

Linlithgow Community Development Trust

Chair's Annual Report for the period ending 31st March 2025



Welcome to the Chair's Annual Report.

What a busy year it has been! Thanks to our wonderful staff team, sessional workers, all our volunteers, funders and supporters who make it all happen. We are additionally so grateful for all the wonderful partnerships we have with many organisations both locally and further afield to deliver our work.

Year two of the Cycle Circuit operation continues to see many groups regularly using the circuit: athletics, triathlon, skating, cycling, all ability sports clubs and weekly Women's Hour. Scottish Cycling launched their new Women and Girls strategy at the circuit, with national press coverage as well as hosting the HUP CC Scottish Cyclocross Series and many other races. The cycle circuit is officially the only circuit in Scotland to be certified by World Athletics to be able to be used for World selection 5K qualifying times. We also saw the successful delivery of our Paths for All initiatives with some fabulous feedback from participants. The finale to this project was the wonderful Festival of Movement. Seventeen activities across the town celebrating with walking, wheeling, cycling events, film screenings and more. Through Artroots funding 'Passages' came to life, a cultural trail along the NCN754. The team secured SEStran funding for another year, through a partnership with Forth Environment Link, to continue to develop active travel initiatives in the town. In particular, we look forward to seeing the exciting schools initiatives develop. We were also delighted to see families from Children 1st enjoying cycling and skating at the circuit for the first time, as well as seeing sessions held at the pump track at Bridgend.

The EH49 Hub continues to be used by a variety of groups and this year welcomed Enable Communities who run an inclusive group for young people age 8-15. The hub has hosted art exhibitions and has also been the starting point for our weekly Buggy and Sling walks. We continue to host the Artisan markets where we now showcase some of our projects each month. We opened the hub one day a week as a Warm Welcome space through the winter and latterly have started having activities on that day such as a book swap and plan to have local history talks next year. Refab, the Shed and the hub all participated in the Festival of Christmas Trees at St Michael's. Terracycle collections added new schemes, including collecting rigid plastic, such as lunchboxes and reusable water bottles. Our e-bikes this year were lent out on long term loans of up to a month and we were delighted to see one of our hirers write a blog about his experience on the cargo bike. The Cycle Kitchen is popular and runs fortnightly on Tuesday evenings. Once again, we hosted a tech donation box in January, which was full to the brim with 263 devices.

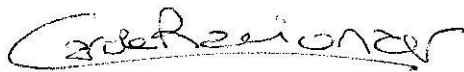
The Tool Library goes from strength to strength with over 250 members and 1000 loans each year. On the first anniversary of our repair cafes, we launched the Repair

Shop (running on tool library days) where our repairmongers have seen over 500 items presented for repair. After an inspiring visit to Edinburgh Tool Library we have introduced a pay it forward scheme as well as a clear concessionary rate. The Shed held its first Women and non-binary introduction to the Shed and our tool sales on market day continue to be popular. We were recognised by the Party Kit Network with an award for our contributions to waste reduction. We also welcomed two P4 classes to teach them about our share and repair projects and great fun was had by all. Our Refab sessions continue to find all sorts ways to reuse and save textiles from landfill with a plan to create bunting for Linlithgow Marches in 2025. Members also attended a talk by Patrick Grant (of Sewing Bee fame) about the crisis in the fashion industry. The Circular Tourism project worked with our local accommodation providers to repair and share in their businesses, employing sessional workers to provide repair services. This pilot project fed back numerous recommendations for potential future work nationally within this sector, which demonstrates the level at which the Trust is now operating at and the influence we are having.

Farmily held their annual seed and plant swaps, as well as a wreath making workshop during the festive period. We had a successful year growing vegetables for the food bank. For the 2025 growing season, St Vincent De Paul group will be utilising our beds to expand their growing potential.

Linlith-Go-Solar continues to provide low-cost electricity to 3 sports clubs and support local initiatives with modest surpluses, including sponsoring Burgh Beautiful's climate themed flowerbeds, the latest being a year in the vegetable garden. We held an energy event with a talk on Solar PV/Storage, were able to give away a variety of energy saving items for people's homes and created 4 short videos on energy saving tips with a talented young presenter.

As our organisation grows, it is vitally important to find ways to ensure we are robust and efficient internally as well as providing great projects within the community. We are delighted by the progress made in this year by the staff team lead by our CEO Lee Dolby. We are looking forward to the organisation growing from strength to strength in the year ahead, as always with community development, climate action, innovation and most importantly the people of the Linlithgow ward at our heart.



Carole Racionzer, Chairperson

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