



# Fauldhouse Community Development Trust



## Spring Newsletter

### Fauldhouse CDT take on the CIS building

As of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Fauldhouse CDT will be operating the CIS building, 10 Main Street, as a Community-owned premises.

The original plan was to only take ownership of the building after the Partnership Centre was ready and the Council had relocated their services. However, the CDT's funders are keen for the CDT to start the project on schedule, or we face losing the thousands of pounds funding that have been raised to buy and redevelop the building.



Cash payments will move over to the Post Office (as was always going to be the case when the Partnership Centre opened), and residents will be able to access CIS assistance from the Library, in St Andrew's Church Hall. The last day the CIS will be open in 10 Main St will be Wed 31<sup>st</sup> March, and re-opening in the Library on Tues 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Breich Valley Information Service, BSD Credit Union and appointments with Housing Officers and Employment/Business Start Up drop-ins will still operate from the CIS building.

As part of the project, the CDT is planning roughly 4 months construction work on the Main Street premises, mainly to make the 1<sup>st</sup> floor accessible by adding a platform lift and also changing the internal room layout so the building is better for use by Community Groups. We also plan to add a soft play area into the downstairs. The CDT have agreed with their funders to delay the construction works on the building until after the Partnership Centre opens so this will take place later on in 2010.

In the meantime, we are keen for the building to be used by Community groups and for Community activities. The Fruit & Veg Co-op are planning to start selling low-cost good quality fruit and veg from 10 Main St from April 2010. Additionally any other groups that want to use the facilities should contact the CDT (details on back page). Individuals wanting to know more are also welcome to come in, in April to take a look at our plans and speak to the CDT staff.

**Issue 10**

**Spring 2010**

**Fauldhouse CDT will:**

Work with local organisations

Promote the positive

Encourage self-help

Involve you

Keep you informed

Be proactive

Be transparent

Win trust and respect

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## Another new CDT project ... this one tackling youth unemployment

The level of youth unemployment has steadily increased in West Lothian over the last few years. In Fauldhouse and the Breich Valley the level of young people not in employment, education or training has significantly increased in line with West Lothian averages. The availability of jobs and training opportunities locally and the connectivity of the area to opportunities out with the locality have made it challenging to address these issues.

To overcome the challenge a partnership group comprising of members from Fauldhouse CDT, West Lothian Council (Community Regeneration) and The Forestry Commission have developed an initiative through funding from the Future Jobs Fund (UK-wide government scheme) and West Lothian LEADER funding. Over 18 months, this project will provide 6-month paid employment opportunities for 12 unemployed young people aged 18-24. The placement includes working within the woodlands and green spaces in Fauldhouse, receiving on the job training plus employability support to assist in progressing them towards employment after the placement ends. The first group of trainees started on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010, with start dates for new trainees planned for September 2010 and March 2011 .



Initially, much of the work will take place in Fauldhouse Forest, as the young people receive training in woodland skills. Later in the spring/summer, we have planned a few other projects to benefit the appearance of the village including planting in the War Memorial Garden and perhaps sprucing up areas in and around the rail station.

The photos on the left show a 'before' and 'after' shot of something the young people achieved in their first week – clearing an overgrown patch of woodland near the back of Church Place to open up the area and make it safer for walkers.



Fauldhouse CDT are working with partners 'Living Solutions' ([www.living-solutions.org](http://www.living-solutions.org)) who are supervising the trainees and providing them with vital training. Living Solutions run similar projects in Fife.

Get in touch with the CDT if you are interested in finding out more, have ideas of environmental improvements around the village the trainees could do or if you would like to get involved in volunteering with the project.

### HELP PLAN YOUR NEW COMMUNITY WOODLAND

**Central Scotland Forest Trust has drawn up draft proposals for Knowes Colliery Woodland and want your comments on the plans. Please refer to the questionnaire enclosed with this newsletter and give us your comments by 29 March 2010. For more details come along to a "drop-in" session on Thurs 25 March at The Salvation Army Hall from 5pm to 7pm.**

## A new addition to the CDT staff!

Following our announcement in the last newsletter that the CDT had secured a grant from the Scottish Government, we are pleased to welcome Danni Barrett as the Fauldhouse's very own energy efficiency champion. Danni will be working on environmental projects in the village aimed to save energy and money for local residents and community groups. The project is intended to show the benefit of community action on carbon reduction, so Danni is hoping to have the support of the community behind her to make it a success and show the rest of Scotland what can be done!

Amongst the activities planned Danni will be offering free, in-house energy checks to help people identify where they are losing energy from their homes and helping them to reduce the wastage by installing measures such as draught proofing and insulation. Having a home visit is a great way to learn how to use your heating controls and appliances to best effect and even the most environmentally conscious people often discover new ways to save.

She is currently sourcing energy saving products to help participating households reduce their energy use and will be offering formal training to residents wishing to get involved. If you are able to volunteer some free time to help with the project or would like to take up a free survey she'd love to hear from you. [See back page for CDT contact details.](#)

### Free accredited training in Public Participation

Fauldhouse CDT have funding to put up to 4 local people through a course to understand, plan and carry out effective public engagement. The CDT has in the past used the **Participatory Appraisal (PA)** approach in Community Consultations because it **asks no leading questions** and comes out with an **unbiased view** of what people think. It is an **informal, open, and transparent** process, very often **carried out by local people**, recognising the knowledge and values which exist in an area.

The course consists of modules in Effective Planning (2 days), Effective Communication (1 day) and Techniques for Effective Public Participation (2 days). The CDT has funding to pay for volunteers to attend one or more of the modules each. In return the CDT would require volunteers to spend approx 15 hours this year and 15 hours next year assisting with our Community Consultation and Project Evaluation. See <http://www.iap2.org/calendar.cfm> for more details and contact Rachel at the CDT if interested (details on back page).

*Danni says, 'For me, this project is about so much more than simply trying to reduce climate change. It is about making **immediate improvements** to people's **quality of life** that will benefit the **economy, environment and community** for years to come - making Fauldhouse more **energy efficient, boosting disposable income, and involving local people** in making the village **better resourced and more sustainable**'.*

Danni is hoping to work with schools and community to kick-start the project by developing a tool to show Fauldhouse's carbon savings over the year and a competition to design a project logo and campaign posters ( contact us for details).

The CDT is planning an 'official launch' for the project alongside the annual Fauldhouse Spring Clean litter pick on **Friday 30th April**. Look out for more details or contact us if you want to know more.

### What are you into?

Do you want to know more about measuring and improving energy efficiency in the home? Are you interested in learning how to make top quality home compost? Ever wonder what happens to our household waste and what we can do to reduce it? What about sustainable transport? [Contact Danni to find out about training courses she can offer to volunteers for free!](#)

## Dates for your Diary - 2010



### Contact Us

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Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Last day of accessing Council Services in the CIS building (payments services move to Post Office)
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Apr	CIS available in Fauldhouse Library (St Andrew's)
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Fauldhouse 'Spring Clean' and Climate Challenge Project Launch. Events at different times all day. Look out for local advertising or contact CDT – details on left column – for more details.
Sat 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Fauldhouse Gala Day. Contact a committee member if you would like to volunteer.
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Annual CDT September Fair Day

Members from Community Groups had a site visit to see work on the Partnership Centre building progressing. The Partnership Centre Committee continues to meet to plan for when the Centre opens. For more details contact Ruth Plevin, West Lothian Council CLD, 07880 782633.



## Support positive action in Fauldhouse Join the Community Development Trust

Membership of the Community Development Trust costs £1. For that you can show your commitment to helping us deliver positive, sustainable improvements to our village. Whether your commitment extends to being simply a paid up supporter of the organisation or you want to get more involved in our activities, your membership is very important to us. Please complete the form and join up today.

I wish to join the Fauldhouse Community Development Trust and enclose my £1 membership fee.

Name:	Phone No:
Address:	Email:
Postcode:	Would you be interested in being active as a volunteer in the CDT? YES / NO

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: Fauldhouse CDT, c/o CIS, 10 Main Street, Fauldhouse EH47 9HX**

All the data we hold is gathered and managed in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act (1998). We will not disclose any information supplied by you to any third party organisation.

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