Newsletter #9

December 2022



Welcome to Deeside CAN's Newsletter #9

We hope you and your families and friends are keeping well and enjoying the run up to Christmas!

You are receiving this because you expressed an interest in keeping in touch with what we are doing. Please feel free to forward this on to others who may be interested or let us know (deesidecan@gmail.com) if you no longer want to be contacted by us.

We now have an email list of over 250 that this Newsletter is being sent to, and almost 1,000 people following/liking us on Facebook, with numbers growing every day. Thank you for your interest and support - together we can make a difference!

Just Transition Fund - VOTE FOR OUR PROJECT BY 16TH DECEMBER AND HELP US WIN SOME FUNDING!

- Deeside CAN has joined forces with Bellfield Rose Garden and Bonnie Banchory for an initiative called **Growing Together** with the aim of giving nature a hand by making both formal and informal planting more wildlife friendly and to raise awareness about growing food for both humans and wildlife.
- Banchory District Initiative (BDI) have helped us to apply to the Just Transition Fund for £2,500 to buy tools and wooden planters to help the project.
- 44 other groups in Aberdeenshire have also applied to the fund, which this year will disperse £1,000,000 to projects in Aberdeenshire, Aberdeen, and Moray (£333,000 in each area).
- **It's now up to you!** The fund is part of the Participatory Budgeting process, which means that the community decides how the money is allocated – see attached flyer.
- You can vote for 10 projects that you would like to see happen, by going to this link www.nescan.org/pb or by using this QR code:
- You can see descriptions of all 45 projects in Aberdeenshire, including our very own one, which comes under the Banchory District Initiative (BDI) heading.

SCAN ME!
Vote here

The deadline for voting is 16th December. Please be sure to vote for us!

Hill of Fare windfarm consultation – HAVE YOUR SAY AND COMPLETE THE FORM BY 23RD DECEMBER!

- Seventeen wind turbines, each 250m tall, are proposed on the Hill of Fare.
- ***For, against, neutral***, or simply don't know what your views are about the windfarm, your local Community Council needs to know. We are supporting a group that is helping to gather your views so that your Community Council can represent you in the planning process.
- You can find out more about the windfarm in the attached flyer, and you can have your say by completing the form on this link www.tinyurl.com/CDDHoF1 or by using the QR code:

scan me
have your say

Please be sure to have your say and complete the form by 23rd December!

What have Deeside CAN been up to?

Raising awareness:

- We continue to **post news, updates, interesting articles and tips** on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/DeesideCAN), as well as on our website (https://www.deesidecan.org.uk), and Instagram (deeside_can) and Twitter (@DeesideCAN) accounts, and we encourage you to have a look.
- We made **presentations** to the Banchory Rotary Club in July and to BDI in October, and participated in **various events**, including the Banchory Show in July, and 'Plenty' at the Barn in October.
- We took part in the NESCAN sponsored Station House Media Unit (SHMU) **film** called 'North East Scotland Communities: Our Green Journey' which has been shown in the City and Shire.

Lowering our local carbon footprint:

- We are supporting the **home insulation project, NESFIT** – see this website for more details https://nesfit.org.

Reversing biodiversity loss:

- As the COP15 biodiversity conference is underway in Montreal, we continue to do our bit to reverse biodiversity loss with our **Wildlife Friendly Village** project. This aims to set aside 20% of all public and private spaces in the villages to create habitats for wildlife to thrive.
- The purpose is not to encourage 'untidy gardens' but to give nature a helping hand as biodiversity is under severe threat due to climate change and habitat loss.
- There are several opportunities for you to **help reverse biodiversity loss** in Banchory:
    - every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10am to mid-day in Wildlife Friendly Village locations
    - every Tuesday from mid-day in the Bellfield Rose Garden.

  Meet at the Bothy in Bellfield car park in Banchory. If you are interested in volunteering, please get in touch with us at deesidecan@gmail.com
- We continue to progress our plans to plant a **Wee Forest** at the far end of Bellfield Park in Banchory. We are currently waiting for a fence to be installed in our location. Once this is up, we will be able to plant the 400 trees we are looking after. The Wee Forest will be part of the Queen's Canopy project. We visited a wonderful 'Wee Wood' planted by the team in Newburgh in August and were inspired.
- The fence around the Wee Forest will host the **Wee Forest Art Project**, comprising about 300 flags illustrating the range of trees, birds and insects that will live in our forest. So far, about 150 flags have been made by children and adults alike. If you would like to participate, please get in touch at deesidecan@gmail.com



- We are planning an acorn planting project for school children.
- We will be helping the Banchory Skatepark project with their planting plans next March.

Eliminating waste:

- Our **Zero Waste Deeside project**, working together with Number One, continues to grow.
- We have over 30 volunteers who are contributing their time about once a month on the **food waste project**. This involves collecting surplus food from 3 supermarkets (Tesco, Morrisons, and the Co-op) on 3 nights a week, and giving it away for free the next morning (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings at Number One). If you are interested in helping, please get in touch at deesidecan@gmail.com.
- **Repair and sewing** workshops have been held at Number One.
- In November, we participated in the **Fashion Show** at the Legion, highlighting the impact of fast fashion.
- We were very successful in collecting **used blister packs for recycling**, but unfortunately the company who recycles them cannot handle the amount we are collecting, so we are having to pause this effort for now and look for other solutions. Many thanks to Banchory West Church for all your help so far.
- We are working with Magpie in Banchory to assess the demand and feasibility of a **Tool library.** We are starting by helping to organise a **Tools and Skills Share initiative**, initially on Facebook – watch out for more news on this soon.

Increase our community's resilience to climate change:

- We participated in a Resilience workshop organised by NESCAN Hub at the end of August.

Upcoming events

- We will be participating in Climate Week North East in collaboration with the Barn at the end of March 2023.

General

We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas, and especially if you'd like to get involved in any of our projects. Please write to us (deesidecan@gmail.com) or join us at one of our **fortnightly meetings on Mondays at 4-6pm**. Everyone is very welcome to attend; just tell us that you'd like to come along, and we will let you know details of dates and agenda, as well as the Zoom log-in/meeting information.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!