

Carradale's Community Business

Network Carradale Limited (NCL) was established about twenty years ago with the assistance of HIDB and Argyll and Bute Countryside Trust. NCL is registered as a Scottish Charity.

The initial project was to set up a local Heritage Centre. Redundant Forestry buildings were acquired and the Heritage Centre and Tearoom were established, together known locally as "Network". There was initial funding to pay for an attendant in the Heritage Centre to collect admission but this soon became an Honesty Box and is now free.

The Tearoom operated with a paid manager for a number of years and was about to close when an approach was made to rent the facility. This worked well as a new business model and we now have our third tenant under this arrangement.

Just over two year ago an Awards For All Grant was obtained to renovate the tearoom which had suffered from lack of investment. Volunteer work was carried out on the Heritage Centre building.

Three years ago funding from Village SOS (BBC/Big Lottery) was won to start up and operate the "Bikes and Buggies" service. Bikes and buggies are available for rent by the hour/day/week and the buggies in particular have proved very popular.

NCL is currently working with EKCC looking at the practicality and viability of a green waste management scheme.

Carradale Harbour Enterprises Limited.

About twenty years ago a group of local fishermen and local residents got together to form Carradale Harbour Group to represent the local interest in maintain and updating the harbour facility. It later became a pressure group to get work done on the pier after which it went into limbo.

A group of residents recognised that the harbour was a significant village asset and believed that "something needed to be done." It was also decided that it would be appropriate if the group operated as a part of Network Carradale Limited.

That new group of people discussed what could/should be done and a paper collecting their thoughts was prepared. A public meeting with feedback forms was held and support was considerable. This was used to obtain grant funding to recruit an architect to discuss with residents and resident groups what they considered important and to then produce a Master Plan.

The Master Plan was presented to the village and received almost 100% support.

In order to pursue this plan it was agreed that the Harbour Group should become incorporated as part of NCL. Carradale Harbour Enterprises Limited (CHEL) was incorporated with the only shareholder being NCL.

A group, independent to NCL/CHEL approached CHEL to build the slip (included in the Master Plan): potential funding had been identified. In the event they made an initial funding application that was well received but encountered too many barriers to getting the project underway. CHEL then took on the project, obtaining extra funding from Investing in Ideas extra funding to get a specification for a slip, tenders drawn up and a full funding application made. The slip was completed on budget this year and handed over to CHEL on 1st May.

We are currently discussing a lease with ABC for the harbour car park, the net store area and the toilet block. This will enable us to replace the toilet block with a better facility that would incorporate showers and a store and carryout some landscaping to enhance the area.

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