

# **COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDER ANNUAL REPORT**

FINANCIAL YEAR: **2019/20**

LOCAL AUTHORITY: **HIGHLAND**



**Types of unpaid work projects and activities which have been carried out (list of bulletpoints will suffice); the total number of unpaid work hours completed during the year; and one example that helps to demonstrate how communities benefit from unpaid work (max 300 words).**

**Types of projects:**

- Various projects for Community Councils, e.g. path clearing and maintaining cycle paths; shrub clearing and strimming, laying down of bark mulch, clearing trees, replacing rotten posts with new posts, repair and rebuilding bridge walkways; painting planters and railings, e.g. in cemeteries and removing and replacing chicken wire; tidying up grounds and cutting back bushes; clearing up street signs.
- Graffiti removal and painting of Ferry Point Inverness (now a local Information Centre).
- Community Woodland projects, e.g. construction of wooden outdoor classroom without using any metal – made entirely of wood and is the largest of its kind in Britain.
- Provided prizes (fabricated in unpaid work workshops) for several Cash for Kids raffles.
- One very large project, and one which has grown throughout the year, is the joint venture with Inverness Foodstuffs, a local charity run and operated by Ness Bank Church of Scotland. The venture started as a foodbank, providing hot lunches 4 times a week to those in need. We were instrumental in the start-up of the operation and, in the past 12 months, have provided a collection service from local Supermarkets, waste disposal and delivery of hot meals to the more disabled and elderly.
- Schools, e.g. construction of a wildlife pond which was then replaced with a bog garden; building 3 compost bins using pallets and posts, preparing 2 beds, building raised bed/planters at waist height for those with mobility issues; building and erecting a tool shed.
- Highland Council work, e.g. in Milton, cutting back overgrown shrubbery; laying slabs and erecting secure area for bins; clearing pathways; installing fences, putting down membrane and sand; edging path kerbs; clearing leaves.
- Strathpeffer Initiative – 5 benches made good – stripped and re-coated two complete sets; 3 benches re-slatted. Yew hedge taken down to 2 metres, clip box hedges re-shaped, borders weeded and tidied up, edging taken back to the path.
- The Old Station, Strathpeffer – built and installed steps leading down onto the old track way, erected trellis for climbers at the end of the platform, cleared bushes and replaced with rose bushes along the side of the platform, installed a woodland path, log benches in the woodland area, cleared a parking area at the front of the station of bushes and leaves.
- Evanton Social & Event Group – part of Evanton Cycle Path strimmed. Bottle Bank area: moveable fence constructed and painted. Balconie Street: general tidy up to the area, fence painted, and barrel removed from site. Station Road: hedge tidied up and broom removed. Bus Shelter: barrels on either side cleaned out and bush removed from entrance. Between the bridge and the caravan park - tidy up around the fence area; old chain link fencing removed and replaced.

- Work for older people/disabled, e.g. garden maintenance, clearing between slabs and pathways, removing various items and transporting them to the recycling centre.
- Community Groups, e.g. landscaping around a polytunnel; painting a Wendy house.
- Dingwall in Bloom – trimming back bushes.
- Black Isle Carers: Planting fruit trees.
- Leisure Centres, e.g. clearing bushes.
- Evanton Youth Enterprise – removed skateboard facility at Teandallon Park.
- Community Mental Health Teams – cutting hedges/thinning trees.
- Firewood – cutting and delivering large stacks of seasoned logs to local charity shops and older people.
- There are also a number of individual placements. For example: Blythwood Highland Deephaven Depot, Evanton – warehouse duties, helping pack shoe boxes for their annual Christmas shoe box appeal which distributes hundreds of decorated shoe boxes which are filled by the general public. The boxes contain donations of toiletries, knitted hats, scarves, gloves, underwear, small gifts for example and they are sent to their contacts in many different countries e.g. Romania, Moldova & Ukraine. Sue Ryder Shop, Dingwall – sorting out donations of goods for sale in the shop and cleaning duties; Tain Free Church – litter clean-up, weeding, moss removal, painting, rotavating & spreading decorative chip. Muir of Ord Rovers – weeding, cutting back broom, general groundwork and fencing work. Maryburgh Free Church – clearing leaves in courtyard and cleaning main hall. Inverness Foodstuffs – as previously mentioned, the venture with Inverness Foodstuffs has grown to the extent that we are now providing staff to work with in in the kitchen and front of house. The clients are learning new skills from these placements (food prep, cooking, front-of-house, food hygiene), with some clients undertaking food hygiene training as part of their Order.
- Clients are also taught how to make log stores, benches, herb planters and bird tables sold at Auction and using the proceeds to purchase tools for unpaid work workshops.

**Number of hours completed:** this is 44,997 down slightly compared to the figure for 2018/19 which was 47,046.

**One example:**

Central Park, Dingwall, Ross-shire

This is a waste area which was taken over by a group of volunteers wishing to exercise dogs with social issues in a controlled environment. Unpaid work tidied up the entrance area and removed rubbish and weeds; cleared a significant area of ground to enable activities to be built for the dogs; built 8 raised beds using 40 tonnes of material; constructed dog activities which included two tunnels, several walkways and a tyre pyramid; placed 6 tonnes of soil into the tyres for the pyramid; tidied selective area for numerous short-term activities; constructed two high benches; covered the existing paths with quarry dust; made a drain cover; spread 6 tonnes of material on the paths to make them wheelchair accessible and to reduce mud collected by dogs; repaired one picnic table and built another picnic table; built three holders for dog drinking bowls; felled a tree and carved a sign from part of the

tree; levelled piles of earth which was positioned in various places around the site and reseeded area; constructed two high benches for the park.

Over 700 hours of manpower was used on this project and it was all done by hand without any machinery involved

As well as an extensive makeover of an area of wasteland significantly improving the local area, the resulting facility has been well used and facilitated community interaction.

**Types of "other activity" carried out as part of the unpaid work or other activity requirement (max 300 words).**

**Please provide details only in circumstances where there have been changes to the information submitted last year. If there are no changes please insert N/A below.**

In addition to the Other Activity details provided previously, the following is of note in 2019/20:

- Offending Awareness Programme provided by Action for Children – This is a 12 week programme which includes the following sessions: Cycle of Change and Managing Change, Old “Me” Collage, Problem Solving – Recognition and Definition, Problem Solving – Alternative Thinking and Choices, Problem Solving – Consequential Thinking and Decision Making, Dealing with Anger, Dealing with Conflict, Addictions, Victim Awareness, Gains and Losses of Offending & Relapse Prevention.
- Preventing Abuse in Relationships provided by Action for Children – This is a 9 week programme which includes the following sessions: Understanding & Awareness of Behaviours in Domestic Violence, Identifying abusive and controlling behaviours, The effects of domestic violence on women and children, Roles In Relationships, The Impacts and Effects of Feelings and Emotions, Thinking of Thinking, The Process of Change and What’s Working.
- Instruction in Decider Skills – this uses Cognitive Behaviour Therapy to teach people the skills to recognise their own thoughts, feelings and behaviours, enabling them to monitor and manage their own emotions and mental health

A domestic abuse Other Activity 2-hour module was developed and was ready to be delivered in March when the coronavirus lockdown was imposed. This is along similar lines to the Victim’s module referred to in previous Annual Reports and is to be delivered to groups of around 8 people on unpaid work.

**Please provide an example of how consultation with prescribed persons and organisations, pursuant to section 227ZL of the 1995 Act, and wider communities on the nature of unpaid work and other activities, helped determine which projects were undertaken (max 300 words).**

This is little different than previous years, i.e. no significant change.

The mainstay of this continues to be the wide dissemination of information about community payback. This takes many forms. For example, leaflets are to promote the service, including at Doctor's Surgeries, libraries, council service points, Heritage Centres, Care Homes, community councils etc. – in short, wherever there is potential. Projects are never in short supply.

**Any issues affecting access to services which are provided by other partners (e.g. drug and alcohol services) and, where such issues have been identified, what work is underway to resolve them (max 300 words).**

**Please provide details only in circumstances where there have been changes to the information submitted last year. If there are no changes, please insert N/A below.**

N/A

**Any other relevant information, which may include:**

- **An example of any work carried out with people on CPOs to address their offending behaviour, but which does not fall into the category of a specific requirement.**
- **An example of work carried out in partnership with the third sector**
- **Any areas identified for improvement and planned next steps**

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**Improvement work:**

- CPO reviews – the need to implement a structured process to ensure all orders are reviewed and recorded was identified, developed and during 2019/20 started to be implemented. This was identified as a gap in service provision from an analysis of the initial Community Payback Order inspection reports published by the Care Inspectorate.
- Improve communication across the service – following a survey of all staff, this was identified as an area for improvement. The resulting plan, part-way through implementation, included bringing together a cross section group of staff to work on developing a CJSW section of the Highland Council intranet, a newsletter and setting up a practice forum which was about to go-live towards the year-end but was interrupted by staff vacancies and covid-19; developing a team meeting policy; and the provision of log-in and internet access to community payback order supervisors.

- Other improvement work during 2019/20 was:
  - Improving the quality of the data in LS/CMI to implement the national centralisation project.
  - Delivering an in-service training day for all unpaid work staff.
  - Completing a sentencers' survey of Sheriffs in Highland and starting to implement the resulting action plan, e.g. reviewing court services to improve consistency based on good practice; review and implement a service policy on breach of CPOs.

**Work carried out with the Third Sector:**

When working with Inverness Foodstuffs (IF), we found that many of our clients who worked with them had a change of outlook on poverty and its effects. It opened their eyes to what was going on around them and they witnessed how many people were willing to help those in need. Every one of the clients we sent to IF expressed a feeling of satisfaction that they had contributed to helping someone else's wellbeing and felt that they had a positive contribution to make. As part of the agreement, any spare meals and food bags were donated to us to offer to some of our more vulnerable clients, especially those with children. A number have requested to stay and volunteer after their order such was the satisfaction gained from their experience.

COMPLETED BY: James Maybee

DATE: 11 December 2020

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