

Community Feedback

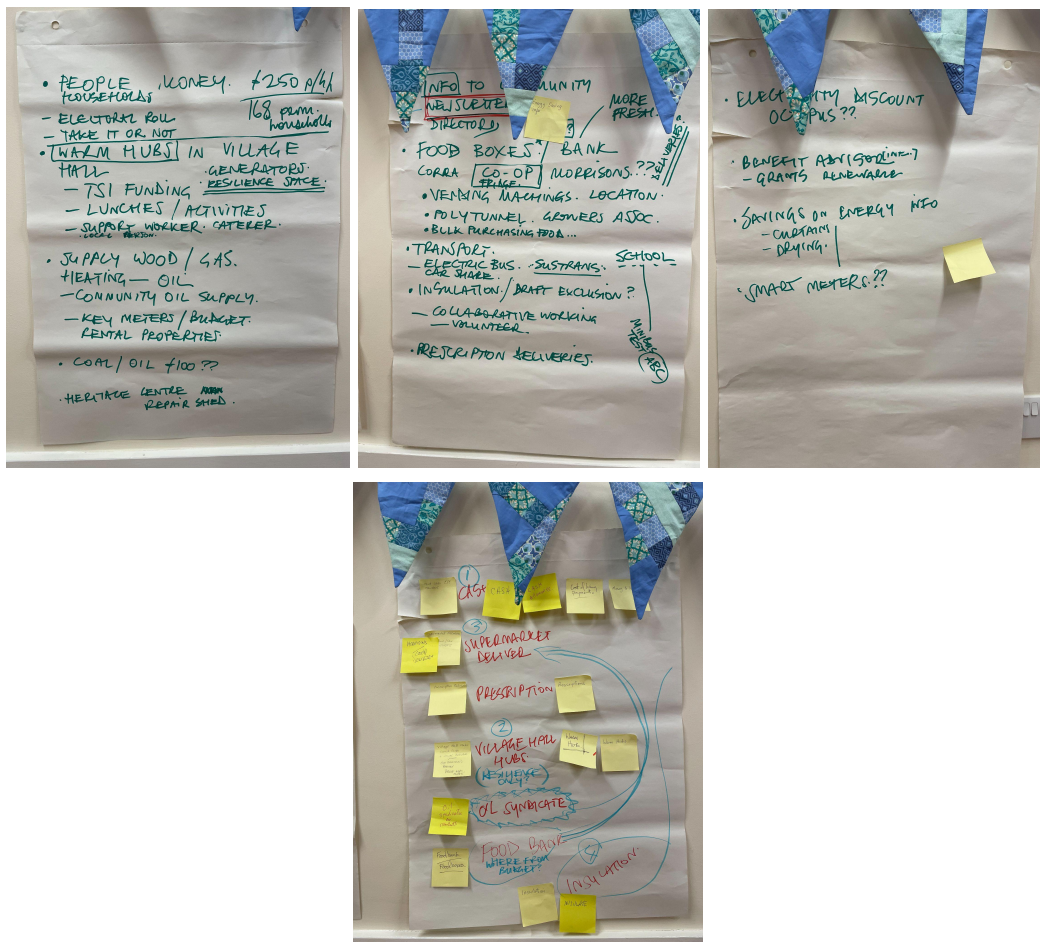
On the Cost of Living Crisis

On the 26th September the Community Council held a meeting to discuss the cost of living crisis and what might be done to alleviate hardship in the community. The group spent an hour and a half looking at what solutions might be found and made four main recommendations for the resilience group to follow up.

METHOD

1. Attendees were asked to form groups and to write down a list of activities that they thought would help members of the community to cope with the Cost of Living Crisis.
2. All ideas and thoughts were then noted down on three panels
3. The groups were then asked to select 3-5 of the ideas which had been suggested as priorities. This resulted in a fourth panel which was then ranked overall by consensus of the group.

INITIAL IDEAS PANELS



RECOMMENDATIONS

First, that a payment should be offered to every household of permanent residents in Colintrave and Glendaruel funded by the Cruach Mhor Windfarm Trust (CMWT). The amount of such a payment was not specifically recommended, but there was discussion on how to ensure that payments be made to the correct applicants.

The Resilience group are to work with the nominated community anchor organisation – the Development Trust – to apply for and acquire funding for this project from CMWT. CGDT will deliver the application process and administration of the payments to the community in a way which will ensure that everyone's applications remain absolutely confidential and anonymous. Payments are not mandatory, and if they are not taken up, then the unspent monies will be used to fund either (a) a second set of Cost of Living payments or (b) another of the recommended projects.

Second, the group recommended that the village halls were used as community hubs, particularly during weather events and power cuts. Evidently the respective hall committees have plans already in hand but it was suggested that funding should be found to enable these community assets to provide as much, or as little, support as the community requires. Funding might be used to pay for higher electricity usage, introduction of new facilities, social activities and direct support to residents via food banks, lunches or information. The Resilience Group to liaise with both committees to understand how these objectives can be achieved in the short-term.

Third, the group felt that funding should be found to enable the coordination of supermarket / food deliveries (as well as prescription deliveries) cutting down fuel costs and providing access to cheaper products. The group discussed the Farmers' Market, food boxes / bank, vending machines, growers association and the CGDT polytunnel in this regard as well. In many ways this is an extension of the successful Resilience-Group-led COVID lockdown initiative, which also used CGDT as anchor organisation.

Lastly, the group agreed that a newsletter was an essential component of all of these initiatives, providing news on the progress to recommendations 1–3 as well as sign-posting other sources of help, advice and information. The Community Council has funding in hand to bring this forward and the newsletter volunteers should work with the Resilience Group to put together the first issue as soon as progress is made on recommendations 1–3.

Charles D/S, 7th Oct. 2022, draft V2