



Newsletter 2

September 2009

LOTS OF NEWS!

GROW ALLOT project gets the go-ahead!

Moffat CAN will be announcing great news in the press this week. We now have enough funding in place to start up CAN's Grow Allot project.

Two weeks ago the Council agreed to CAN's request to give us the derelict Old Church Depot and Drying Green, on Annanside, for a nominal sum (subject to ministerial consent). Now the government's Climate Challenge Fund has awarded CAN a grant of £310,000.

The money will be spent on saving the building and making it inhabitable, preparing the land around for allotments and a community market garden, and on creating a sustainable recycling business.

The business will employ 5 full-time equivalent posts, and we will also be able to offer jobs to school-leavers and long-term unemployed people under the Department of Work and Pensions' Future Jobs Scheme.

We also aim to use local tradesmen for the restoration so that the many benefits of this project will be felt in the local area.

We're really thrilled that a panel of leading experts has looked at CAN's business plan and concluded that it's sustainable and can help create jobs and prepare Upper Annandale for the economy of the future.

CAN's business model is based on two very successful community recycling schemes: Fyne Futures on the Isle of Bute in Argyll, and Golspie Recycling and Environmental Action Network (GREAN www.grean.co.uk). Look up their website if you can, to see the type of operation we have in mind.

We aim to take over the Council's recycling collection when they stop their blue bin collections early next year, and will also be offering a collection service to businesses. The plan

also sees CAN expanding to do doorstep recycling collections from Lockerbie and Lochmaben too.

Ownership of the old church building gives us a large storage space for recycle, and maybe some workshop space – repairing bicycles, craft-working from reclaimed materials for example, or whatever CAN members suggest. Meanwhile the land will be turned into 14 half-sized allotments and a community market garden – where local people can volunteer to help grow fruit and vegetables. We hope to get all the permissions through for this project by February 2010, so as to be able to start landscaping in time for next year's growing season.

There's lots of details to be worked out, and we welcome your involvement in planning the project.

We're looking for members to volunteer to join the Board to help with overseeing all the planning. We would particularly welcome someone with experience of running a small business, someone with experience of working with volunteers, someone with an accountancy background, and people who are active within the Academy.

As CAN's operations will now cover Upper Annandale, if you know of people who might be interested in joining the Board from out-with Moffat, please suggest them. We're also looking for more new members of CAN. Membership is free. It means you get this newsletter, and are invited to come to our AGM next year to elect the Board of Directors.

The funding gives us a year to make this a self-sustaining, community-owned social enterprise. It's a great challenge – and an exciting opportunity. We hope you'll get involved.

We're currently planning our programme of autumn activities, and will be in touch in due course to tell you about that – but we couldn't wait to tell you our news!

If you're receiving this newsletter by post, and have an email address, please send your email address to info@moffatcan.org so that we can save paper and postage by emailing to you in future.

Best wishes,

The CAN team

You can also visit our website at: www.moffatcan.org