

2020

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
CLIMATE ACTION STRATHAVEN



OUR MISSION

In the wake of a declared climate emergency and an unsustainable rate of consumption of our one planet's resources, Climate Action Strathaven (CAS) was established as a charity in 2020 with the following aims:

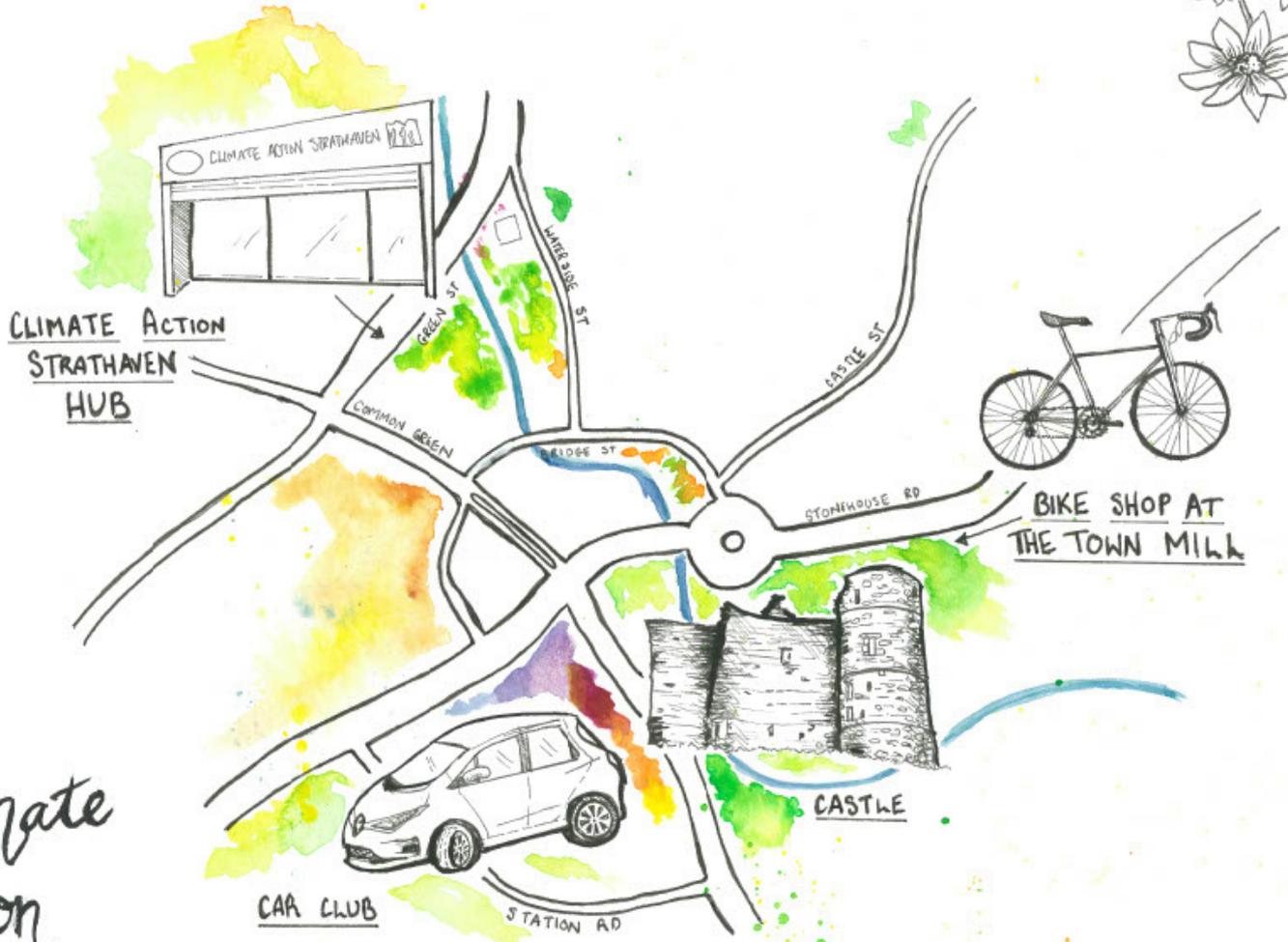
- The advancement of citizenship and community development;
- The advancement of environmental protection and improvement

All of this will continue to be pursued in ways which aim to enrich the lives of the local community and businesses, not to constrain them.

OUR PLACE



think global act local



Climate Action Strathaven

2020

ESTABLISHING THE CHARITY

This is the first annual report of the activities of Climate Action Strathaven (CAS), which was formed in late 2019 and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 20 th January 2020. From within a broader number of enthusiastic volunteers, four people were brought together to form the initial Board of Trustees:

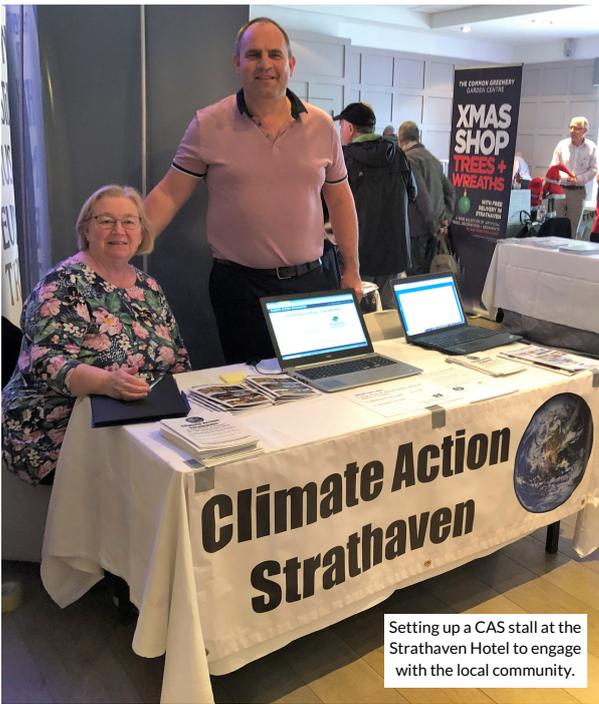
- Tom Barbour, Chair
- Alastair Brown, Treasurer
- Martin Hill, Secretary
- Elspeth Wilson, Trustee

The charity was registered and is regulated in accordance with a formal governing document known as the Constitution. This sets out its structure, which consists of the BOARD - who hold regular meetings, and generally control the activities of the organisation; for example, the board is responsible for monitoring and controlling the financial position of the organisation. The board also appoints charity trustees to fill vacancies, and the people serving on the board have power to make changes to the constitution itself. The people serving on the board are referred to in this constitution as CHARITY TRUSTEES - and they are also the MEMBERS of the organisation for the purposes of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

As part of the Trustees' induction, they were issued with guidance from the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) "Charity Trustees: What you need to know, what you need to do".

CAS's purposes, as set out in its Constitution, are twofold:-

- the advancement of citizenship or community development; and
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement



Setting up a CAS stall at the Strathaven Hotel to engage with the local community.



More early efforts by CAS to reach out to the Strathaven community.



Adapting our climate action in the face of the Covid pandemic.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

We set out our ambitions towards Strathaven becoming a leader in environmental sustainability. We wanted to work together with individuals and community groups to deliver ambitious targets which better reflect the urgency of the climate emergency than those adopted by Governments. To these ends, we began to work with a range of stakeholders to design and deliver:

- **Influence**, through agreeing specific requests and expectations of politicians at both local and national level to promote, in the short term, a green recovery from the disruption of coronavirus and, in the longer term, more ambitious progress against environmental damage;
- **Local Action**, including finding ways to access resources to improve the energy efficiency of local housing, supporting local businesses based on the principles of a circular economy and encouraging local initiatives, including reducing and recycling waste;
- **Sustainable Travel and Transport**, through finding ways to make safer walking and cycling options easier than using cars and better public transport for commuting to school and work; we also said we would explore the development of a Strathaven Car Club to address the proliferation of cars and offer better and cheaper options for getting around.



Important preparations for CAS' Climate Strike.



CAS joined by protesters of all ages in our Climate Strike.

FIRST YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

Our first year, 2020, was a year of unprecedented upheaval and disturbance around the world. Scientists predict however, that unless we act quickly, the world faces many similar years through climate change. This was, in essence, why CAS had been set up and was working at speed to combat what we regard as a lack of awareness and urgent action by governments in Edinburgh, London and around the world.

Action brings hope, and hope brings change, which is why CAS is acting to bring the people of Strathaven together to demand greater action from our politicians. CAS is implementing projects that should not only reduce emissions locally, but inspire and influence other communities.

In this our first full year, the majority of our activities centred around transport initiatives, and so it will continue into 2021. The support and advice that we received, from both CoMo UK and the sustainability team at South Lanarkshire Council, was invaluable in making CAS' first year a success. Amongst CAS' activities and achievements in 2020, were the following:

- In January, CAS was formally established and registered as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with a formal constitution; we also conducted our first community survey that month, which gave us a useful benchmark on climate attitudes.
- In February, CAS held its first (and because of Covid restrictions, last!) 'Green Drinks' at the Weavers, an opportunity to gather and meet openly and informally, to be reinstated once lockdown is lifted; we also held a climate protest as part of the Friday's for Future, attracting over 100 people, including Lisa Cameron M.P. and Claudia Beamish M.S.P.; also in February we held a car survey and counted 2,083 cars leaving Strathaven in a 3 hour period.

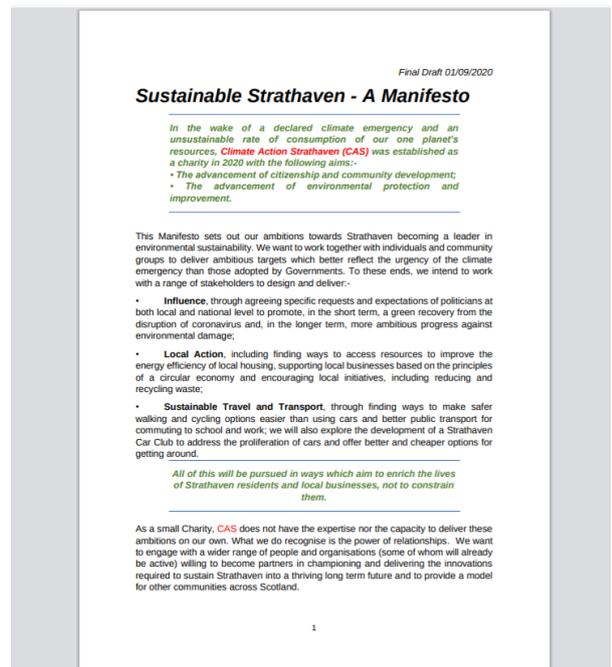


FIRST YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS

- In May we undertook a Cycling attitudes survey, which demonstrated the demand for an affordable local cycle repair service.
- In July, we opened the pop-up cycle repair facility at the Strathaven Town Mill Arts and Heritage Centre and, since then, have repaired over 350 bikes. This gave us another network of local supporters. In thanking our mechanics, we are also grateful to our colleagues at the Strathaven Town Mill Arts and Heritage Centre, which is the first of our partnerships with another local organisation – and they have been very receptive, accommodating, and innovative, with the promise of much more there. This has been possible through financial support from a range of funders – Kype Muir Community Fund, Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Cooperative, Scottish Government and Cycling UK Scotland.
- In August we undertook our “Say No to +3C campaign”, another public demonstration (whilst observing rules on social distancing), following which our banner was on view at the Strathaven Castle for a period of 8 days.
- In September, we published ‘Sustainable Strathaven - A Manifesto’, setting out our ambitions towards Strathaven becoming a leader in environmental sustainability and including a ten-point action plan to deliver a Sustainable Strathaven.
- In October we undertook the Strathaven Growers and allotments survey and that has allowed us to work with others on developing these initiatives. Also in October we started to link in with the developing COP26 initiatives of other organisations, thanks to a number of our supporters.
- In November we acquired an e-Cargo bike, thanks to funding from the Energy Saving Trust, Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government. Also that month, we undertook a series of thermal imaging studies on a sample of houses around Strathaven. We then held Zoom feedback sessions with locals, in conjunction with Home Energy Scotland.



CAS mechanics in action at our cycle repair shop.



CAS volunteer, Douglas, delivering goods on the e-cargo bike

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Treasurer’s Report and Annual Accounts cover the first 11 months of the Charity’s operation, to 31st December 2020.

While our main projects in 2020 had mostly centred around cycling with “Re-Cycling Strathaven” leading the way, other projects had been initiated but had not yet come to fruition. This meant that the first set of accounts was basic, with limited types of income and expense so far. CAS had been successful in attracting grant funding from several sources. With many other funding applications now in progress and many more exciting projects coming to fruition in the early months of 2021, next year’s accounts will be considerably more complex than this year’s.

In summary, with income totalling £9,551.71 and expenditure of £7,076.81, the year ended with a surplus of £2,478.90.

The detailed Accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees at their first Annual General Meeting on 24 th February 2021. As the work of the Charity evolves, a number of formal policies will be developed, including ones relating to risk management.

Climate Action Strathaven

Income & Expenditure
Period to 31 December 2020

	TOTAL	Bike Repair Shop	Other
Income from Scottish Government Cycle Repair Scheme	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Other Grant income	2,200.00	2,200.00	
Donations from customers, including to purchase donated bikes	2,185.71	2,185.71	
Other donations cyclists	-	-	
Other donations	170.00		170.00
Total income	9,555.71	9,385.71	170.00
Expenditure			
Wages	1,950.00	1,950.00	
Parts	1,938.62	1,938.62	
Insurance	375.40	375.40	
Payments to Town Mill for Bike Workshop	2,463.71	2,463.71	
Administration	310.80	156.00	154.80
Sundry	38.28	38.28	
	-		
Total Expenditure	7,076.81	6,922.01	154.80
Surplus	2,478.90	2,463.70	15.20
Represented by			
Balance per bank statement @ 31-12-2020	6,081.43		
Petty cash @ 31-12-2020	59.00		
Total Cash at Bank and in hand @ 31-12-2020	6,140.43		
Less held as loan receipt to purchase Car	3,000.00		
Due to Town Mill for November & December rental	661.53		
NET ASSETS	2,478.90		

ALASTAIR R BROWN
AlastairLB
TREASURER
4th Feb 2021

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

In accordance with clause 18 of the Constitution, two members were due to retire from office. However, in accordance with clause 22, all members had indicated that they wished to be re-elected and, in the absence of any resolution to the contrary, it was agreed at the Charity's first Annual General Meeting on 24 th February 2021 that the current office bearers would continue for a further year:

- Tom Barbour, Chair
- Alastair Brown, Treasurer
- Martin Hill, Secretary

Also, at the AGM and in accordance with clause 17 of the Constitution, a resolution was proposed and approved unanimously to appoint Rachel Wakefield as the fifth Trustee to membership of CAS and to the Board. We look forward to working with her in the years ahead.

RESERVES POLICY

Why Climate Action Strathaven (CAS) maintains Reserves

Climate Action Strathaven is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (No. SC049872). CAS is reliant on fundraising activities and charitable business income to fulfil its charitable purposes:

“The advancement of citizenship or community development, and the advancement of environmental protection or improvement.”

The Charity aims to maintain sufficient reserves that it can continue its activities during a short period of unexpected expenditure or reduced income. While CAS prepares financial projections to avoid the need to use reserves in this way, the Trustees consider it prudent to hold a sum equivalent to 10% of annual expenditure for this purpose.

How much CAS currently maintains in Reserves

At 31 December 2020, CAS held £2,478 in Reserves. This is in line with our target of holding 10% of annual expenditure in Reserves.

What CAS Reserves can be spent on

CAS reserves provide working capital that can be used to temporarily maintain the activities of the charity. The Climate Action Strathaven Reserves Policy will be reviewed annually in January after the year's end accounts.

LOOKING FORWARD

- In January we took delivery of our first electric car, a Renault Zoe, thanks to funding from the Climate Change Asset Fund and the Scottish Government, with a view to setting up the Strathaven Car Club.
- In February we picked up the keys for the vacant shop at 5 Green Street, and were awarded funding to employ our first Project Workers to run the Hub, and more broadly deliver the aims of the manifesto. This was made possible thanks to funding from Smarter Choices Smarter Places, a Paths for All programme funded by Transport Scotland. During 2021, systems will be developed to begin to measure the outcomes of our work and the impact of specific projects on the Strathaven community.

2021 is a year of huge opportunity for CAS, Strathaven and for Scotland, particularly with COP26 in November. We look forward to it with huge enthusiasm and commitment!



Tom Barbour, Chair

Tom Barbour

OUR THANKS

The exciting progress that we have made in our first year at Climate Action Strathaven would not have been possible without the help and support from a variety of organisations. A huge thanks to the following:



**Strathaven and Glassford
Community Council**

Climate Action
Strathaven is a charity
registered in Scotland
(no. SC049872)

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