

# Linlithgow Community Development Trust Chair's Annual Report for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023



Welcome to the Chair's Annual Report.

As always, it has been a busy and productive year for the Trust.

The EH49 Hub continues to be well used by many community groups, charities, small businesses, sports clubs and others, with all manner of health and wellbeing activities and meetings taking place; from yoga classes to art exhibitions. The Hub is also the indoor location for Linlithgow's monthly markets. The Hub was the venue during this year for a group of Ukrainian refugees who met weekly, to learn English and socialise together.

The Tool Library continues to serve the community and is open on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday (144 members with 20 loans on average per week) We have recently loaned out our 1000<sup>th</sup> item and our surplus tools sales have proven very popular. The creation of the very busy Linlithgow Shed which grows from strength to strength has been fantastic, with many volunteers attending weekly, assisting with community projects as well as individuals working on their own DIY upcycling and repair projects. Our morning and afternoon Re-Fab sessions are held on the last Saturday of every month for those who like to sew, knit, crochet, and generally be creative with all sorts of textiles. Both groups were involved in many community projects throughout the year, e.g. for Christmas 22 volunteers worked on the Festival of Christmas trees and providing stands for real Christmas trees that were being provided to families in need. It's great to see the wider community benefiting from all the great work of the Shedders/Tool Library and Re-Fab, not to mention all the fixed and upcycled items that have been saved from landfill and given new lives and homes!

We continue to have a volunteer-led recycling project (via Terracycle) with items such as medicine blister packs, toothcare products, make up products, disposable contact lens packs and much more! Our collection point at the EH49 Hub is very well used by the community to recycle these hard to recycle items. Our E-Van has been used by community groups 70 times and our E-Bikes 23 times in this period.

We have showcased many organisations work via displays in the Hub, ranging from the Embroiderer's Guild to a local Art Club for young people.

Linlith-Go-Solar continues to provide low-cost electricity to three sports clubs via and support local initiatives with modest surpluses, including our young people at Linlithgow Academy participating in F1 in Schools, as well as sponsoring Burgh Beautiful's climate themed flowerbeds. We held a 'Keep Warm and Well' event in the Hub, partnering with

other organisations such as Home Energy Scotland to provide energy saving tips and advice, especially important during the cost of living crisis.

The West Lothian Cycle Circuit build started in this year. This required much focus from the Trust, working with the many partners involved, to ensure the project was delivered as planned and on budget. We are grateful to SportsScotland, West Lothian Council, West Lothian Leisure, the Clarion, Scottish Cycling, Malcolm Clapperton and RJ McLeod, who have worked together to make this project, after 11 years, finally a reality. It was extremely exciting to see the diggers arrive late in 2022. Of course, with the reality dawning that we would soon be running the facility, this also involved a huge amount of work around the development/planning for both the launch of the circuit and to have the structures in place for the planned day-to-day operations to begin in May 2023. We were delighted to involve many local organisations in the launch plans and to still have a great network of clubs working together to ensure at the outset, that the circuit would be used by a variety of organisations. From January 2023 we worked closely with Forth Environment Link to put together an application for Smarter Choices, Smarter Places, an £86K application to have a large project to encourage walking, wheeling and cycling in and around Linlithgow and neighbouring towns in West Lothian. This was successful and will be delivered over a 12-month period starting in January 2024, and will see much more activity happening at the circuit.

We work collaboratively with the town's many groups and with West Lothian-wide/national initiatives to champion community development and climate action, for example, supporting the development of a local place plan with community leaders from many of the town's organisations (hosted in the Hub) and the creation of a West Lothian Climate Action hub. Scotland Towns Partnership and Cycling UK have held regional events in the hub with many West Lothian and Linlithgow organisations attending. We continue to support other organisations promoting their volunteering opportunities and their events via our website, regularly contribute to the BB magazine and look after the town's noticeboards.

We are enormously grateful for the support of staff and the many dedicated volunteers who make this all happen. You are all amazing!  
Thank you so much for all that you do.



Carole Racionzer, Chairperson  
**Linlithgow Community Development Trust**