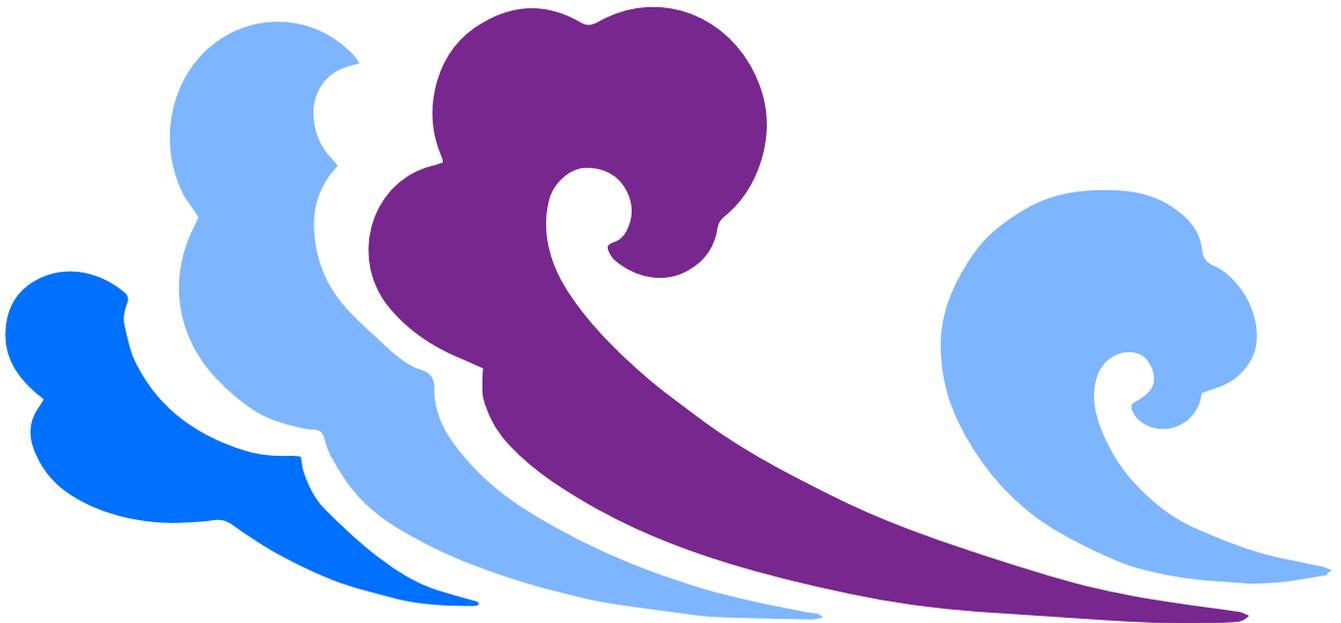


# Linwood Community

**Development Trust**

for the Community, by the Community

## Annual Report 2013 - 2014



*Linwood's Wave of Change*

# Foreword

## Meet our Board:



Sharon-Anne Ross



Jacqueline Donnelly



Carol Biggin



Jacqueline Thompson



Celia Smith



Bill McDonald



When Linwood Community Development Trust (LCDT) launched our Community Action Plan in 2012 we promised to 'Create a Wave of Change' and I am delighted to be able to say that through the funding we raised during 2013-14 we are now developing projects for Linwood run 'for the community by the community'.

This all kicked-off when we appointed Kirsty Flannigan as our Community Project Manager in April 2014. Her work ethic, experience and passion to the Linwood community has helped drive forward projects such as Kit & Caboodle, a re-cycling scheme for sports clothing and a laundry service for football strips; Linwood in Bloom, an environmental project that is promoting flower displays in order to make Linwood a brighter place to live; a Community Choir, set up to improve social inclusion and widen community ties; and our Healthy Eating & Living Project (HELP), that is providing low cost, high quality fruit/veg to improve the health of our population.

We have also been overwhelmed by the support we have received from local volunteers who came forward to support the development of these projects.

Another one of LCDT's projects is to develop much needed football pitches with changing facilities and we also have long term plans to build our very own community wellbeing centre in order to replace our recently demolished community centre. We will be finalising an asset transfer of land at Mossedge Playing Fields this year which is a perfect location to develop and grow our future plans.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board members, Jacqueline Donnelly, Sharon-Anne Ross, Celia Smith, Bill McDonald, Jacqueline Thompson and Carol Biggin for their time, commitment and dedication. I would also like to thank Jim Boyle, Board Advisor for his invaluable contribution to the Trust. A big thanks also goes to Mark Macmillan, Leader of Renfrewshire Council and Jim Sheridan (MP) who have been a great support during the development of our work – thank you everyone!

I have lived in Linwood for nearly 70 years and like so many of us, I have seen many changes. I am proud of the positive changes we have seen recently and I am hopeful that the people of Linwood will continue to have a voice to shape the future of our town. After all, this is our community, our future and who best knows what our community needs than our community itself.

**Jeanette Anderson, Chairperson**

# The Financials

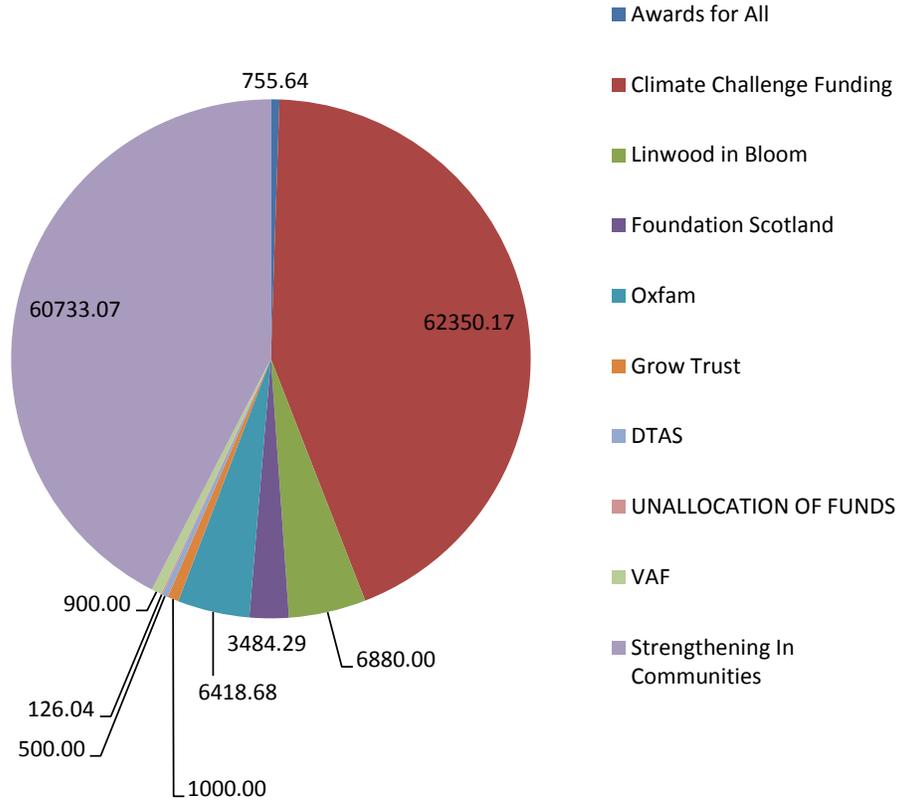
We had £37,417 at the start of 2013

We raised £119,019 from grants and income from our projects

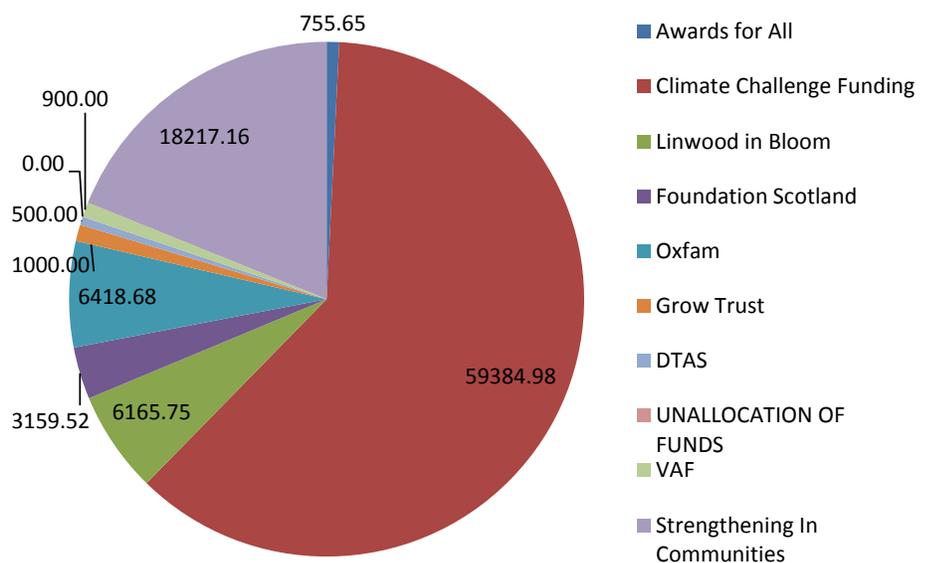
Our expenditure costs of £109,790 was spent on our projects, rent, equipment, utility bills and staff.

We finished the year with £46,646 which is restricted for project

## Income



## Expenditure



## Achievements



# Kit & CABOODLE

A new community enterprise was developed throughout 2014 by Linwood Community Development Trust -

with funding support from the Climate Challenge Fund. It provides a recycling and kit wash facility, helping local families and coaches save time, energy and money – the whole Kit & Caboodle!

Washing and drying sports kits uses a lot of energy, adding to Scotland's overall carbon emissions. Kit & Caboodle has been working with 8 local teams throughout 2014 and washed more than 150 loads of football kits which has made a saving of 270kg on carbon emissions!

The project also encourages people to recycle pre-loved football kits, sports equipment, boots, shin guards and clothing. Through our recycle bins, the project has received over 350kg of donations which would otherwise have been sent to landfill. This equates to a reduction of 7 tonnes on carbon emissions!

All of this has been supported by dedicated volunteers who have provided over 200 hours to the project so far!

*"The Climate Challenge Fund supports grassroots community organisations to take action on climate change. The Kit & Caboodle project is a great example of the simple types of action that can be taken to reduce a community's carbon footprint*



*and I am glad to hear of the progress that Linwood Community Development Trust are making."* **David Gunn, Climate Challenge Fund Manager, Scottish Government**



A collection of data on health, unemployment and social deprivation within Linwood was recently carried out by LCDT. These statistics detail that Linwood does not compare well with the rest of Renfrewshire and with Scotland as a whole.

For the above reasons, LCDT has established our Healthy Eating & Living Project (HELP) which:

- Provides high quality, low cost fruit & vegetables direct to Linwood residents;
- Reduces carbon emissions through reduction in food waste;
- Provides volunteering, training and employment opportunities that helps build social networks, improve learning and build confidence and self esteem;
- Encourages healthy eating, contributing to improving health and wellbeing; and
- Supports improving the economic, social and environmental development of Linwood.

Throughout 2014 HELP has:

- Received over 1500 orders since the project began;
- Supported 8 volunteers who have contributed more than 1200 hours of their time to get orders ready for collection;
- Saved more than 100kg of food waste by turning left over produce into healthy soups, salsas and chutney's and also recycled thousands of boxes for packaging instead of plastic bags; and
- Strengthened community ties across all age groups and gender through coming together as volunteers, consumers and supporters of the project!

*"I absolutely love volunteering with HELP. It keeps me busy and I have also got to know a lot of people both as volunteers and customers. I have done a lot of volunteering in the past but this is the best project so far as it's informal, fun and also generates income to support the future of our town."* **Elizabeth Eadie, Volunteer**



## Achievements



*"I have just picked up yet another fantastic fruit/veg order from HELP. Top quality, low cost produce with friendly down to earth staff. Great service right on our door step!"*

**Anne Gambrell, Customer**

## Achievements



The Linwood Community Choir was established to promote inclusion and strengthen community ties.

The choir has a membership of over 60 people who have a wide repertoire, including songs that promote the work to make Linwood a more sustainable town.

Members have performed at a number of events including the annual Linwood Lights Christmas Switch On and at a fundraising fashion show.

Research claims that singing as part of a group is good for your mind, body and soul and this has been evident within the Linwood Choir.

*"The choir is very special to me. There is a great sense of community spirit within the group and everyone takes care of one another. The choir has supported me greatly and I have met lots of new friends."*



**Maureen Taney Sharp,**  
Choir member

*"I have had the privilege to work with LCDT as a Song Leader and have been utterly inspired by the work they do."*



*"There is a huge sense of community spirit in Linwood and I am so glad to have had the chance to be a part of it through the work of the choir. Keep up the good work – and keep singing!"* **Cath Campbell, Song Leader**



In December 2010, Linwood was awarded the dreaded Carbuncle Award for being the most dismal town in Scotland.

LCDT listened to the voices of local residents during the development of our

Community Action Plan and one of the big issues that arose was the need to restore civic pride in the area with ideas to brighten up the town with flowerbed displays.

In order to address this, LCDT is now developing a project known locally as 'Linwood in Bloom' and local people are now taking on the planning and management of their environment.

To-date, 18 dedicated volunteers, funders, local schools, shop owners, local residents and the Royal Horticultural Society have contributed time to planting and maintaining railing planters and troughs throughout Linwood.

This project has brought about a renewed sense of pride to Linwood and with additional funding support that has been received it will be extended throughout 2015-16.

It has been 'blooming' wonderful to see all the glorious rainbows of flowers. Happiness in Linwood! Community spirit is inspirational!



Seeing all the beautiful flowerbeds in Linwood fairly cheers me up. Thank you to everyone involved in bringing the pride back to Linwood!

## Achievements



## Future Plans

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; infact it’s the only thing that ever has”*

*Margaret Mead  
(Anthropologist)*



*“A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm”*

*Henrik Ibsen  
(Poet)*



At the beginning of 2014 I had the privilege of taking on the role of Community Project Manager with LCDT which has been one of the most challenging things I have ever had to do! However, with the support of the local community and a very dedicated Board, there are now 5 amazing projects underway to support the future regeneration of our town.

It looks as though the year ahead is going to be just as busy as we finalise the ownership of a 2.4 hectare piece of land to develop a football facility so local football clubs can play on their doorstep



and negotiate funding support to expand our projects further. This will be no mean feat but we will be supported by Jim Boyle and Lewis Cumming whom we are looking forward to working with during 2015.

LCDT has also been supporting other ideas through community participation. An example of this is when a group of volunteers got together to look at ways to fundraise to support the community choir. Some set up a knitting bee where they produced Christmas table decorations for sale; and another group supported a fashion show event. The choir themselves produced a CD with songs they had learned which has sold numerous copies. This simple but creative approach to fundraising – led by local people - has raised over £1000 to support the choir throughout 2015!



It is evident that grassroots projects ‘run for communities, by communities’ are the foundation to successfully help build communities from the inside out. The campaigns and projects that have been delivered by LCDT are testament to that and we hope our work will inspire other communities.

However, none of this would have been possible without the support of our community and our dedicated team of volunteers and we hope you will continue to support us in the years ahead.

Together we have planted the seeds and together we will make them grow!

**Kirsty Flannigan, Community Projects Manager**