

Cambusbarron Village Nursery

Woodland Play Sessions

Development Plan



Table of Contents

Version History.....	3
Summary	4
Rationale.....	4
Context.....	5
Background	5
Woodland Play Rationale.....	7
The Future of Woodland Play Sessions.....	7
The Woodland Setting	
Identifying a Location - Considerations	
Identifying the building - Considerations	
Feasibility	19
Evaluation	20
Appendix	21
Design Suggestions	
Cargo Bikes	
Timeline	
Contacts	
Guidance, Reference List and Further Information	
Glossary of Terms	

Version History

Version	Action	Changes
2020/06/1	JMB	Include reference to HSE Workplace facilities. Guidance, reference list added.
2020/06/2	JMB	Refer biomass generator (input from AH/CCDT), timescales and funding
2020/07	JMB	Update information on toilet provision with reference to mains sewage or potential for septic tank. Link to Gillies Hill leaflets in Appendix Refer woodland status with SC Include information from Sustainable Renovation: Improving homes for Energy, Health and Environment
2020/07/2	JMB	Include details of Feasibility Study. Include construction/design suggestions
2020/08	JMB	Include project review, children's plans
2020/08/2	JMB	Community Enterprise undertaking feasibility and award of £10k by TNL Community Fund. Add in contact information
2020/11	JMB	Pre-planning info
2021/02	JMB	PEKO drying cabinets
2021/06	JMB	Include health benefits testimony
2021/06b	JMB	Power supplied by SevenSisters developer Funding from Cambusbarron Community Fund
2021/09	JMB	Refer water recycling/repurposing and future proofing

Summary

Cambusbarron Village Nursery (CVN) plans to relocate their service to a bespoke new building in Gillies Hill, an area of local woodland. In line with CVN's ethos and values this will be an ethically and environmentally sound building, constructed using traditional skills and renewable resources wherever possible. The new building will meet or exceed statutory guidance for early years settings. The new building will maximise positive experiences for children. Not only will it support the delivery of Woodland Play Sessions which provide young children with rich and challenging learning experiences in the natural environment, but it will also provide an indoor space which will be warm, homely and nurturing. The new building will provide a secure and familiar base with storage, toilet and kitchen facilities and will be a meeting space for children and parents. It will provide respite from adverse weather conditions and allow children to have choices in where to play. The building will be multi functional and will be available for use by a variety of other community groups, particularly by the Wellbeing groups (a group of older community members) and could be available for use as an office, information point and meeting space for Cambusbarron Community Development Trust, who own the woodland and other community groups.

Rationale

The enforced business closure due to COVID-19 has provided an opportunity for CVN to re-examine their original business plan in light of experience, business advice and stakeholder feedback. Evidence gathered confirms that the current service location in Cambusbarron Community Centre compromises the service's ability to meet current regulations for early learning and childcare services and also its ability to grow and develop to meet the needs of its stakeholders, particularly with regard to their Woodland Play Sessions which are recognised as being a significant asset of the service. During the COVID-19 pandemic the importance of the outdoor environment has been highlighted by its role not only in promoting physical and mental health but also in preventing the spread of infection. In Scotland, as in other parts of the world, the natural environment has been central to the government's COVID-19 recovery planning for Scotland with children's Minister Maree Todd saying

"Playing, learning and having fun outdoors helps to improve children's wellbeing and resilience, as well as their physical and mental health. It also gives children the opportunity to develop a life-long appreciation of the natural world. This is particularly important during the current circumstances, when we are all having to spend so much more time indoors."

Prior to lockdown CVN had been making progress in developing and building on the success of Woodland Play Sessions in line with their original business plan and advice received from Enterprise Scotland as a result of their Enterprise Accelerator program. This progress, when combined with COVID-19 experience, has accelerated the need to move the service to a site within the local woodland and to a building designed and created with CVN values in mind. This would allow the service to focus on the delivery of the high quality outdoor play and learning opportunities which will support the development of caring, capable and responsible citizens. Moreover, through this project CVN aims to build relationships throughout the wider community as it works together for the common good.

In 2017 Cambusbarron Community Council commissioned Community Enterprise to work within Cambusbarron to develop a [Community Action Plan](#). This development proposal links well to that Action Plan which identified The Great Outdoors, Activities for All and Connected Cambusbarron as project areas.

Context

CVN provides high quality early learning and childcare (ELC) to children aged from 2½ to 5 in the village of Cambusbarron and the surrounding areas. CVN is a Community Interest Company which aims primarily to benefit the community; any profits or surpluses are reinvested to allow it to meet its social aims and objectives¹.

CVN promotes the significant benefits of learning in the natural environment through its Woodland Play Sessions while Learning for Sustainability and promotion of environmental responsibility is at the heart of ethos and practice. CVN works in partnership with Stirling Council to provide fully funded ELC to eligible children² and aims to provide parents with a genuine alternative to Local Authority and private nursery provision.

This Woodland Play Development Plan arises from Phase 3 of CVN's original business plan, which stated

"Plans for phase 3 are ambitious and see a significant development of Woodland Play Sessions which are particularly recognised as an asset to the service. CVN is working in partnership with Cambusbarron Community Development Trust to create a dedicated and permanent base in the woods. Initial proposals are for a environmentally friendly building which will provide secure storage, shelter as well as a meeting and training space."

Advice received from Enterprise Scotland as a result of their Enterprise Accelerator program confirmed that a move to a bespoke building in the local woodland should be the priority for business development.

CVN has received support and encouragement from Cambusbarron Community Development Trust (CCDT), Cambusbarron Community Council (CCC) and Stirling Council. CVN aims to work with these organisations as well as with others within the village and will also seek further business support and advice.

Background

The [Early Years Expansion](#) increased a child's entitlement to funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) from 600 hours a year to 1140 hours a year³. The National Standard⁴ applies to all providers of funded ELC and ensures that quality is central to service provision.

¹ [CVN Social Aims and Objectives](#)

² [Stirling Council's eligibility criteria](#)

³ There Scottish Government postponed the legal obligation on local authorities to deliver 1140 until August 2021 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

⁴ [A Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland](#)

Cambusbarron Village Nursery (CVN), as a Funded Provider of ELC within Stirling Council, began to deliver the increased entitlement in August 2019. Where previously the service was open for 3 hour 10 min sessions every weekday morning it now opens from 0845 to 1515 providing 6 hour sessions.

CVN operates from the local Community Centre which is a community managed but local authority owned building. The service rents the Activity Room and also has the use of a large paved garden area at the front of the building. Although CVN is the main user of both of these spaces they are also available to other community groups restricting the resources and equipment which can be left out or displayed. While the Activity Room is relatively bright and airy the windows are set at a high level which means that children cannot see outside without adult support⁵. A major limitation of the building is the lack of free flow access between the indoor and outdoor spaces. Children must all be inside or outside which denies children the freedom of choice in where to play. The transition from one space to the other is a lengthy and often stressful activity.

Building the Ambition considers that a child's ELC entitlement must be provided from an environment which is fit for purpose and which supports play and learning opportunities that will positively impact on their development, health and wellbeing and happiness. The environment should allow children to lead their own learning and to make choices from both inside and outside experiences and opportunities⁶.

CVN recognises that their current environment does not meet this standard. The impact of the limited environment on children's development and learning experiences is compounded now that the service is open for longer sessions. Compensatory measures were included in Phase 2 of CVN's original Business Plan set out in 2019 which called for an investigation into the potential to extend the current playroom to allow free flow play from indoors to out. Unfortunately this has proved unworkable and plans to extend and improve existing facilities in Cambusbarron Community Centre had to be abandoned.

As a newly established Community Interest Company, CVN received funding from the Scottish Government program Accelerate which helps third sector organisations work towards sustainability. A market research survey conducted as part of this program reported that CVN's outdoor focus was highly valued. The final Accelerate report on actual and potential consumer feedback noted that :

"Quality of space was also ranked as more important – this should be considered as CVN is currently hosted in the Cambusbarron Community Centre rather than purpose built facilities."

"the lack of a base in the woods makes staying out with younger children more challenging"

"[Third Sector organisation supporting children and families with additional support needs] expressed interest in exploring the feasibility of outdoor play sessions with CVN. For this to take place the suitability of space would need to be considered (space should be accessible, and have changing facilities for disabled children)."

⁵ Realising the Ambition : Bring the outdoors inside for me by ensuring I have access to windows, good lighting and natural objects to touch and explore

⁶ Building the Ambition 7.5.1 Wellbeing

The Enterprise Accelerator concluded that CVN should prioritise developing a new nursery within the woodland and delivering enhanced woodland play sessions from there.

Woodland Play Rationale

The significant benefits of outdoor play and learning to children's physical health and mental, social and emotional wellbeing have resulted in outdoor learning being embedded within the Scottish Curriculum⁷. It is accepted that during their early years children should have regular, frequent, enjoyable and challenging opportunities to play outdoors with the understanding that outdoor play, especially in natural spaces, provides experiences which cannot be replicated indoors⁸.

Woodland Play Sessions have been an integral part of CVN's service for over 4 years. These sessions serve in part to mitigate against the limitations and restrictions of the current location but more importantly recognise the significant benefits to children of learning in the outdoor and natural environment. Sessions take part in an area of local woodland all year round and in almost all weathers.

Woodland play sessions are led by skilled staff who have good environmental awareness and model behaviours on protecting and promoting good environmental stewardship. At CVN, it is recognised that children's early experiences influence their later behaviours and, through immersive and positive outdoor learning and play experiences, the aim is to foster a deep appreciation of the need and contribution of every plant and animal in our world and to help children understand, envision and act positively to secure a sustainable future.

CVN recognise that the local woodland in Cambusbarron is a resource which connects the community and it's generations and encourages a sense of place and a feeling of belonging and inclusion⁹.

Although Woodland Play Sessions are already an integral part of CVN's service this document outlines ambitious plans for the future of not only woodland play sessions but also for CVN.

The Future of Woodland Play Sessions

Woodland Play Session have become a significant asset to the CVN service. Parents have reported that they have seen positive benefits for their children

"builds confidence and independence; teaches him to adapt to situations outside his daily environment; teaches him to be less dependent on the material "stuff" and to be more creative both in the artistic sense (stick figures etc.) and the practical sense (fire making, using tools, navigating the woods and suchlike); he also feels closer to his friends through these shared experiences."

⁷ [Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning](#)

⁸ [Play Strategy for Scotland: Our Vision](#).

⁹ Scotland's Outdoor Play and Learning Coalition Position Statement

"Improved balance, co-ordination, and agility (e.g.: running downhill, walking on uneven ground, etc.). Less squeamish about getting dirty."

"Gaining confidence in climbing. Experiencing the outdoors in all weathers. Having the freedom to use utensils and make a fire, I could be a little cautious at home."

"My son is confident going through the woodlands and he even teaches me about some plants etc in the woods"

"The woodland sessions have built up their strength. Child climb everywhere. Child love to balance. As I've said before confidence has grown. Child more aware of nature and the lifecycles."

"His gross motor skills have developed. His interest in nature and being outdoors has been supported and encouraged and his knowledge on nature and environmental responsibility is lovely to see and hear about"

The frequency and duration of sessions has been increasing however, with the all day session now in effect, when the service looked at the potential for spending the entire day in the woods, parents voiced the following concerns, particularly in relation to colder weather :

"I think with winter coming it might be better to have more of the shorter sessions. Perhaps this could be revisited in the spring because I think it would be great to have all day there and I'm sure my wee one would love to picnic in the woods"

"For the winter, longer days may be an issue specially for younger children"

"Given the temperature is dropping just now, I wouldn't like a full-day session outdoors"

"Full days would be great but appreciate that with winter on its way and a few little ones to consider it may be better to do a few short sessions"

Staff have also noted that, notwithstanding the weather conditions, some children find the woodland environment very challenging. Professional experience accepts that, for many children, the environment itself is unfamiliar and can be overwhelming. One child, for example, became frustrated during one of her first sessions and said

"Can someone just give me a toy to play with?"

Although staff are trained and experienced in helping children to adjust to the different play and learning opportunities in the woodland environment they also recognise that the current resources and equipment limit their ability not only to meet all children's needs but also to ensure that their experiences with the natural environment are positive ones.

So, while the success of Woodland Play Sessions can not be disputed, there is still room for improvement so that they better meet the needs of children and their families.



Woodland Play sessions are physically challenging for staff. Prior to a session staff transport the equipment via wheeled trolleys to the site. The resources available during a session are limited by what can be transported and in consequence also can limit the play experiences. At the end of each session the equipment is taken back down to be put in a staff member's car. It is then taken back to the staff member's home where it is hung up to dry until the next session. There are many disadvantages to this mode of operation and there has long been discussion that having a storage facility on site would be a significant advantage.¹⁰

This proposal however is more ambitious than simply erecting a storage shed. It recognises the potential in having a permanent base which could be used not only for storage but also to provide shelter and respite from inclement weather. This would enable children to have independent access to a wider variety of spaces in which to relax, feel safe, happy, content and cosy. Many children come to woodland play sessions unused to spending any time in the natural environment. It is unfamiliar and challenging and often presents them with their first experience of playing freely outside. An indoor space would be more familiar and recognisable and would provide children with security and a sense of belonging inspiring them with the confidence they need to transition into the woodland experience and to better connect to the natural environment. The use of a permanent base within woodland play sessions will significantly enhance sessions.

The new nursery building will be constructed in an environmental and sustainable manner. There will be a significant focus on using renewable energies and careful consideration will be made to sourcing locally and ethically. The aim is to have a building which has modern convenience but not at the price of compromising the environment.

In consequence CVN intends to develop woodland play sessions so that, rather than these being *part of* the service they will become *the* service. Rather than frequent visits *to* the woods the service will be permanently based *in* the woods. This will create a unique service which is both modern and traditional, which is able to look forward while celebrating old fashioned values and practices. This proposal has been positively received both in the community with the Community Council recording that

"This project will increase options for parents of pre-school children within Cambusbarron"

While a Stirling Council education official suggested that

"This would be a wonderful addition to the early years offer in Stirling... Your plan sounds amazing."

A local GP told us :

"With its emphasis on active outdoor all-weather activities, climate-friendly buildings and energy use, and wider community involvement, this project has the potential to become an extremely valuable community resource with long term benefits to the children involved."

¹⁰ Funding received in Dec 2020 allowed the purchase of a metal storage shed adjacent to the Walled Garden. This stores some of the play equipment and resources and reduces the amount of kit that has to be brought in on a daily basis.

The Woodland Setting

CVN is very fortunate to have Gillies Hill on its doorstep. This is an area of natural woodland with significant play and learning opportunities and has proved an ideal setting for Woodland Play Sessions. The woodland hosts a huge variety of flora and fauna including native species of trees such as Scots Pine, ash, oak and rowan, wild flowers such as marsh orchids, bluebells, red and white campion, mammals such as red squirrels, badgers and deer, birds such as buzzards, robins, siskins and dunnocks as well as a variety of smaller creatures such as toads, newts, bees, grasshoppers and ants. As well as being rich in nature it has also a significant historical and cultural value being home to the ruins of Polmaise Castle and having links to the Battle of Bannockburn.

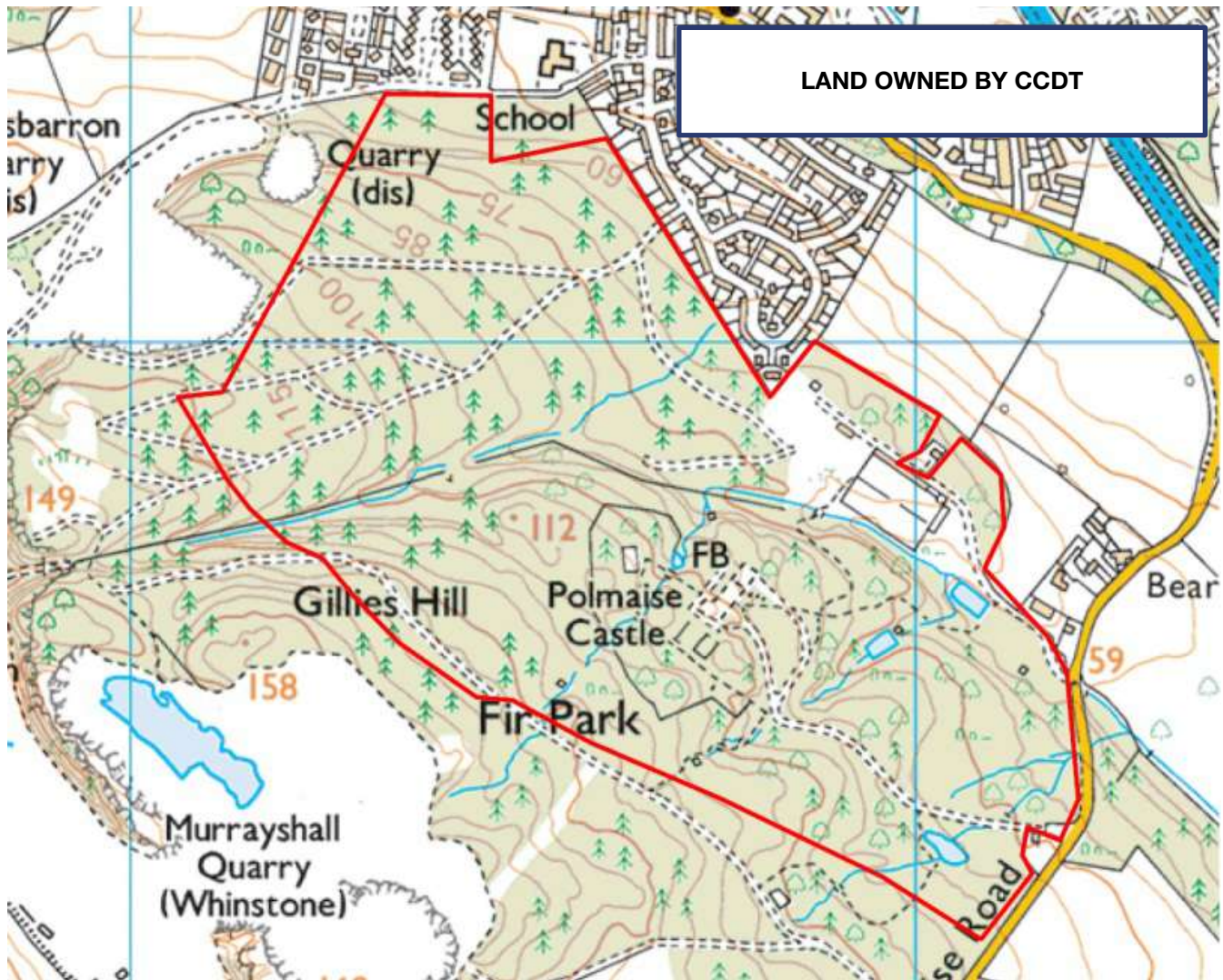
Cambusbarron Community Development Trust (CCDT) has recently purchased 64 hectares of Gillies Hill as a community resource. Woodland Play Sessions are fully supported both by the CCDT and also by the Community Council. Permission has been received from CCDT to progress planning a permanent base within the woods.

CCDT plans to develop and maintain Gillies Hill as a community resource. Current projects include developing the walled garden for allotments and harvesting wood for local use and a source of income. In addition to the abundant flora and fauna the area is steeped in local history and educational walks take place. CCDT facilitates regular volunteer days supported by the woodland manager with activities such as tackling water erosion of access paths and controlling invasive species such as rhododendron ponticum. In their Business Plan CCDT states their aim to

"empower the community to lead and control the development of the woodland and bring new opportunities for involvement, volunteering and community activities"¹¹

CVN sees a significant part of their role should be to mirror CCDT's aim in young children, encouraging and motivating the very youngest members of the community to value the woodland and to understand their role now and in the future in looking after it. Moreover CVN acknowledges the significant role of partnership working and connectedness which comes with working towards a common good or goal. CVN understands the role this project will play in developing a socially cohesive community which works towards the wellbeing of all of its members and which develops a stronger, more resilient and productive community. Gillies Hill has played an important role in supporting mental and physical wellbeing in the community throughout the period of enforced lockdown due to COVID-19. CVN and CCDT both have a role to play in continuing to promote the woodland as a valuable community resource.

¹¹ [CCDT Business Plan 2017](#)



Identifying a Location - Considerations

Play and Learning experiences : Gillies Hill is rich in play and learning opportunities but experience has already shown that some areas offer more accessible play experiences for children. Although the site for the building will not restrict the use of the wider woodland it is recognised that having a permanent base is likely to encourage the use of closer areas. It is important therefore that the site chosen provides positive, fun, challenging, playful and enjoyable experienced for children. Nursery children's thoughts on what should be available near their new nursery include

"Near the burn"

"We want a fire too"

"Trees to climb"

"Windmills to make us cool down"

"a big tree with rainbow flames" and

"lots of trees so we can watch them grow"

The nursery should be built with

"Wood and sticks from the trees that are falling down by themselves"

"sticks for the ladders"

Inside the nursery there should be

"A table for lunch"

"A pipe for a chimney to let the smoke out"

"Hooks for our coats"

"Upstairs" or "Stories"

"a chimney for Santa"

Several walks around the woods resulted in the children identifying a site close to the Walled Garden which, according to the children, was

"beautiful"

"just perfect"

"the most beautifulest, bestest place in the year"

The CCDDT has plans to create community use allotments inside the Walled Garden and there are plans to also house a wood yard and store in the vicinity for the Woodland Manager. In consequence there are already plans to upgrade the access track providing good vehicular access. Relative proximity to a home to the other side of the Walled Garden provides potential for mains water and sewage as well as electricity. Moreover, the proposed development in the adjacent Seven Sisters field has the potential to deliver power to the nursery with the developer stating that¹²,

"as part of our proposals, we are proposing to deliver the following additional benefits to the site and local area: An electricity connection to the site boundary to the south for use by the Community Woodland nursery."

¹² David Wilson Homes : [Seven Sisters Development](#)

Identifying the building - Considerations

Accessibility :The site should be accessible to allow parents to drop children off easily and also to facilitate joint working with other community groups (eg Toddlers and the wellbeing groups). The site will be chosen to minimise the social, environmental and financial impacts of using private transport. It should



MAY 2020



FEBRUARY 2020



however be easily accessed by vehicle to facilitate deliveries, drop off by car and access by emergency services. The proposed site at the Walled garden has access for vehicles and the path (Linda's Path) from the Garages and the school will be upgraded as part of the CCDT paths project. To avoid an increase in vehicular traffic as well as to promote active travel to nursery there is potential for a walking or cycling bus (See Appendix) to collect children from within the village and "transport" them via Linda's Path to the nursery.

Appropriate indoor space : Space to Grow stipulates the minimum space requirements for children's play and movement. For children aged 2-3 this is 2.8 square metres per child, for children 3 and over this is a minimum of 2.3 square metres per child. This area does not include toilets, changing facilities, storage space or space taken up by set fixtures and fittings or identified for other use such as for staff/parents. CVN is currently registered to provide a service to 16 children and has 3 staff members. The indoor space should accommodate at least that number of children¹³. The environment should be relaxed, homely, comfortable and welcoming.¹⁴ It should be safe and the children should feel protected. The space should be multi purpose as there is the potential for it to be used by younger children (for Babes in the Woods sessions), for older people (for Mind the Gap sessions) as well as for teaching/mentoring sessions. The building should also take into account the potential for changes to funded entitlement as a result of future ELC policy¹⁵.

Community Involvement : CVN intends that the process of designing and construction of the nursery will be a whole community project. Community involvement is important for a number of reasons¹⁶:

- It can broaden the community's horizons and provides experiences – in some cases hands-on – to which they would otherwise not have access
- Working together improves the sense of community
- Involvement in the building process, whether it be in the design, or the construction, or both, provides those involved with a sense of pride and ownership – a sense that is passed on to friends and family and even down the generations.
- Identifies and uses strengths within the community, passing on skills and knowledge to future generations
- Develops positive connections and builds stronger and better connected communities
- Promotes active citizenship
- Community engagement is a key part of the government's strategy to improve child health

Environmental : One of the most important benefits of outdoor play-based learning is that it supports children to understand and connect with nature and the environment. Through their practice CVN aims to help children understand, envision and act positively to secure a sustainable future. In line with CVN's environmental focus the nursery development should promote environmental awareness and use renewable and sustainable resources as far as is reasonably possible. The use of renewable energy sources is preferred - investigations into ground/air source heat pumps, solar panels, wind and water energy required.

¹³ There may be changes required to space as a result of COVID

¹⁴ Space to Grow

¹⁵ See [SNP Manifesto 2021](#)

¹⁶ Design and Construction of Sustainable Schools

Locally sourced materials and labour will be used where possible. Reusing and repurposing existing materials is also desirable. The potential for developing a flagship building for the demonstration of renewable materials and technologies in sustainable design and construction will be explored. Where possible technology will be tangible and/or visible to children to encourage and develop their understanding and awareness¹⁷.

Initial investigations and discussions with other Scottish outdoor nurseries have identified the potential of repurposing a shipping container thereby reusing an existing structure, or, alternatively, a log cabin built using locally sourced wood. Yurts or portacabin/static caravans are also potential structures. See Appendix for some design suggestions.

Funding : Funding will be required for this project. Investigation into funding sources can begin immediately.

Heating : As a minimum requirement there must be adequate and suitable heating and reference should be made to Building Standards.¹⁸ Heating should be generated by a suitable form of renewable energy eg ground/air source heat or biomass boiler. A (potentially supplementary) wood burning stove will provide a homely, focal point which can generate heat (from burning local wood) as well as hot water.

Inclusive : The site should be recognised as an important community asset which promotes health, wellbeing and a sense of community. It should bring people together, connecting children and young people with their local areas and communities and helping to develop a sense of place and feeling of belonging and inclusion. It should provide a wealth of opportunities for intergenerational activity thereby enhancing community cohesion and reducing social isolation. There is potential for the project to nurture and sustain an inclusive and resilient community.¹⁹

Easy access is required both to the building and within. Extensive sliding doors/windows with open aspect to the woods and an easily accessed veranda/deck area will allow inclusive experiences to all users.

Intergenerational (IG) Practice : CVN actively engages in intergenerational practice recognising the significant benefits to all participants and indeed the wider community. A major aim of this development will be to work across and involve different generations in order that there is a increased quality of connection, respect and understanding between groups. This project aims to be a vehicle which can bridge the generational divide, develop community capacity and nurture a more cohesive community. Particular consideration will be made to the development of social legacy and to the health and wellbeing of our IG partners. The site and building should be carefully planned to recognise and accommodate the needs of all stakeholders and users. See also notes on accessibility and inclusion.

Kitchen/Food Preparation : There should be kitchen, serving and eating spaces where food can be prepared, cooked, served and eaten. Snack and meal times will not be considered just a feeding break

¹⁷ See Schools for the future: design of sustainable schools, case studies (ISBN 9780112711902)

¹⁸ Space to Grow

¹⁹ Mannion G (2016) Intergenerational Education and Learning: We Are In A New Place. In: Punch S, Vanderbeck R, Skelton T (ed.). Family, Intergenerationality and Peer-Group Relations. Geographies of Children and Young People, 5, London: Springer, pp. 1-21.

but part of the whole experience where children learn to interact, work as a team, experience responsibility, develop a sense of time and timescales and learn about healthy food.²⁰ There is potential for having a vegetable/growing plot and, perhaps even livestock, within the Walled Garden allowing children to have "farm to fork" experiences, growing, harvesting and eating their own produce.

Lighting : Research evidences that natural daylight exposure in an work environment promotes health and wellbeing²¹ and also suggests that artificial lighting disrupts the body clock and hormonal system and causes health problems²² while also indicating that fluorescent lighting can affect the vision field of some people with autism spectrum disorder.²³ The Care Inspectorate reports that "Natural light affects psychological wellbeing in terms of mood, security and behaviour. Having good natural light in a premise has been recognised as being beneficial to children with autism spectrum disorder." As a minimum requirement there must be adequate and suitable light and reference should be made to Building Standards.²⁴ Lighting is a major factor in determining the way in which people experience the internal environment and how they are able to respond to certain tasks. Good lighting enhances the quality of a space and contributes to creating an appropriate atmosphere. If appropriately designed and integrated, lighting can contribute significantly to distinctive and attractive architecture, and to occupants' sense of well-being. In fact research indicates that daylighting can have a positive impact on people's health and physical development. Reducing reliance on artificial lighting has ecological and economical advantages. Natural light from windows and glass doors will be the main source of lighting. With the large expanse of glass there will also be a requirement to have blinds or shades to help control temperature and light on sunny days. A large proportion of the wall space should be glass, potentially bi fold doors which can be opened to give a feeling of the outdoor environment in the inside.

Other users : Gillies Hill is well used and during woodland play sessions we often meet and see walkers, dog walkers, bikers and orienteers. The presence of a permanent base for the nursery is not considered likely to change the nature or use of the woodland. There is potential for the nursery building to be available for use by other community groups as a meeting and learning space. See also Community Involvement.

Ownership : The building will be paid for through funding applications and will belong to CVN who intend to make it readily available for other groups to use in line with the ethos of encouraging and supporting other groups to benefit from the outdoor environment. The land will, at all times, remain the property of CCDT and, although a formal memorandum of understanding or agreement will be agreed prior to any significant progress or funding being achieved, there already exists a minuted agreement in principle.

Planning : Any building in the woodland will be done sympathetically and will aim to complement the local environment. Gillies Hill was designated as a Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) by Stirling Council. This is a non-statutory designation which recognises the importance of the nature and landscape on

²⁰ Design and Construction of Sustainable Schools

²¹ Boubekri M, Chung IN, Reid KJ, Wang CH and Zee OC. (2014). Impact of windows and daylight exposure on overall health and sleep quality of office workers: a case-control pilot study.

²² Kurt K. Benke & Kristen E. Benke (2013) Uncertainty in Health Risks from Artificial Lighting due to Disruption of Circadian Rhythm and Melatonin Secretion: A Review, Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: An International Journal, 19:4, 916-929.

²³ Space to Grow

²⁴ Space to Grow

the Hill. This designation may result in there being particular local planning policies to be taken into account. Discussions with the planning department will be required. A pre-planning application has been submitted (Aug 2020) and a reply received (Nov 2020). The subsequent [report](#) noted that the planning department would welcome the submission of a planning application for the nursery at the given location.

Power : If mains electricity is not available then electricity should be provided by a renewable source eg wind or solar power. Further investigations into the use of a biomass generator or hydro power will be explored in conjunction with CCDDT. There is potential to store energy for future use (eg Tesla power pack) and to export generated energy back to the grid.

Rest Area : There should be an area available for children to take a rest or enjoy quiet time. This may become more important should there be a change to eligibility criteria.

Security : The site will be more vulnerable because of its location however if it is to remain accessible it is likely to be within a short distance of current housing. The architectural liaison service offered by Police Scotland²⁵ can provide information regarding safety and crime prevention. Security measures such as floodlighting, shutters and an alarm system will be considered. CVN currently is insured with RSA via membership of Early Years Scotland.

Services : Mains electricity, water and sewage could be advantageous but not necessary and off-grid options will be investigated. Communication such as phone/wi-fi is likely to be available through mobile devices.

Sustainably Resourced : Sustainable development is at the heart of this proposal. The building should be designed to be low energy and to be constructed from renewable materials such as timber and potentially also thatch, cob or straw. Choice of building materials and the distance they will be required to travel has an impact on both the local economy and the wider environment. By opting for local materials, the travel distance and associated energy requirements are reduced and subsequently CO₂ emissions are minimised. Furthermore, locally sourced materials benefit local businesses by providing employment and associated local financial investment. However, whilst we should therefore always strive to specify local products, it will be necessary, where benign materials are not available locally, to source products from further afield. With the potential to use local timber it is anticipated that the building will be constructed, as far as possible, from wood. Only materials which are not deleterious to people or the environment in production, use or in disposal should be specified.²⁶

Staff Area : There should be a dedicated space for staff to take breaks, store personal belongings and speak confidentially. This space could double as a parents' meeting room so that parents feel welcome to stay, to be involved in and gain benefit from the service and natural setting. This space could also be utilised for visiting specialists such as social work, speech and language or health visitors. In accordance with HSE requirements there should be appropriate lighting, ventilation & storage.²⁷

²⁵ <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/architectural-liaison>

²⁶ Schools for the future: design of sustainable schools, case studies (ISBN 9780112711902)

²⁷ <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/workplace-facilities/welfare.htm>

Storage : There should be ample storage space and it should include a heated store to dry wet equipment (tents, ropes etc) and clothing. Many Nordic nurseries use drying cabinets (eg <http://www.pekodryingcabinets.co.uk/>) for more delicate garments (eg waterproofs) which should not be tumbled dried. A make your own version can be seen at <https://www.hunker.com/12407287/how-to-build-a-laundry-drying-cabinet>). Storage facilities should include secure storage of hazardous materials (eg cleaning products).

Toilet and Changing Facilities : A private sewage system maybe required if mains sewage is not available or cost effective. Composting toilets may be an option - see for example www.waterlesstoilets.co.uk. Toilet facilities for staff must comply with HSE requirements <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/workplace-facilities/health-safety.htm>.

Children should have independent and easy access to toilets and hand washing. The British Standard for toilets²⁸ for young children is one w.c. per 10 children or part thereof, not less than four. As the service is currently registered for 16 children a minimum of 2 children's toilets is required. Toilets and accompanying hand basins should be of a suitable size and height for young children. There is no requirement for separate boys and girls toilets. Changing facilities should be available for children still in nappies. An accessible toilet should be available (particularly for community and intergenerational use).

There should be a mud/wet room to store and dry muddy clothing as well as being able to change clothes. This should also incorporate facilities to wash clothing.

Ventilation : As a minimum requirement there must be adequate and suitable ventilation and reference should be made to Building Standards.²⁹ The provision of fresh air is known to be vitally important to individuals' perception of a space, their health and well-being, and productivity. There is increasing evidence of a relationship between the rise in allergic reaction and poor indoor air quality in modern buildings. Young people in particular are vulnerable to the health effects of indoor air pollution, and they spend most of their time (90% or more) either in their own homes or indoors in places such as nurseries and schools. The environment inside these buildings is therefore likely to be extremely important to their health and well-being. There should be adequate opening windows to allow natural ventilation (not relying on opening bi fold doors). Natural ventilation is an effective measure to control the spread of infection.

Water : Investigations into water recovery systems will be made for non drinking water (grey water) produced by showers, dishwashers and sinks etc. Mains water is required for potable water and children should always have access to fresh drinking water.

Timescales : Timescales are yet to be determined and will be restricted in significant part by the need to obtain funding. A feasibility project is likely to be the first step in the process. Simultaneously funding sources will be investigated.

²⁸ British Standard 6465-1:2006+A1:2009 – Sanitary Installations.

²⁹ Space to Grow

Feasibility

Funding for a [Feasibility Study](#) was received from The National Lottery Community Fund (11 August 2020) This was conducted by Community Enterprise and was completed in Dec 2020.

In summary the study evidenced :

Demand

- the vast majority of ELC providers in the Stirling Council area are at full capacity
- there are no other outdoor or forest ELC providers in the learning community
- new housing developments in the community will bring more families and increased demand for ELC services in the area
- parents should have choice and CVN is offering something different

Support for the Project

- there is strong interest and enthusiasm among families for the further development of woodland play
- parents recognise the numerous benefits of learning in an outdoor setting
- parents value the opportunity CVN provides to experience a strong sense of community and “village way of life”

Additional Services

- there is a strong interest in out of school and holiday activities
- there is potential to explore parent/child learning opportunities

Evaluation

Project evaluation is required in order to judge the success and effectiveness of this project. Project evaluation will be carried out throughout the life of the project, it will be cyclical and ongoing and may lead to changes within the project planning.

Project evaluation will be a cyclical Plan, Do Review process and will include

Planning

Defining clear aims and objectives for the project

Establish key stakeholders

Defining clear roles and responsibilities

Do

Implement the plan

Gather evidence (via surveys, discussion groups, photos, scrapbooks, interviews, questionnaires, comments and quotations)

Review

Relate the aims and objectives to the results and evidence

Present to key stakeholders (written reports, media, newsletter, presentation)

Modify plans if necessary

Appendix



Business hub, Cromarty



Business hub, Cromarty



Design studio, Cromarty



Artist's Studio, Cromarty



air source heat pump, underfloor heating



Converted barn with living roof, Gairloch



Canopy, Gairloch

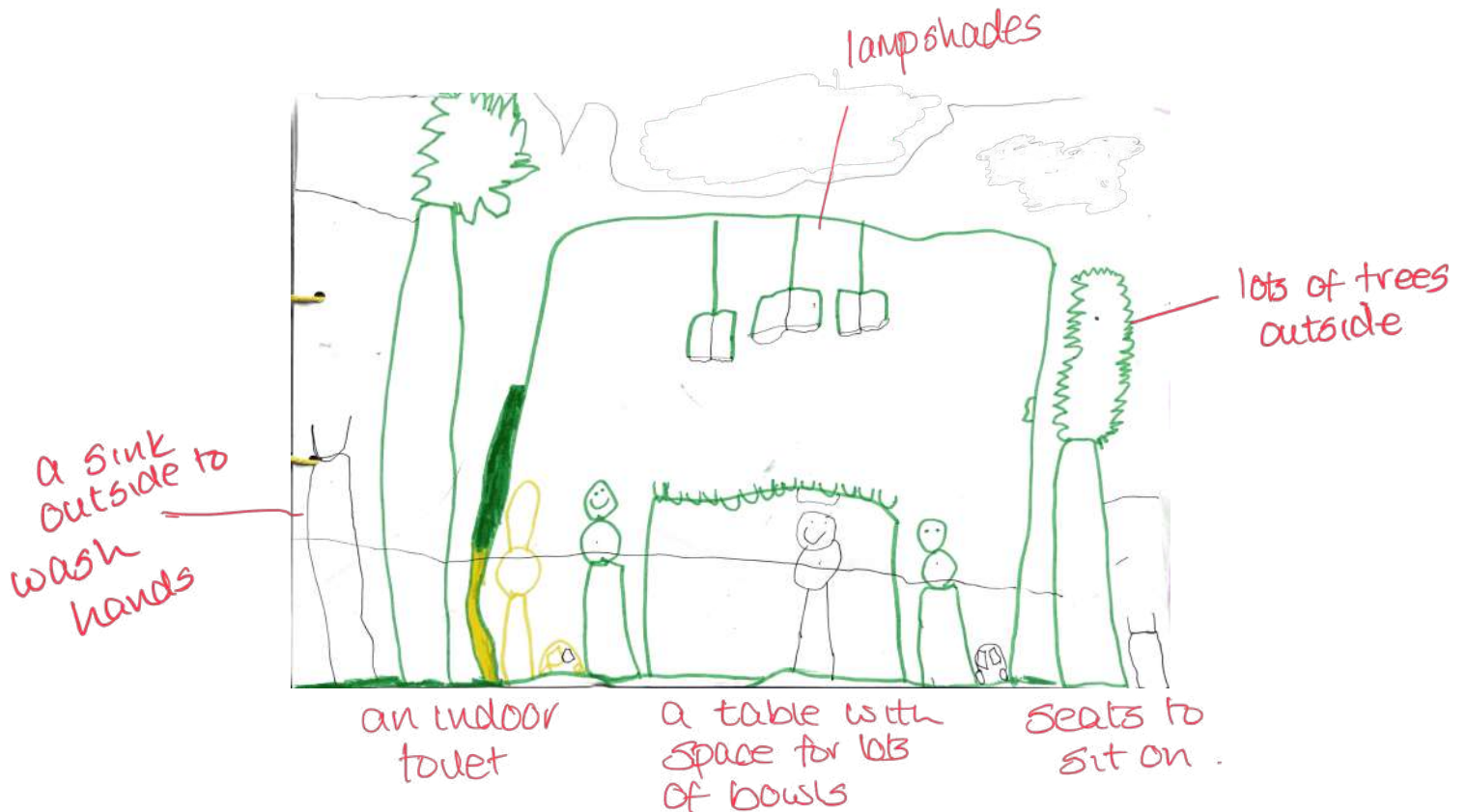
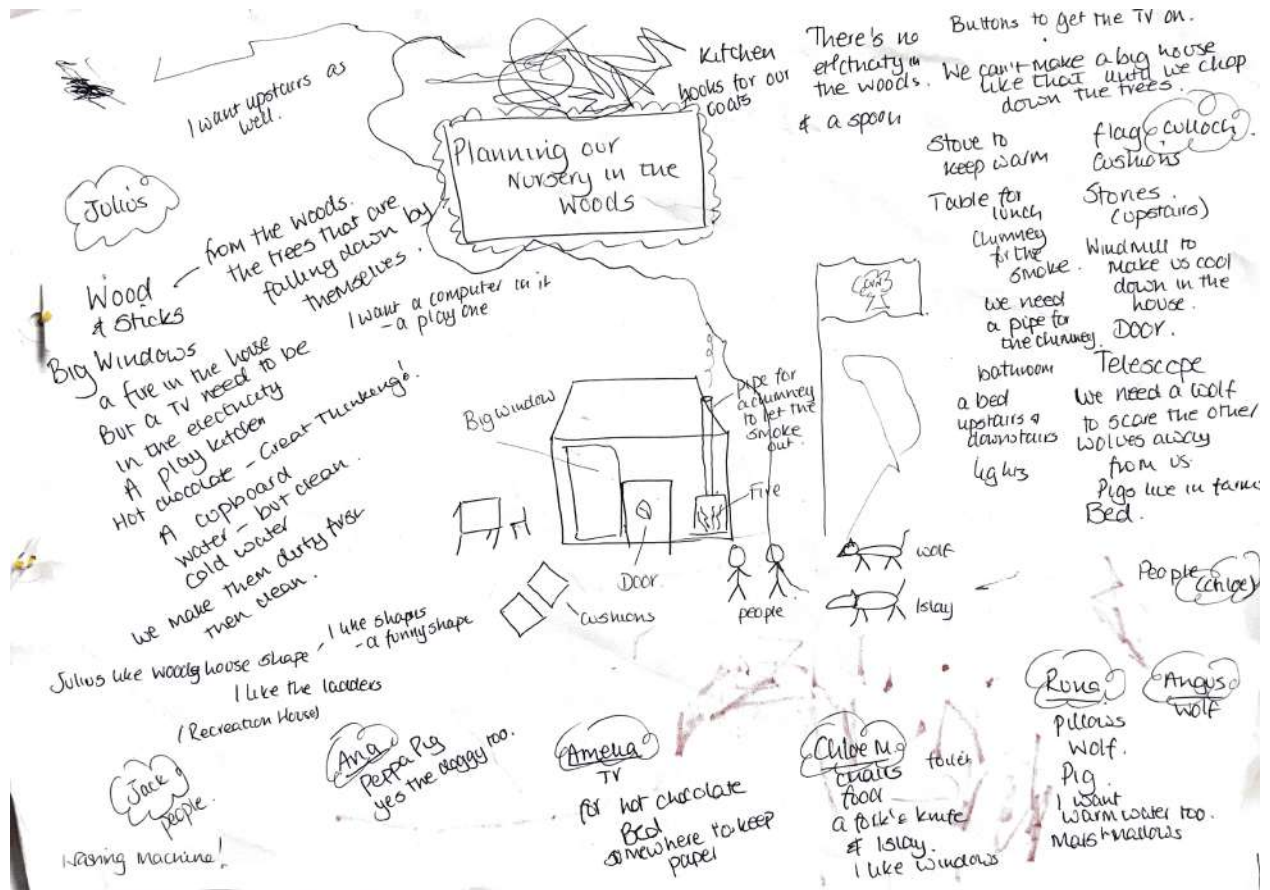


Repurposed shipping container



Yurts at Stramash, Fort William

Children's Plans for the nursery in the woods



Cargo Bikes



Timeline

Date	Event
20 June 2020	Project brief submitted to and approved by CCDT
22 July 2020	Lottery funding for Feasibility applied for (Project ID: 20142537) (Decision expected w/b Aug 17th)
3 Aug 2020	Pre-Planning application form submitted
11 Aug 2020	Funding for Feasibility (£10k) received from the National Lotteries Community Fund
18 Aug 2020	Community Enterprise appointed to undertake Feasibility study
24 Aug 2020	Care Inspectorate contacted regarding potential forthcoming changes
5 Sept 2020	Site visit with Harry Burt
7 Sept 2020	CCDT approve draft relationship between themselves as landowners and CVN as owners of the proposed building
9 Nov 2020	Reply from planning (PREAPP-2020-0155)
Jan 2021	Feasibility Study completed
March 2021	Business plan revised
June 2021	Funding received for initial architect and ground work
June 2021	Barratt homes agree to provide electricity supply along with Seven Sisters development
Aug 2021	Installation of Blue Shed at walled garden.

Contacts

Company/Organisation/Purpose	Lead Contact	Email/Phone
CCDT - landowners	Richard Norman (Chair)	richard@CCDT.org.uk
Cambusbarron Community Council	Marion McAllister (Chair)	macallister@stirling.co.uk
Stirling Council	Judy Edwards (Early Years and Early Intervention Service Manager)	edwardsj@stirling.gov.uk
CTSi	Jennifer Robertson	jennifer.robertson@ctsi.org.uk
Plans/Drawings	Andrew Peebles	drawforme@hotmail.com
Community Enterprise	Douglas Westwater	douglas@communityenterprise.co.uk
Planning (Stirling Council)	Catriona McFarlane	planning@stirling.gov.uk
Renewables	Harry Burt	HRB43@btinternet.com
National Lotteries Community Fund	Stephen Cox	stephen.cox@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk
Community Woodland Manager (CCDT)	Amos Higgins	amos@CCDT.org.uk
Care Inspectorate	Laura Hill	laura.hill@careinspectorate.gov.scot

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Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
CCC	Cambusbarron Community Council
CCDT	Cambusbarron Community Development Trust
CVN	Cambusbarron Village Nurser
ELC	Early Learning and Childcare
SC	Stirling Council