

# **RURAL SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**



## **The CADISPA Approach**



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
Glasgow

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Southern Upland Partnership  
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**[www.CADISPA.org](http://www.CADISPA.org)**

# The Plot

- The strategic framework
- An enabling State
- The issues for rural communities
- Helping people – help themselves
- Local agenda's, local visions and local solutions
- Moving from representative to participatory democracy

# The Strategic Framework

- Executive 'vertical' objectives: Equality of opportunity, social inclusion, partnership working, economic regeneration and growth
- Executive horizontal objectives: sustainable development and closing the opportunity gap
- EU Directives: Aarhus, CAP and Fishing reform and, for us in HE and FE Bologna and Copenhagen

# What Future Do Local People Want?

- A **variety of routes** in rural development from a diverse range of entrepreneurs
- The growth of a **wider, non-farming base** to rural development
- New businesses must include 'incomers' – anyone, who can **contribute to the sustainability** of a rural area
- **Local control**, local agenda's, the engagement of local people
- **Secure jobs and a future** for their children, **good transportation links**, and **environmental and cultural protection**

# What Else Do Local People Want?

- To be told the parameters and then left to find a solution without interference
- To be left to solve the problems that they can solve
- To have their vision of their future respected and accepted by others
- To be given the services that others accept as given
- To be given access to resources without political interference
- An enabling – not a suffocating State

# The CADI SPA Project : What Is It?

- Conservation and Development in Sparsely Populated Areas
- Partnership between Strathclyde University and 44 community development groups
- Helping people - help themselves
- £30 million of rural development within a framework of building sustainable communities – all done by local people
- Identifying and using social assets
- Twin-track: the University helps, free of charge for as long as is needed – in return for publishing the rural and sustainable development story of each project.

# Local regeneration as a national movement

- These are the big issues of the day: -
  - Democratic renewal
  - Active citizenship
  - Self advocacy
  - Capacity and self help
  - Sustainable development
  - Social inclusion
  - Social entrepreneurship
  - Re-igniting a concern for community
  - The building of social capital

# 'This is Lockerbie: all change!'

## CADISPA - The Change model

- Ordinary people do understand
- They are passionate about the future of their place and family
- They will work tirelessly to 'do'
- They need others to allow them to do that
- They need an environment that is forgiving
- They need supporting/enabling; not pressed into accepting

If the health of our communities, as mutual organisations, is to return – we must do this.



# TIREE RURAL CENTRE



**Cattle Mart Condemned and not to be Replaced!**

**Cattle farming finished on Tiree!**

**Further decline threatens island viability!**

## **The Sustainable Solution:**

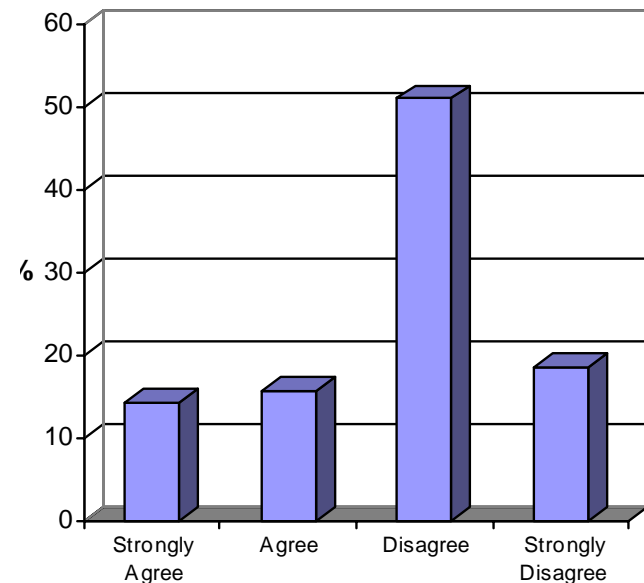
**A multi-functional rural centre, incorporating mart, café, tourist info and wildlife interpretation, online business facilities.**



## 1. Current provision of public transport in Boat of Garten restricts my ability to work

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Frequency	20	22	71	26
%	14.4%	15.8%	51%	18.7%
<i>NB: 47 respondents did not answer this question</i>				

Although the majority of respondent's report that their ability to work is not restricted by a lack of public transport (69.7%) a sizeable minority are (30.3%) restricted in this way. It is not possible to quantify the impact of high car ownership and access levels on this response, or of the high numbers of retired persons in the respondent group. However, the impact on those respondents who answered positively to this question cannot be understated – current public transport constraints are such that a third of respondents are unable or restricted in their ability to find employment and work.



# UIG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



- **Threat to Calmac Ferry Service from Uig!**
- **Loss of local services and further depopulation of the village!**

**The Solution:** purchase of local shop, garage and café as a community enterprise.

The Future: to take ownership of the pier and redevelop it as a community-owned asset in the region of £7-8 million.



# Examples of Community Planning in Action

## Easdale Island Trust, Argyll and Bute

- Community Planning exercise carried out by CADISPA in 2000-2001
- Completed community hall and arts venue 2003 (£667,000 from Community Fund)
- Currently working on plans to renovate and re-develop the harbour area (estimated £500K)



## ***CADISPA: Asset Driven Development***

- The newest discourse in community development
- Assumption of competence - not failure
- Accepts that acting together solves complex problems
- Little training is needed – if any!
- Education is real and experiential
- That different collections of social assets make for differing outputs
- Particularly well suited to project-based development in sparse, rural areas

# International, sustainable rural development

- What you do is seen and followed by others
- Sustainability can no longer be left out of the lexicon
- **Trans-international collaboration means:-**
  - Less misunderstanding between peoples
  - A better educated citizenry
  - A sharing of common issues
  - A sharing of values
  - A sharing of experiences
  - A more global citizenry
  - A lighter footprint



# Shangri-La Sustainable Community Initiative (SSCI)

- 1.2 develop effective community management of community based tourism (CBT)





# Hamagu At Napahai



# Shangri-la Sustainable Community Initiative (SSCI)

- 2.1 Institutionalize education for sustainability (EfS) and capacity building processes within the communities



# Shangri-la Sustainable Community Initiative (SSCI)

**2.2 conserve and  
revitalize indigenous  
knowledge  
and traditional  
culture**



# Shangri-la Sustainable Community Initiative (SSCI)

- BMXS Tibetan Community School





# Shangri-la Sustainable Community Initiative (SSCI)



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**'In Community Development terms  
we share the same sunlight and  
we see the same moon!'**

