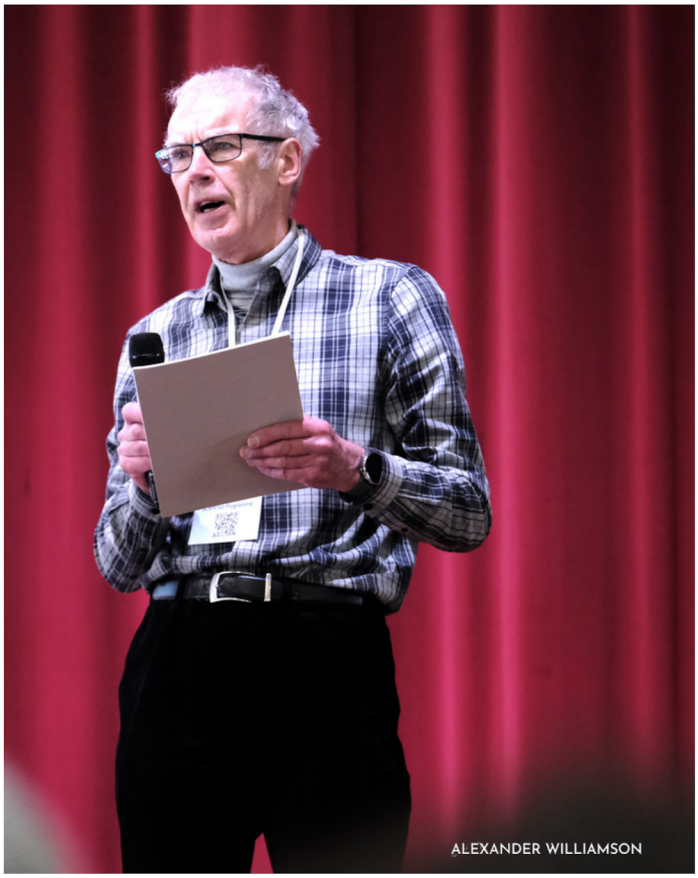
Annual Report 2022-23

tsiMORAY Connected People Creating Change

Contents Page

1. Report from Our Chair
2. Participatory Grant Making Pilot
3. Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund
4. Community Led Local Development
5. Forums & Networks
6. Meet the Funders
7. Join the Dots
8. Building Capacity
9. Facilitating Collaboration for a Just Transition
10. Hospital Homecoming
11. Moray Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund
12. Volunteering
13. A Message from the Leadership Team

Report from our Chair



This was a year in which **tsi**MORAY took important steps forward in supporting our communities and third sector to not just bridge gaps but to make changes and seek practical solutions in the context of a Just Transition.

As we address the climate emergency and work to propel practical action in Moray, we are doing so in a way that shifts – transitions - our current economic system to one where fairness, equity and wellbeing are prioritised - for people, places and planet.

We may not always use these exact words, but the dynamics of achieving a Just Transition have been behind much of our work in the last decade.

This year, the Scottish Government provided £1million across Grampian in the form of Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Funding, with £333,333 being distributed here in Moray, evidencing our Government's commitment to enabling our communities to play a leading role in this transition. The team took to the road around Moray encouraging local groups and organisations to apply with the result that 13 groups were awarded funding for their capital projects.

An exciting recent development is an agreement reached with the Scottish Government for **tsi**MORAY, working in partnership with colleagues from the Climate Assembly, to host the Climate Action Hub for Moray. We look forward to our enhanced role in supporting our third sector to address the challenges of the current climate and nature emergency. Communities are well placed to do so through mitigation, adaptation, increased resilience and regenerative action, and we look forward to working with them.

Through this year's annual report, I hope you will be able to gain a deeper understanding of the great variety of work our team and organisation are involved in.

Don Vass

Helping to Change the Way Grant Making is Done



Putting decision making in the hands of communities: Together with The National Lottery Community Fund and tsiMORAY, local community members are involved in how funds are awarded to Moray's groups.

Participatory Grant Making Pilot - The Community Wellbeing Fund

In partnership with **The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland**, we delivered a unique Participatory Grant Making (PGM) pilot project, helping to shift decision making and funding power back to communities, particularly rural communities, and to develop the capacity of community groups in Moray.

We facilitated a series of meetings, events and stakeholder surveys for people and communities from across Moray to explore PGM; learn from each other, and decide on how the grant making process should be designed and delivered, from start to finish.

With the theme of 'Community Wellbeing' agreed, 23 projects went live to the public vote and 1468 individuals from across Moray took part in the voting.

12 projects were awarded funding totalling £20,000, with a lively and well attended Celebration Event taking place for all those involved.

PGM Funding supporting the Hopeman Community Heritage Garden.



JUSTTRANSITION
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING FUND



Forres Area Community Trust successful in achieving funds through the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund, receive 497 rolls of thermal wool insulation to insulate the Forres Town Hall.

The Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund is part of a £500 million Just Transitions Capital Fund from Scottish Government, to be distributed over a period of ten years, to support Scotlands North East economy in its just transition to 'net zero'.

Working in partnership with Money for Moray £333,333 of funding was available to community groups in Moray. Following the application process 31 projects went live to the public vote with 3,459 individuals casting their votes. The 13 projects listed were successful in receiving funding and a celebration event took place to acknowledge participation from all in the first year of this Fund.

tsiMORAY hit the road with a series of Funding Road shows across communities in October/November 2022. This was a real success with lots of chats over cups of tea. Over the 6 events we had 77 attendees from 51 different groups/organisations. Hopefully many were successful in being awarded funding for the innovative ideas and projects discussed.

Just Transition PB Funding Awards 2022/23

- **1st Elgin Scouts** £9,161 - Electric Lawnmower
- **Elgin & District Men's Shed** £6,343 - Tools Upgrade
- **Elgin Street Pastors** £45,986 -Safezone Vehicle
- **Forres Area Community Trust** £50,000 - an Enterprising Community Venue
- **Friends of Biblical Garden** £9,000 - A Greener Friendly Environmental Garden
- **Moray School Bank** £42,000 - Electric Transport
- **Moray Waste Busters** £41,040 - New Van
- **Outfit Moray** £37,800 - Bike Revolution (Delivery)
- **REAP** £25,507 - Inclusion for People with Disabilities
- **ReBOOT** £30,000 - Renewal of Company Vehicle
- **Transition Town Forres** £4,584 - Forres Community Composting
- **Wild Things** £30,000 - Wild Things Minibus



Community Led Local Development

Moray Local Action Group & Moray Local Action Fund



This year, the Moray Local Action Group was re-energised with a number of new board members, a new website, and funds available to distribute to groups and organisations across Moray.

The Moray Local Action Group is a voluntary association, building on the legacy of LEADER, bringing together people from all sectors, from different walks of life, and with different personal and professional experience, recruited through an open process for the purpose of steering community led local development in Moray. It is an independent body, supported by **tsi**MORAY, taking all governance decisions on the development and implementation of community led local development plans for Moray, including the distribution of the Moray Local Action Fund.



Burghead Free Church Youth Club - Community activities funded by Moray Local Action Fund

The Moray Local Action Fund 2022-2023, administered by the Moray Local Action Group, supported communities in Moray through a Scottish Government Grant for Community Led Local Development. This Funding Programme drew on the work, achievements and learning of the Moray LEADER Programme 2014-2023 and of the Moray Rural Communities Testing Change Programmes 2021/2022.

In total, £267,112 was distributed across 19 projects based in Moray.

Image by Alexander Williamson

Forums and Networks

tsiMORAY hosts and facilitates a number of forums and networks including The Health & Wellbeing Forum, The Children & Young Peoples Third Sector Forum, The Volunteer Managers Network, the Moray Social Enterprise Network, The Development Officer Network, The Climate Assembly, Moray Funders Forum and The Fairer Moray Forum Action Group.

Over the year 2022/23 we held 34 forum/network events with 417 people attending from 106 different groups and organisations.

The Fairer Moray Forum Action Group was formed in November 2020, as the operational sub-group of the Fairer Moray Forum Strategic Group. The group's purpose is to bring partners together, to co-design and implement direct actions to reduce poverty in Moray through an Action Plan.

During 2023, the group met on a monthly basis, revised and updated the Moray leaflet and tool 'Worrying about Money?', formed a sub group to establish network meetings of local community hubs/warm spaces, coordinated a series of events as part of Challenge Poverty Week, and gave a platform to a range of local and national partners who wished to engage with/inform, listen to and ask for an input from members in Moray.

Most recently the group have finalised and will soon publish the report 'Inequalities in Moray Revisited' 2022 which highlights the impacts on people's daily lives and within that, individual voices, to help raise awareness of the challenges people face.



Throughout 2023 **tsi**MORAY has continued to facilitate the Moray Funders Forum in partnership with the Adam Family Foundation and William Grant Foundation. Quarterly meetings are held online with agreed themes and speakers from third sector groups invited to attend each session supporting Funders understanding of what is happening locally in Moray. Over the year themes have included Fair work and Volunteering, Voices in the community and Retaining staff/volunteers.

Organisations attending have included Step by Step, Clan Cancer Support, Autism & Neurodiversity and Moray Council. The Forum also provides an opportunity for Funders to share updates and new Funding opportunities coming online.



Meet the Funders



This year small grassroots community groups and third sector organisations were facing significant funding challenges, often reaching crisis points, and with a growing need to learn how to better access and secure funds.

In response, in November, we held our 'Meet the Funders' event. It was an opportunity for local groups and organisations to meet face to face with local and national funders - to ask questions and gain practical suggestions.

Workshops from funding experts, including The National Lottery Community Fund, Community Shares Scotland as well as from awardwinning fundraiser, Susan Robinson, helped over 120 participants understand how to better navigate the current funding landscape.



Many funders are now recognising that a one size fits all approach does not work when it comes to funding community led activity. Participants were encouraged to think about the stages of the funding process, and how the **'why'** - the case for support - needed to be front and centre in any application process.

> **It was a great opportunity to speak directly to Funders and discuss projects, and also network with other fund seeking organisations.**

jointhedots
connecting people, ideas and moray

Back in person after three years, our annual conference Join the Dots set out an ambitious programme, with the theme **Communities Leading Change.**

Our keynote speakers, leaders and change-makers in their fields, came from across Scotland, the UK and Moray, to help us consider how communities could take action on complex issues such as poverty and the climate emergency, but to do so in a way that moves beyond crisis, prioritising fairness and equity and accelerating the move toward a wellbeing economy.

Hear the speakers on **tsi**MORAY's YouTube channel.





(left to right) Jane Morrison, Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland, Jane Davidson author and Chair Wales Net Zero 2035, Elidh Brown, Partnerships Lead, **tsi**MORAY



Graphic Facilitator: Rosie Balyuzi





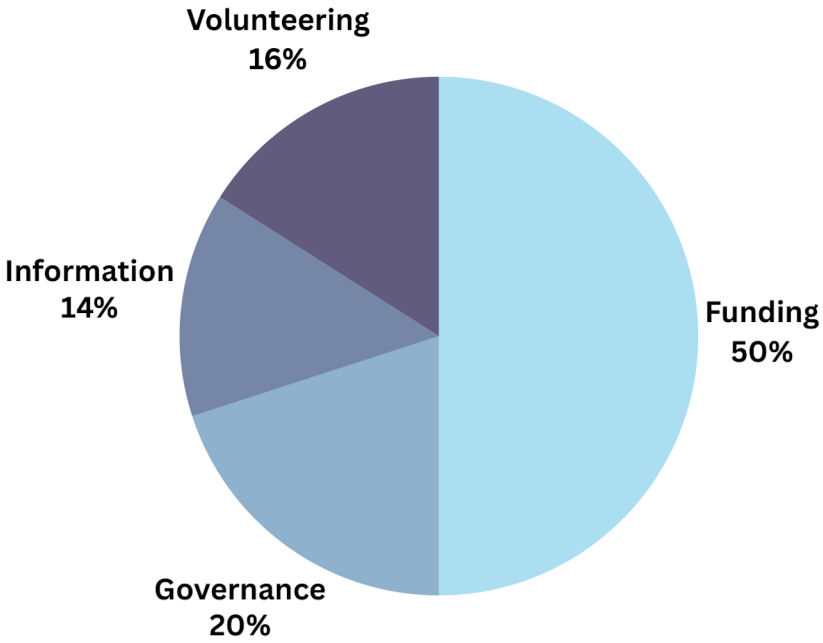


Phillip Revell, Board Member, Sustaining Dunbar, Chair of Community Energy Scotland and Convenor of Scottish Communities Climate Action Network

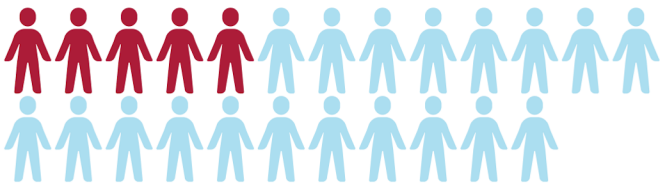
Photographs by Alexander Williamson

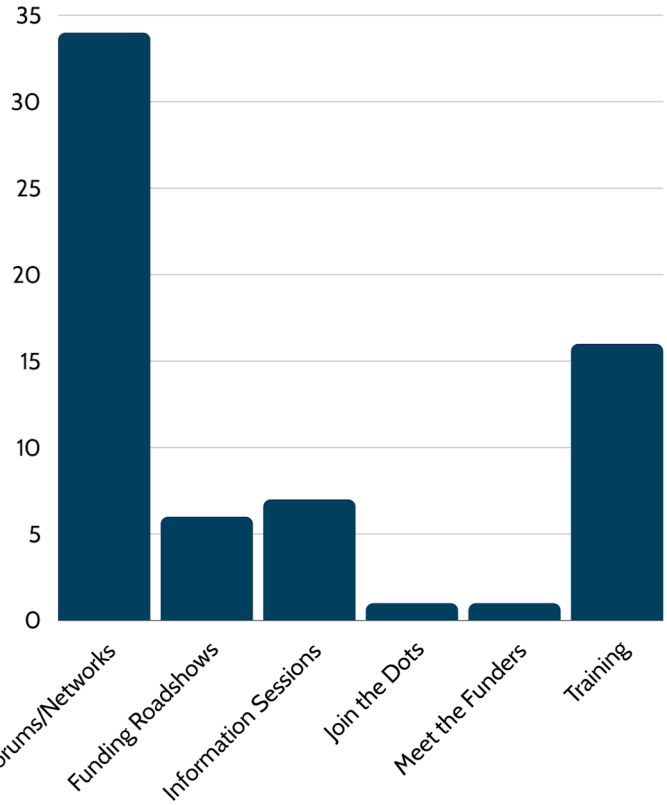
Building Capacity

Through our one to one support groups contacted us in relation to 4 key areas.



In 2022-23, we held 65 events, with a total of 875 attendees from 253 different organisations and groups.





Facilitating Collaboration for a Just Transition

tsiMORAY obtained Scottish Government Just Transition funding for this project in November 2022 as part of an innovative, partnership project with the North East Climate Action Network (NESCAN), the University of Aberdeen and a number of other partners. This project has been working across Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City promoting new ways of collaborating to achieve climate action in our communities; test the changes we're making and share good practices.

Initiatives have included climate cafes, the Global Ecovillage Network map of regeneration and the Municipalities in Transition's Local Transformation Toolkit.

We were also involved in the planning and delivery of a North East Communities for a Just Transition Knowledge Exchange Conference at the University of Aberdeen. Thanks to follow on investment from the Scottish Government, the partnership is now moving forward with Year 2 of this project.





Hospital Homecoming

In 2021 our Hospital Homecoming 'test of change' project was developed in partnership with the 2 TSI's, in Aberdeen City (ACVO) and Aberdeenshire (AVA). Funding was awarded through the NHS Charities Together Fund and NHS Grampian Endowment Fund for a 2-year project aiming to match patients coming home from hospital with community groups and volunteers who were able to support them ongoing for 8 – 12 weeks, assisting people to come home from hospital more quickly, easily and happily.

In Moray, the project focused in the areas of Speyside, Forres and Lossiemouth.

Community groups and organisations, both small and large from across Moray, stepped up to the challenge to support this project including Forres Area Community Trust, Moray Handypersons Service, Speyside Community Car Share and Royal Voluntary Service.

Over the 14 months that the project was live 50 people were referred. 22 were directly supported with activities such as Befriending, Shopping, Transport and Social Events and 28 people were signposted to other organisations who were able to support them.

I have met some fascinating people and am aware of the isolation so many of our senior citizens live in. I have been glad to be some support and have really enjoyed meeting these people who are usually hidden away.

-Volunteer

Moray Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing



The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund was originally announced in October 2021 in response to the mental health need arising from the pandemic. Building on the success of Year 1 and the focus on wellbeing and prevention, Year 2 of the Fund was announced in May 2022.

In Year 2, **tsi**MORAY received £259,460 to distribute to local communities. Following engagement with partners and groups delivering Year 1 projects 7 key local priorities were identified to form criteria for the fund. The amount available for projects to apply for was increased to £12,000 in recognition of the challenging cost of living impact.

A decision making panel was established, made up of 4 members from the community and 3 members of our public sector partners. Their time, knowledge and experience in being part of this process is hugely appreciated and ensured robust decisions were made with 33 Projects being awarded funding.

Year 1 Project.

Wild Things! applied for funding to establish a Wild Wood Yurt to be used for health and wellbeing in nature programmes. This was to open the door to the woodlands for more vulnerable participants, providing safe and comfortable outdoor experiences.



Following a lot of hard work, planning permission processes and community consultation it is great to see the Community Yurt set up and running! A wide variety of groups and organisations are interested in utilising it and individuals already benefitting. Well done Wild Things!

> **The main benefits for partners were learning about the different experiences/expertise/viewpoints in the room and the overall satisfaction that the best decisions were made.**
>
> **-Panel Member**

Volunteering



Recruiting New Volunteers

In the beginning of 2022, many local organisations found themselves critically short of volunteers and needing to recruit; the impact of the pandemic was still evident to see. Regular volunteers did not return and this was a serious concern for many organisations. Volunteer Managers' Network meetings explored the need for volunteering organisations to understand this wider and more complex shift in volunteering. Topics such as the need for more flexibility in volunteering roles and understanding volunteer motivation in light of how people were now prioritising their time were discussed. We partnered with Department for Work and Pension to run 4 local volunteer recruitment fairs.

Volunteers managers called for the growing need to have proper investment for volunteering.

109 new volunteer registrations were recorded and volunteer opportunities regained pre-pandemic levels, with 36 new volunteering opportunities being created in the year.



Moray Handy Persons Service, volunteer Malcolm Campbell receives recognition for 25 years of volunteering



Moray's Citizens Advice Bureau thanking their dedicated volunteering team during Volunteers Week, June 1-7. Increased queries and requests for support, with lower volunteer numbers, meant that Moray CAB along with so many organisations in Moray, needed to recruit additional volunteers urgently in the early part of 2022.

Next Steps: A Message from our Leadership Team

As you will have gathered from this report, 2022/23 has been another extremely busy year for our organisation, with our Board, our staff and our partners sparing no effort in promoting and supporting community participation in the public life of Moray. We have continued to do this through supporting and promoting volunteering, community groups, charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises. Building on a trend which has been gathering momentum in recent years, we have also been entrusted with distributing increasing amounts of funding to community groups and initiatives, making good use of our deep connections with the communities of Moray, of which we are an integral part.

While there is no shortage of challenges, the community-led activities we are proud to support continue to make a huge contribution to the wellbeing and sustainability of our communities, helping to make Moray the wonderful place we are fortunate to call home. We look forward to continuing to connect people creating change through 2023/24 and beyond.

tsiMORAY Leadership Team



Fabio Villani



Jackie Maclaren



www.tsimoray.org.uk

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