

## **Housing – Good News Stories**

Tenant participation has continued during the pandemic and officers and tenants have found different ways of engaging with their communities. Most of our tenant meetings have restarted via videoconferencing and many tenants have received training and equipment to assist them with this new digital engagement.

A number of our groups have carried out wonderful work in their communities during the pandemic and some details are provided below.

The **Smithton Residents Association and Smithton Community Council** united together to help their community when Covid 19 struck.

They delivered leaflets to every home in the community which had ticks and crosses on them. These were to be placed in Windows - green tick was all was ok, red cross was someone needed assistance. This has been very helpful and appreciated by all residents.

In April, they delivered over 173 Easter eggs to the children in the area.

With funding and donations, they also set up a food bank in the local hall. All calls for help that we received are quickly actioned, and those in need of this service got a food parcel delivered.

In May, they delivered afternoon tea in a bag to every household in the Smithton area and to two local nursing homes and New Craigs Hospital.

At the start of June, they made up 125 craft gift bags for kids aged 3 to 14

The **Balintore District Residents Group** did a massive clean-up during lockdown in their area. This clean-up brought residents of all ages together and showed just what can be done in an area with enthusiastic and willing volunteers.

The **Caol & Lochyside Community Support Group** was formed to support residents during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The group offers a wide range of services from prescription collections, dog walking, posting mail, chats on the phone and giving information about other agencies offering support.

The group have set up two community cupboards one in Caol and one in Lochyside both are open daily from 11 to 3 and are fully equipped with supplies to help families during tough times. The group have been overwhelmed with donations that they have received from local supermarkets and local residents.

**Upper Achintore Regeneration Group's** Windowsill Gardening Kits project set up its first "call & collect" stand alongside the community notice board at Lochaber Road/Zetland Avenue during lockdown.

With support from High Life Highland's Green Health Initiative programme, the Group has put together almost 200 Windowsill Gardening Kits for distribution to families and children living in the Upper Achintore community.

The Windowsill Gardening Kits were free and contained bird seed, compost, plant pots and seeds plus a selection of Nature Identification Cards and a Guidance Note. Additionally, the Kits include some outdoor activity-based items appropriate to our area. Each kit can be enjoyed by a person on their own or explored and shared as part of a family activity.

The purpose of the kits is to provide enjoyment, educate, release some creative talents and hopefully discover a new hobby