



Our Inclusive Community Project

Capability
Scotland

Issue 5



Accessibility is Key

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hello@capability.scot

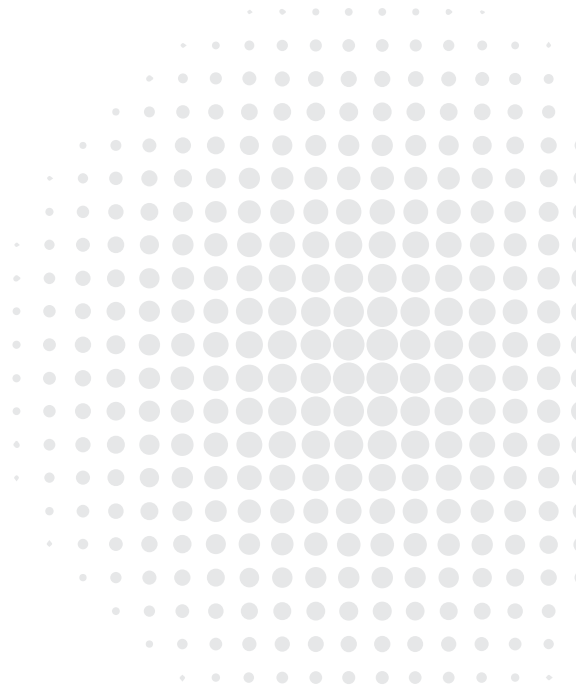




Welcome!

Welcome to issue 5 of Our Inclusive Community Project update.

In this issue, we'll be sharing information about our fantastic launch event in June, securing the land at Bertha Park, the departure of Jen Dalrymple and her replacement, and an update on our planning application.



Project Launch

This June, we celebrated a major milestone in Our Inclusive Community Project, marking the official launch of the project to the public.

We were delighted to welcome the people we support, their friends and families as well as our strategic partners, representatives from local and national government and members of the community in Perth to the Perth Concert Hall to celebrate with us.

The Jollity Express Makaton Choir kick started the evening with a lively performance before Brian Logan Chief Executive of Capability Scotland provided an overview of OICP and our progress to date. We heard from architect and TV presenter George Clarke about the MOBIE design challenge, and he shared his thoughts on what makes an inclusive community. Caroline Dearden Director at A,B+C who are the architects for OICP discussed the ongoing co-production process and how the people we support, their families and our team of dedicated staff remain at the heart of the project and involved in all our decision making.

Thank you to all those who attended and continue to show and offer support to OICP. A short film with highlights from the evening can be found here:

bit.ly/oicplaunch



Land Exclusivity Agreement

Signing a land exclusivity agreement with Springfield Properties and Bertha Park Ltd in June is a significant milestone in making Our Inclusive Community at Bertha Park a reality for Capability Scotland and the people we support.

Once complete, Bertha Park will include a mix of 3,000 homes across a range of tenures. Spanning 823 acres, the village has become the standard (WhatHouse gold title for Best Sustainable Development 2022) how residential placemaking should be approached in Scotland. It has been designed to have everything a community needs to thrive, from cafes to shops and vast greenspace with allotments and an orchard. It also features the first purpose built high school in Scotland for 20 years, one of 17 Microsoft flagship schools in the world. A new primary school is planned to be delivered for 2026/27.

There is much work ahead of us as we move towards a detailed planning application but it was essential to have this piece of the jigsaw in place. Such opportunities to develop services and facilities from a blank canvas are rare and we look forward to the next steps, working with the people we support, their families, our colleagues and strategic partners to bring about an exemplar facility, delivering first-class care and support.

A Visit From George & MOBIE Awards

Earlier this summer we were delighted to welcome Architect and TV presenter George Clarke to Upper Springland to judge our MOBIE design challenge. In collaboration with our independent panel of judges, George chose a winner from each of the four design categories as well as an overall winner.

Tassi Forbes, pupil from Perth High School, won the category for Sustainability. Students from Corseford College were successful in the category of Placemaking whilst Isla Bethune from Bertha Park High School won the Design category. Votes were tied in the category of Inclusive Design with the award going to two services within Capability Scotland, The Studio and Annaty.

The overall prize for design challenge winners was awarded to Tassi Forbes and Isla Bethune.

Commenting on the challenge, George said “I was blown away by the quality of submissions for this challenge. Each submission was well thought out and took into account the complex needs of those who will use the facility.

“I’ve really enjoyed being part of this process, bringing together the brilliant minds from a range of backgrounds, and I’m excited to follow the project as it develops.”



Winners Tassi Forbes, Isla Bethune with George Clarke





Welcome Back Naomi Smith!

Jen Dalrymple was a well-known face to us all and, in her role as Co-Production Lead, laid a fantastic foundation to ensure the views of the people we support, staff and families were central to our plans for OICP. We were all sorry to see Jen go, and whilst we wish her well for the future, we are delighted to welcome another familiar face to the role, Naomi Smith (pictured) who many of you will recognise from her previous roles within Capability Scotland, facilitating customer led activities at The Studio and delivering Makaton Workshops and promoting Augmentative and Alternative Communication as an Inclusive Communications Officer.

A qualified Makaton Tutor, Naomi enjoys sharing Makaton signs with the community, including customers and staff from Capability Scotland, through singing and signing and has formed a choir, Jollity Express, who recently performed at the official launch of Our Inclusive Community Project.

With experience providing support to parents/families of Autistic children as well as helping families and schools understand the impact Autism can have and possible strategies that can support the young person and help meet their needs, Naomi is well equipped for this important role.

Naomi says “I am very excited to be given the opportunity to co-produce and collaborate with the people we support, their families and staff to help shape this exemplar accommodation and community building. I look forward to spending time with customers and learning of their hopes, wants and needs for their new home, and engaging with staff and families to hear their thoughts, ideas and opinions about the project.”

You’ll have the opportunity to meet and hear much more from Naomi in the coming weeks and months as she plans to share information about the project on a regular basis with staff, customers and their families in a meaningful way to all.

Planning Application

The next milestone in the development of OICP is submitting the application for planning.

A Pre-Planning Application for OICP was lodged with Perth and Kinross Council in August 2023. This will formalise and record discussions with planners, set out the requirements of our application pack and our ongoing community consultation process.

The Project Team continue to develop and evolve the design in collaboration with the coproduction process.

In December 2023 they will present to the Project Board and then the Board of Trustees detailed proposals which, once approval has been obtained, form the basis of a full planning application.





Capability Scotland

Capability Scotland delivers exemplary care, support, and education for disabled children and adults across Scotland.

We were founded in 1946 and have always strived to be a major ally in supporting disabled people to have full equality of opportunity and participation as citizens of Scotland.

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