

# CASESTUDY: GALLOWAY FOOD HUB

## KEY INSIGHTS

- ✓ The current climate and biodiversity emergencies demand that we rebuild sustainable local food economies and reduce our reliance on global food systems. This is in line with Scottish Government policies, including the National Performance Standards, the Good Food Nation Act, the Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill, Community Wealth Building, a circular economy, and responses to the climate & biodiversity emergencies.
- ✓ There are many dynamic local initiatives, like the Galloway Food Hub and Tagsa Uibhist, that are seeking to rebuild sustainable local food economies that directly meet the aims of the Good Food Nation Act (2022), e.g. “to increase the consumption, production, and provision of local food” by bringing more local food into shops, food outlets and schools. “High-quality, nutritious food which is locally and sustainably produced is key to our wellbeing – in economic, environmental, social and health terms.”
- ✓ Local initiatives are key to developing strategies for local food. They are rooted in the needs, circumstances and opportunities in each area – there is definitely no one size fits all. Equally, the networks that many local food initiatives engage in ensure that learning is shared across different communities.
- ✓ The Galloway Food Hub seeks not only to deliver climate and nature-friendly food, but contributes directly to a just transition, seeking to make local, sustainable and good food available to all, including those in food poverty.
- ✓ Local food initiatives generate many positive externalities, not just on the environment, but also on the local (circular) economy and local businesses, on community wealth and education, cohesion and resilience, and on people’s health. Access to nutritious food that delivers better health outcomes is a critical health intervention.
- ✓ A holistic approach, with direct impacts and many positive externalities, is typical of many local food initiatives. Communities should be viewed as key strategic partners in efficiently and effectively delivering Scottish Government priorities at the national, regional and local levels. But community action needs to be valued and resourced as such.



## CASESTUDY

The Galloway Food Hub was set up in 2021 by Propagate, who specialise in local, community and sustainable food projects. The Food Hub is a social enterprise project, created to fulfil a need discovered by the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan. The need was to give better access to local food in local rural communities with a focus on vegetables by creating a hyper-local supply chain.

The Food Hub is creating a thriving, producer led, community involved, sustainable, not-for-profit local supply chain. The Hub enables local communities to have fair access to good food, which is produced ecologically and sustainably, offers the producers ready access to a local market, increasing resilience of their rural livelihoods. The Hub shortens food supply chains and improves community resilience.

*“Propagate is a worker led collective specialising in local, community and sustainable food projects. We work mostly across Central and SouthWest Scotland. Propagate works collaboratively to co-create equitable, healthy and resilient food systems. We believe food systems change offers real solutions to addressing our climate, nature and cultural emergency.” Propagate’s values include “acknowledging diverse cultural practices and indigenous knowledge systems which have informed our work and giving a platform to groups led by voices which have been marginalised”.*

[www.propagate.org.uk](http://www.propagate.org.uk)

The Galloway Food Hub works with over 20 local producers, who all grow, farm and produce in an ecologically sound and humane way. The Hub only works with producers that use whole, traceable ingredients, price their produce reasonably, and use sustainable packaging where possible.

The Hub sales and delivery system is designed to provide the freshest, seasonal, most local produce to consumers with little or no food waste. Produce is pre-ordered online using the Open Food Network software which means the Hub holds no stock and has no food wastage. Vegetable producers harvest to order. Baked goods are made on delivery day.

BRINGING TOGETHER LOCAL, DELICIOUS, SEASONAL, NATURE & CLIMATE FRIENDLY FOOD IN ONE PLACE.

### Our Mission

- To increase access to local, sustainable and good food.
- To increase community wealth through supporting a local economy to increase resilience of local producers.
- To increase availability of climate friendly jobs and volunteer opportunities.
- To provide educational opportunities to partner with schools to promote where our food comes from.
- To make a positive impact on food poverty through donations to local community larder and food bank.

[View The Shop](#)



The Food Hub opens every fortnight. Producers are sent their packing lists and collate their orders to deliver to the Hub packing point in Dalry. Friday sees a team of 8+ volunteers and 2 staff pack and distribute the produce around Galloway. Customers can collect from Dalry, and 9 other collection points in Galloway or choose delivery within the Glenkens area. The Hub also accepts monetary donations from customers which are used to buy local eggs which are given to the Stepping Stones Community Larder. This ranges from £10-£30 every other week.

The bottle-neck for further growth of the Food Hub has been transport costs - both in terms of expansion of delivery routes and in making delivery affordable during the current cost-of-living crisis. Due to the dispersed nature of the Glenkens population, some delivery routes lose money, so strengthening and expanding this service is increasingly important.

The Hub has usually charged £3 per delivery in the Glenkens but only to nearby locations. This does not always cover the Hub's costs and for some people it is too expensive as they may still have to order online from a supermarket too. Reducing this fee may enable the Hub to increase the number of people accessing their service, allow the Hub to deliver to more remote areas and to encourage access for those on lower incomes.

# FAIR FOOD FOR ALL

## WE ARE OFFERING MORE AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO CLIMATE FRIENDLY FOOD



Would you like to have access to healthy, local food?

Maybe you've never tried this and would like to.

Galloway Food Hub have received some funding to make our good food more accessible.



We're introducing a trial scheme and want to hear how this could work for you.

## WHO ARE WE?



Galloway Food Hub is based in Dalry and sells a range of locally produced, climate friendly food through our online shop open every other week.

We sell locally produced food such as meat, bread, vegetables, milk, cheese, eggs, honey and preserves.



We offer delivery and pick up options.

## WHY OUR FOOD?

£ The food we sell is more expensive than conventional supermarket food. Why?

**Our produce supports**

- the local economy rather than large corporations
- local job opportunities in climate friendly jobs
- fair treatment for workers
- high welfare treatment for animals in more natural environments

**Our produce**

- has less pesticide residue and antibiotic treatment
- comes from farms supporting wildlife and biodiversity
- tastes delicious and is more nutritious
- isn't ultra-processed or sprayed with chemicals
- doesn't have additives which are bad for our health
- reduces food and packaging waste
- is creating a more resilient local food ecosystem

**This produce takes care of everyone's future: and we think it should be accessible to everyone.**

## FILL IN OUR SHORT SURVEY

Could you take 5 minutes to tell us what could work for you?

**Go to:** <https://forms.gle/WjDy7dr9wrA5Szk49> **OR** **Scan the QR code:**



...and if you or someone you know would like to chat about the scheme...

## GET IN TOUCH

**Call/text Lesley: 07587122151**

**Email: lesley@propagate.org.uk**

Put 'Fair Food for All' in the subject line. Your enquiry will be completely private.

**We hope to hear from you soon!**

It's completely confidential, no judgement, if you're not sure it's for you please ask.



The Hub is also exploring opportunities to collaborate with other local community groups, for example to target especially hard to reach and isolated addresses within the area through the Glenkens Gazette, a local newspaper, which occasionally delivers to remote rural addresses, and to reduce transport emissions through use of electric vehicles owned by Galloway Community Transport.

A small grant under the 'Community Action in Uist and the Glenkens' project enabled the Food Hub to test the effectiveness of subsidises for delivery, as well as discount vouchers and free boxes of staple foods, and to produce and deliver 800 leaflets for their Fair Food for All campaign, as well as postcards to promote the Hub to the more remote rural community. Lesley Atkins, Coordinator at the Hub, reports: "Our first free delivery order cycle was a great success with 88 orders (more than Christmas!), of which 65 got free delivery. It definitely prompted people who had stopped ordering to reorder again. And we are getting quite a few people coming in for the discount vouchers and free staples box."

Through the same project the Food Hub is supplying snacks for the children at Bairn Banter, the children's group based in Carsphairn. The snacks supplied include milk, apples, carrots, bread, etc. This enables Bairn Banter to offer more healthy local food to the children and raise awareness of the Food Hub to the parents in attendance.

The Food Hub conducted a survey to see what impact discounted delivery had on its customers. The general feedback was very positive, with customers welcoming the opportunity provided by the Food Hub to access local grown organic and healthy food: "Great service, I like being able to eat healthily and support local businesses without driving across the region."

In terms of costs, around half of the customers who responded are not that effected by price and delivery charges, but a third, potentially as many as half, definitely are ("I would buy more often if there wasn't a delivery charge."). There is probably also a group who don't shop at all from the Hub because of the higher prices: there was a good take-up of the discount vouchers and free boxes of staples. Lesley comments, "Going forward we need to be mindful of this group experiencing financial restrictions and to look for a way of funding discounts for people who are struggling with the extra costs but who want to buy local and organic and sustainable food to support their community, the local economy and to eat healthier and climate friendly produce."

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## POSITIVE EXTERNALITIES

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*The positive impact of growing for local markets is not just measured by income generated and jobs created on the farm itself. An additional benefit is income retained within the local economy. Selling their produce to supermarkets, the grower gets 25% of the sale price for carrots, and 35% for desert apples, in both cases, scarcely enough to cover the costs of production. In a supply chain owned by farmers, the farmers get 100%, and the money stays in the local economy, further multiplying its impact as it circulates. And the moment these local supply chains start to exist, they become a new market opportunity for all farms in the region.*

*On top of these economic benefits, a local food economy based on regenerative farming has multiple benefits. It contributes to food security locally and across the nation, ready for future food supply emergencies. It employs more people in the local community, enhances community through local trading and by increasing the number of people working on the land and enhances communities' stake in a landscape that feeds them. It locks carbon into increasingly healthy and biodiverse soils and builds nature by working in harmony with it. It offers educational, training and mental wellbeing opportunities on small farms. It also encourages healthy eating through a new supply of fresh, nutrient-dense food, and reduces consumption of high-carbon foods.*

**Duncan Fisher, Sue Holbrook and Dianne Spencer in Wales (see [here](#))**

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## DELIVERING ON SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

The relevance of effective community action to deliver on Scottish Government legislation and policy is obvious from this casestudy, including the National Performance Standards, the Good Food Nation Act, the Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill, Community Wealth Building, a circular economy, and responses to climate change.

**The National Performance Standards**, for example on poverty (“we tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally”), health, & on communities that “are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe”.

Community Asset Transfers under **the Community Empowerment Act (2015)**. The Galloway Food Hub is run out of a community building that used to be an old primary school.

**The Good Food Nation Act (2022)**, e.g. “to increase the consumption, production, and provision of local food”. “High-quality, nutritious food which is locally and sustainably produced is key to our wellbeing – in economic, environmental, social and health terms.” (See also the casestudy on local food in Uist).

**Agricultural and Rural Communities (Scotland) Bill (2023)**, e.g. “ensuring agricultural activity continues appropriately, contributing to the economic or social wellbeing of an area and to environmental benefit”.

Community action on local food delivers towards **Scotland’s climate change legislation**, and contributes to a **Just Transition to Net Zero** by making local, sustainable & good food available to all, including those in food poverty.

**Community Wealth Building (CWB)** “seeks to transform our local and regional economic systems to enable more local communities and people to own, have a stake in, access & benefit from the wealth our economy generates.”

Local community action is key to developing strategies for local food. Such action is rooted in the needs, circumstances and opportunities in each area. Local food initiatives generate many positive externalities, not just on the environment, but also on the local (circular) economy and local businesses, on community wealth and education, cohesion and resilience, and on people’s health. Access to nutritious food that delivers better health outcomes is a critical health intervention. Communities should be viewed as key strategic partners in efficiently and effectively delivering Scottish Government priorities, at the national, regional and local levels. But community action needs to be valued and resourced as such.

## LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The Galloway Food Hub at <https://gallowayfoodhub.org.uk/>

The producers who supply the Galloway Food Hub at <https://gallowayfoodhub.org.uk/producers/>

The Glenkens & District Community Action Plan at <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/community-action-plan>

*The Glenkens Gazette* at <https://glenkens.scot/glenkens-gazette>

Propagate at <https://www.propagate.org.uk/>, including the film, *Rooted: Growing a Local Food Ecosystem*

