



Central Scotland Green Network



CSGN Case Study

## Wishawhill Wood Pump Track

### PROJECT VISION

Changing perceptions,  
changing outlooks  
and changing lives

A place where young  
people are welcome, can  
be free to learn new skills,  
make new friends and  
feel that their place is  
somewhere to shout about.

### CSGN IMPACT ON CRAIGNEUK

The Wishawhill Pump Track has:

- removed an area of derelict land
- built partnerships between local people and local organisations
- supported important local initiatives such as Club 365
- reduced fire and police call-outs for this area
- encouraged community-led regeneration
- helped the start-up of a new social enterprise to support activity at the track.







Central Scotland Green Network

# Wishawhill Wood Pump Track

Before and after: transforming an area of derelict land with the local community and partners to create a world-class public resource.

## Craigneuk is a location of multiple disadvantage and a priority community for regeneration with North Lanarkshire Council.

In 2015, the Central Scotland Green Network Trust (now the Green Action Trust) highlighted a local derelict site as an opportunity for reclamation. In partnership with Wishaw MTB Club, we formed the concept of a bike track, aiming to discourage anti-social activity in the area and positively engage young people.

Socialtrack, a spin-off from the MTB Club, formed to promote the proposals, working with local schools and with the community police prior to building the track. The project was developed on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council, and involved the wider community through Craigneuk Community Council to build local support.

Funding for the track was secured by North Lanarkshire Council through the Vacant and Derelict Land fund, with CSGNT managing the project. This allowed us to work with Velosolutions to design and build what is widely accepted as one of the best tracks of its type in the UK.

Special considerations were given to ensure the track could be widely used. It is lit so that it can be ridden in the evening and a CCTV camera provides additional security.

**Socialtrack is a new social enterprise established to encourage positive use of the site, demonstrate local 'ownership', support a wider network of cycle development within schools and communities, and to develop bike maintenance training for local people.**

With the successful opening of the track in April 2018, Socialtrack has now become more than just about the pumptrack or mountain biking.

The enterprise is working with community groups all over North Lanarkshire to help them build sustainable communities through action sports, teaching children in primary schools Bikeability, teaching teenagers bike maintenance so they can be self-sufficient, and tying it all together in a fun way.

**Some of the principal impacts are as a result of the change in culture associated with the site:**

Police Scotland has reported a dramatic reduction in anti-social activity associated with the site.

Scottish Fire and Rescue call outs have been minimised saving in the order of £2000 per incident.

The adjacent golf club has reported a similar drop-off in vandalism on their course.



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**Green  
Action  
Trust**

The track is an example of how things can change for the better in Craigneuk. The community council is very positive about the benefit for young people in particular and the track has become a good news story for Craigneuk.