



Social Enterprise Team Annual Report 2015-16





Legend

- Ports and Harbours
- Main
- Other
- Ferry Routes**
- Vehicle
- Passenger
- ✈ Airports - Scheduled
- - - Railway Lines
- Crinan Canal
- Argyll and Bute Council
- Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park



Our Vision and Priorities

Social Enterprise is a term to describe an organisation that has a social or environmental purpose that makes a profit to invest in this purpose or the wider community.

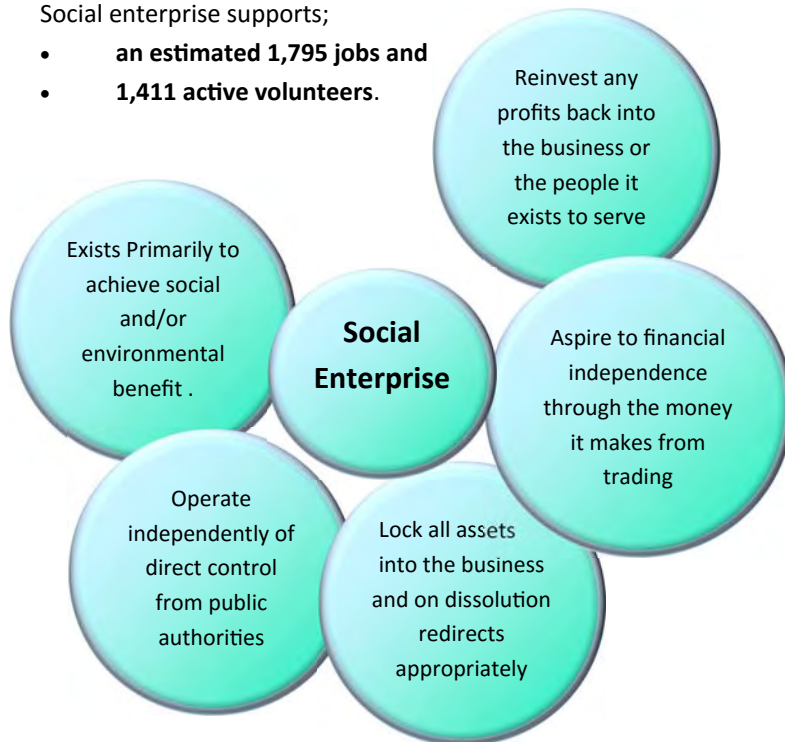
In Argyll and Bute we have at least 244 social enterprises who contribute to the sustainability and the regeneration of communities across our area. One such social enterprise, Campbeltown Town Hall, opened its doors on 30th April 2016, providing a key venue for activities, local jobs and securing an important heritage asset for the future.

The last survey of social enterprises in Argyll and Bute was undertaken in 2015, it identified over 244 organisations. Collectively they had;

- a turnover of over £40.7m,
- a spending power of £38.7m and
- total assets of £15.1m.

Social enterprise supports;

- an estimated 1,795 jobs and
- 1,411 active volunteers.



This has been a year of change within the council as it faces a reducing budget. The council's social enterprise team has continued throughout this period and is refocussing activity to fit within the evolving structures and changes. The social enterprise team is part of Transformation Projects and Regeneration within a new Economic Development structure which can be accessed here https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/sites/default/files/final_edap_2013-18.pdf. The aim continues to be to 'Harness the potential of the third sector and increase their capacity to deliver sustainable communities'.

We do this by assisting:



We continue to offer a variety of tools and services to the third sector, including bespoke support to third sector organisations that help fulfil our aims. Some of the projects we have worked with are described in the following pages. Most projects involve working in partnership with other council departments and external partners including the Third Sector Interface, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the NHS.

We'd like to extend a thank you to everyone we have worked with and look forward to more successful partnership working in the coming year.

Kilmahew/St Peter's



The Kilmahew/St. Peter's site is a disused Roman Catholic seminary near Cardross. The seminary was designed by the firm of Gillespie, Kidd and Coia and has been described by the international architecture conservation organisation, DOCOMOMO as a "modern building of world significance". The building is one of only 42 post-war buildings in Scotland to be listed at Category A, the highest level of protection for a building of "special architectural or historic interest". It has been abandoned since the end of the 1980s and is currently in a ruinous state. Without urgent intervention the seminary building will need to be demolished. NVA, the arts charity, plan to bring the site back into use and create a new cultural and

heritage asset in Argyll and Bute that contains enormous potential to act as a catalyst for economic development across the region. Recent CNN and BBC Scotland coverage of the site are examples of the level of publicity and importance attached to the building, as is the success of the sell-out event, Hinterland, which took place at the site and was the signature event for the Year of Architecture in March 2016.

We have worked with NVA and council departments to bring together the funding package and facilitate partnerships between NVA, projects and businesses in the area. This work will continue into the foreseeable future.

A.C.T.

a brand new partnership.

Our vision is to sustainably maintain, enhance and promote the coast and countryside of Argyll and the Isles for the benefit of communities, local businesses and visitors.



Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) was established in 2013 as an independent body with charitable status. The aim is to help deliver projects to develop and promote the physical aspects of outdoor access, tackle invasive species, and look after small scale environmental improvements and biodiversity projects. ACT pans the geographical area of Argyll and Bute, including the area covered by the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

We supported setting up an enterprising arm for the trust. We have offered support with training, sign posting to departments within the council that could assist in taking projects forward. We have helped to identify funding opportunities and assisted with funding applications. We will provide ongoing support for the Trusts' growth and development of the independent board of trustees and advisors.

Hermitage Park, Helensburgh



The Hermitage Park restoration and development project was successful in securing stage two funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People (HLF). Following public consultation and investigation of the history of the site, the key themes of the park master plan focus on reflection/water and sustainability. These include: Milligs Burn, which runs through the park and is thought to be the birthplace of Helensburgh, the mill (its former use of water) and laid remains, all still identifiable; the reflective pool in the remembrance garden; the view of the Clyde from the top of the park and the smaller burn that enters the park to the northeast. The proposals include reconfiguration of the recreational facilities, development of a new environmentally aware Pavilion that will include a café and multi-use space, the restoration of key historic features such as the war memorial, and the rejuvenation of the collection and arrangement of plants throughout the park. The Management and Maintenance Plan guides the long term management and

sustainability of the project and is based around the formation of a dedicated core park team who will work together with an army of volunteers. A five year activity plan will help engage and inspire people to get involved in "Growing Our Park Together". Working with the people of Helensburgh is at the core of this project to ensure its long term sustainability. The project has a funding pot of £3.1 million, which includes £2.3 million - HLF, £280k - ABC, £253k MOD Covenant Fund, £20k - FoHPA, £60k -The War Memorial Trust and £300k - Sustrans.

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/hermitage-park-project-0>

We continue to work with Friends of Hermitage Park Association, council departments and a range of partners to oversee the development of the project to delivery stage. The level of community support continues to be high and we hope it will continue long past 2021 when HLF funding ends.

Argyll Coastal Waters



The Argyll Coastal Waters project is completed and the route is now open for business. The project saw the development of a series of coastal access sites throughout Argyll and Bute's coastal communities. We improved infrastructure, access to the waterfront and the subsequent development of water based recreational activities for locals and visitors to Argyll. These improved facilities and easy access for paddle-sports such as kayaking will assist the economic growth of marine and sports tourism. The Argyll Sea Kayak Trail is a new tourism product for

the area and is approximately 130km in length, covering some of the most naturally beautiful and wildlife rich parts of Scotland. Check out the web site;

<http://www.paddleargyll.org.uk/>

We continue to oversee the trail and look for future opportunities to grow and develop this product and enhance the access points.

Toward Memorial Hall



A member of Toward Community approached The Social Enterprise Team enquiring about the sale of the Memorial Hall. OSCR confirmed that the Hall remained a charitable asset and as such the committee were required to inform OSCR of any intention to dispose of the Hall. OSCR advised the subcommittee work with the existing office bearers and also

advised that the committee update the constitution from the Blench Charter to avoid any further governance problems. The group delivered 500 leaflets to the wider community to gauge support. A positive response led to the committee agreeing to defer the sale of the hall to allow the group to look at funding. An open day was arranged to allow the community to have their say. Over 200 people attended and despite free entry and refreshments, £1,606.25 was raised. The previous committee resigned and the subcommittee have now replaced them. The new committee have set about removing the old kitchen and toilets, sorting out the water supply and painting the ceiling. They were successful in a bid to the Community Foundation for funding for disabled access and are in the process of applying to the Covenant Fund for renovating the kitchen and toilets. A second open day raised £1,009.38.

We have supported the group to update the constitution. Assisted with funding applications and provided guidance for developing office bearers.

Inveraray Community Company



The primary aims of ICC are to manage community land and associated assets, provide recreational facilities and services and improve the understanding of the cultural, heritage and environment of Inveraray for the benefit of the local community. The initial projects identified for action are the rescue of the derelict and redundant Community Hall and the provision of an all-weather sports pitch. Inveraray Community Hall is located in the centre of Inveraray with the frontage facing Church Square and although the building is not listed it makes an important contribution to the Conservation Area.

We have supported the group to establish a Community Company with a Social Enterprise ethic, provided advice on relevant funding strands and assisted with community consultation in partnership with other departments. We will continue to work with the group to develop a business plan and with partner organisations including Inveraray Conservation Area Regeneration Officer (CARS) Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Third Sector Interface (TSI) to offer cross sector support.

Training and Events



In response to the many requests for training we have produced a suite of online tools and information sheets. We continue to support the promotion and delivery of themed events across the council area, e.g. the recent **Community Renewables Day of Learning** devised and planned by Economic Development and Local Energy Scotland. The team not only supported the event, we also recorded the talks and presentations and made them available on line for people who couldn't manage to attend.

[Follow this link to view the files](#) We are presently working on a training calendar with the Community Planning Partnership .

Funding Alert

We produce a monthly Funding Alert, a fully interactive document which alerts individuals and organisations to current potential funding streams. In our latest questionnaire 68% of respondents reported they had identified streams of funding through Funding Alert. Funding to the total of £198,200 was identified by various organisations and a further £4,050,000 was successfully applied for by organisations working in partnership with the council. Presently Funding Alert has a distribution list of 1150 recipients and a further 161 people along with multiple groups receive Funding Alert from recipients on our list.

Free tools and resources

- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-support
- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/topic-sheets
- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/grantnet
- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/asset-transfer-process
- www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/funding-and-support

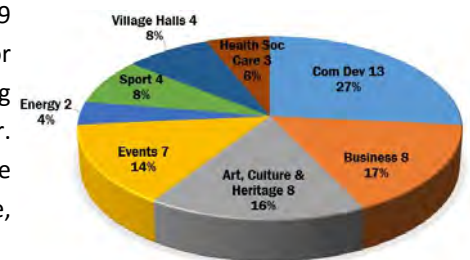
Enquiries and Funding

During the past year we have responded to 166 enquiries. The top three enquiries were Funding, Signposting/Info and Housing/Insulation. Other popular topics were Community Development, Village Halls and Community Centres.



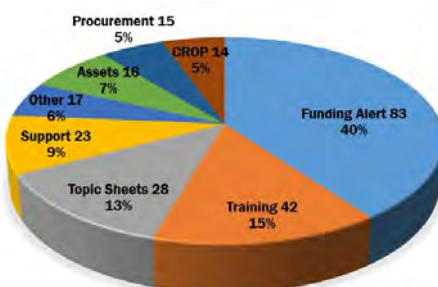
General Enquiries

There were 49 requests for bespoke funding searches last year. Requests can be made by phone, letter or by email



Bespoke Funding

A total of 83 Notes of Interest were submitted. All expressed an interest in Funding Alert along with Skills & Training and our Topic Sheets.



Notes of Interest

There were 371 funding searches through our free to use GrantNet funding portal created for us by Grantfinder.



GrantNet Searches

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/note-interest-form>

<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/grantnet>

Key Targets for 2016/17

Continue to produce the council's Funding Alert, Topic Sheets and online toolkits and offer self-help resources such as GRANTnet.

Contribute to the work of strategic partnerships including LEADER Local Action Group, Third Sector and Communities Strategic Partnership, Scottish External Funding Officers Group.

Work with our partners in the Third Sector Interface to ensure that evolving social enterprises have access to the training and support they require.

Maximise external funding opportunities for Third Sector groups.

Provide bespoke support to at least 10 organisations/ projects (Deliver regeneration of Hermitage Park, support Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust to become sustainable, support Argyll Coastal Waters completion of final water access site and consider next phase, support Inveraray Community Company to develop community resources, work with NVA on the regeneration of Kilmahew/ St Peter's and others).

Answer Third Sector enquiries within Customer Charter time-frame.

Work with key partners who support evolving social enterprises to establish grow and thrive.

Support the Third Sector to take ownership of council assets through the Third Sector Asset Transfer Process.

Review and evaluate our service and make any necessary changes.

Support the transfer of at least one asset to the third sector.

Continue to work with key partners across the council and externally including Community Development, Community Planning, Business Gateway, Procurement Team, HIE, OSCR, Development Trust Association Scotland, Social Enterprise Scotland and others.

Adapt the council's Third Sector Asset Policy and Process to fit with the Community Empowerment Bill 2015.



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