top of people's minds. This will be vitally important when continuing the climate change thread in the upcoming community consultation workshops.

Who were your main audience?

Kingsbarns has a population of 689. The Local Place Plan steering group intend to engage with as many people as possible over the coming months. Findings will then

feed into the large community consultations to be held over summer and autumn, culminating in a final report being lodged with Fife Council.

What did you learn?

Our community cares about its relationship with the environment. People are aware and worried about climate change and want to do something about it. We're excited and encouraged by the wide range of suggestions from the community in terms of how they'd like to help tackle the climate emergency.

Has delivering your project increased capacity to tackle the climate emergency in your community?

Yes, and as this is near the beginning of an ambitious community consultation process, it's vitally important the 'big issues' surrounding environment and climate change are raised and addressed throughout the process.

What feedback did attendees give?

Specific survey answers to the question: 'Do you have any radical thoughts about this place?' included:

"I'd have more solar panels in the area!"

"Using wave power or small wind turbines to provide renewable energy."

"Becoming a whole village powered by tidal energy."

"Community wind turbines. Charging points for electric cars."

"A coordinated effort to increase green energy generation and usage locally. Glass recycling facilities would be good. Also some coordination of car sharing to local places (St Andrews for shopping, health appointments etc)."

"I would like to see more environmental improvements re energy and insulation of homes."

"Tidal district heating system."

"A wind turbine located near the village that would supply electricity for the whole village, solar panel and air source heat pump funding for all properties, local planning to be more flexible to allow for modern installations of green energy utilities."

Find out more

kingsbarnsdevtrust.org

