
SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2018/19

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report recommends projects to be put forward to a public vote for the award of the Supporting Communities Fund in Bute and Cowal.
- 1.2 This process is part of the Councils decision to undertake a pilot project with the Supporting Communities Fund and trial a Participatory Budgeting (PB) approach to distributing the funds.
- 1.3 Voting is expected to take place from 3rd to 30th April and a plan to engage and promote this to all citizens in the administrative area is attached for consideration.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Area Committee agrees the 27 projects, listed in table 1, progress to the public vote.
- 2.2 Area Committee considers and provides any further suggestions to the proposed plan for engagement and promotion of voting.

3.0 DETAILS

- 3.1 It was agreed by Council on 27 September 2017 that the Supporting Communities Fund be distributed via a PB approach for 2018/19 as a pilot. Recommendations from the pilot will support the Council's considerations of how it could best implement the Scottish Government target of 1% of budget distributed through PB methods by 2020.
- 3.2 Area Committee considered the outline approach to the pilot project at their meeting in December.
- 3.3 A website for project ideas was open from 13 November to 22 December 2017. 45 ideas were shared on this for Bute and Cowal. Some of these ideas developed to applications to the fund. An evaluation of the ideas site will form part of the overall evaluation of the pilot.
- 3.4 38 eligible applications were received in Bute and Cowal. The process of scoring of applications against criteria remains the same as in previous years of the fund. 27 projects are recommended to go forward to public vote, see Table 1.

- 3.5 It was agreed at Council on 27 September that in 2018/19 successful applicants, via public vote, can receive full funding of project up to maximum of £2,500.
- 3.6 The Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) budget made available by the Council for allocation in Bute & Cowal for 2018/19 is £24,500. In addition, there is a carry forward of £2,736 from a return of funds from previous projects unable to spend their funding, giving a total available for allocation at public vote of £27,236.
- 3.7 Projects that are not recommended to go forward this year either did not meet the criteria or meet a threshold in the scoring to be taken forward. Support to strengthen future funding applications is offered to those projects. Details in Table 2.
- 3.8 For projects going forward to the public vote support is provided to best describe the project and illustrate it with an image for the online dedicated voting website. A plan to promote voting to citizens in the area is attached for consideration.
- 3.9 A focus group of representatives from groups identified as potentially having a lower equality of access to online voting sites is informing the approach and the attached plan may develop subject to their input.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The trial of a PB approach to distributing the Supporting Community Fund will culminate in a digital online public vote that will take place from 3rd to 30th April. The engagement plan attached will provide a wide and varied approach to engaging with the public and, informed by the Focus Group, provide assistance for those that need it.
- 4.2 On completion of the grant pilot process, a full evaluation will take place to review and make recommendations for future Supporting Communities Fund distribution.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy: Pilot project in response to legislation within the Community Empowerment Act requiring Councils to consider Participatory Budgeting in financial decision making
- 5.2 Financial: As per area budget allocation.
- 5.3 Legal: None
- 5.4 HR: None
- 5.5 Equalities Potential inequality in accessing a digital voting site is recognised, a focus group has been put together to address this
- 5.6 Risk: Monitoring of the process will minimise any risk to the Council
- 5.7 Customer Service: None

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Table 1 – Recommendations to go forward to Public Vote
- 6.2 Table 2 – Not going forward to Public Vote
- 6.3 Engagement Plan – Public Vote

Rona Gold
Community Planning Manager
Community Planning and Community Development

26 February 2018

For further information contact: communitydevelopment@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Table 1 – Recommendations to go forward to Public Vote

| Ref No | Organisation | Project Title | Description | Amount Requested |
|--------|---|---|--|------------------|
| 1 | 1 st Rothesay Boys Brigade | "Get Outdoors, Be Adventurous" with the 1 st Rothesay Boys Brigade | Towards costs for the group to attend a weekend at 'Lapwing Lodge' Outdoor Centre http://www.lapwinglodge.org.uk/ To allow the young people to be part of a team and develop social skills and face challenges. | £1,250 |
| 2 | 1 st Rothesay Girls Brigade | 1 st Rothesay Girls Brigade | Towards the cost for group to travel and take part in Girls Brigade 125th celebrations at Auchengillan outdoor Centre http://www.auchengillan.com/ And also to purchase arts/crafts and sports equipment. | £1,657 |
| 3 | 11 th Greenock and District (1 st Bute) Scout Group | First Camping experience and sleepover for Scouts on Bute | Towards training and travel costs for Scout leaders and for purchasing equipment for activities and catering for the Scouts sleepover. | £1,500 |
| 4 | 26 th Argyll Scouts Group | Opening Pathway | For help to buy materials to open up a Pathway between the car park and woodland at Sandbank. The Scout Group are working in partnership with the Sandbank Community Council to complete and maintain the project. | £1,300 |
| 5 | Ardentinny Community Council | Information for All | Towards the cost of applying for planning permission and the installation of a notice board to allow the village groups to display information for all. | £1,000 |

| Ref No | Organisation | Project Title | Description | Amount Requested |
|--------|---------------------------|--|---|------------------|
| 6 | Barbara's Wildlife | Walk on the Wild Side | Costs to train volunteers in Wildlife First Aid. Some volunteers have mental health problems and working with wildlife has significantly improved their Health and Wellbeing. Funds will also be used to help with raising awareness of wildlife in nurseries and schools. | £2,500 |
| 7 | Beachwatch Bute | Plastic is rubbish | The project aims to reduce/eliminate plastic straw usage on Bute by working with local businesses to promote alternatives. In return for making changes, they will provide an annual Certificate detailing their pledge, to display on their premises. | £1,640 |
| 8 | Blairmore Village Trust | Blairmore Hub | Towards costs of running the Blairmore Hub. Residents and visitors of the Shore Communities can meet up on a Thursday morning, for a cup of tea, cake and a chat and to get involved in various projects. The aim is to help to reduce isolation and loneliness within the Community. | £2,228 |
| 9 | Brandane Bulls | Brandane Bulls Children's Football | Towards Cost of hiring sports facilities and activities equipment. The group has grown from an average of 20 young people to 80 young people attending training sessions. The Club also subsidises the cost of training and travel for the young people. | £1,160 |
| 10 | Bute Photographic Society | Photographic Exhibition for the Elderly – the Bygone Years | Towards the cost of hosting a series of intergenerational events over the summer, gathering the older and younger generations together to enjoy afternoon tea and photographs and share stories and experiences. | £600 |

| Ref No | Organisation | Project Title | Description | Amount Requested |
|--------|---|--|---|------------------|
| 11 | Bute Shinty Club | Bute Shinty Club Youth Section | Towards costs of activities equipment and travelling costs to attend competitions/games off the Island. | £1,750 |
| 12 | Comann nam Pàrant | Summer Play scheme | A contribution towards running a Gaelic Summer Play scheme in Dunoon. The aim is to keep the young people engaged with the Gaelic language through the summer holidays. | £1,750 |
| 13 | Cowal and Bute Shinty Development Group | Providing Shinty Skills for All in Cowal | The funds will be used to purchase start up equipment and for hire of premises to run free evening Shinty sessions over the summer months. | £1,150 |
| 14 | Cowal Community Orchestra | Musical Memories for Dementia Sufferers in our community | To allow the musical director to set up backing discs for a variety of musical genres to use when the Orchestra go out to play at Care Homes and events. | £2,500 |
| 15 | *Cowal Fiddle Workshop | The Dunoon Scottish Music Workshop | Towards cost of staging a 3 day Traditional Scottish Music Workshop for fiddle, guitar and accordion culminating in staging a public Concert in the Dunoon Burgh Hall. | £2,500 |
| 16 | Cowal Starter Pack Plus | Cowal Starter Pack Plus | To supplement donations and cover the insurance cost involved in delivering fifty small packs of household goods to vulnerable people starting afresh in a new accommodation. | £763 |

| Ref No | Organisation | Project Title | Description | Amount Requested |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|
| 17 | Dunoon Grammar Parent Partnership Group | Building Resilient Teens | Dunoon Grammar School Parent Council in partnership with Headstrong would like to deliver practical hands on workshops to parents/carers to support the children's emotional wellbeing; providing strategies that will support our young people to develop resilience & coping skills. | £2,500 |
| 18 | *Isle of Bute Trust | Train on the Prom 2018 | Towards the cost of bringing a steam railway to Bute over a weekend and organising beach activities i.e. donkey rides and a puppet show. | £2,100 |
| 19 | Kilfinan Community Council | Ostel Bay Project | Towards the cost of preparing a car parking area for safe access to enjoy Ostel Bay for families and visitors. There is presently only car parking area for 10 cars and the road becomes blocked quite easily. | £1,695 |
| 20 | Kilfinan Community Forest | Forest Playground | Towards the cost of building a woodland playground for parents and children visiting the Forest. | £2,500 |
| 21 | *Kirn Gala | Kirn Gala 2018 | Towards the cost of staging Kirn Gala, a social inclusion event celebrating local achievements, and enabling charities to fundraise. | £2,500 |
| 22 | Port Bannatyne Gala Group | TLC in the Port | Costs of material and labour to paint the railings along the seafront and refurbish the shelter walls at the Old Quay area, Port Bannatyne, Isle of Bute. | £2,500 |
| 23 | Sandbank Senior Citizens Group | It's not funny – we need the money! | A contribution towards the running cost for the Lunch Club, for entertainers, coach trips and days out. | £1,990 |

| Ref No | Organisation | Project Title | Description | Amount Requested |
|--------|-----------------------------------|--|--|------------------|
| 24 | Strachur Memorial Hall | Anyone for Tennis? | Towards the cost of labour and material to clear the surface and surroundings of the outdoor tennis court/multi use court of moss at the Strachur Memorial Hall. | £2,380 |
| 25 | Strachur Memorial Hall | Memory Garden | Towards the cost to develop a Memory Garden at Strachur Memorial Hall for all ages. The funds will be used to repair/replace raised beds, repair paths and purchase plants and flowers. | £2,210 |
| 26 | Strachur Parent Partnership Group | Strachur Primary School New Computer and Coding Club | A contribution towards purchasing coding and programmable equipment and towards the cost to install an Interactive Board to 'Start up' an after school Computer and Coding Club at Strachur Primary School. | £2,500 |
| 27 | The Lade Centre | The Lade Centre – Cancer Care Support | Toward the cost of setting up "The Lade Centre". Volunteers and the local MacMillan nurse want to open up the former Salvation Army Hall and create a relaxed space for patients/carers where they can receive advice, complementary therapies, a cup of tea, emotional and spiritual support. | £2,500 |

**Events and Festivals*

Table 2 – Not Going Forward to Public Vote

| Ref No | Organisation | Project Description |
|---------------|--|---|
| 1 | Argyll Arts Collective | The cost of bringing art performances /classes to Lochgoilhead and Strachur in order to foster and promote the understanding and appreciation of the Arts. |
| 2 | Bute Agricultural Society | Towards the cost of running the Annual Agricultural Show. |
| 3 | Benmore and Kilmun Development Trust | Towards the cost of insurance covering Grahams Point Heritage Park Play Area and a football pitch. |
| 4 | Cowal Music Club | A contribution towards staging six chamber music events from October to March in Dunoon Burgh Hall. |
| 5 | Dunoon Army Cadets | A contribution towards a Battlefields trip for Army Cadets from Bute and Cowal. |
| 6 | Dunoon Mod | Towards the cost of promotional signs, banners and flyers etc. to promote the National Mod coming to Dunoon 2018. |
| 7 | Lochgoilhead Community Hub Steering Group | Towards cost of the GoilHub Garden project. The Project aims to inspire communities engaging in ways that encourage a more sustainable and resilient lifestyle. |
| 8 | Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop –Fiddle for Fun | Towards the cost of a Traditional Fiddle Tutor to teach children from 8-16 years. |
| 9 | Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop – Music for Mod | To pay for additional tuition to enable the group to participate in the Mod, Dunoon 2018. |
| 10 | Rothsay and District Pipe Band | Towards the cost of piping and drumming Tuition for young people. |
| 11 | Tighnabruaich Parent Council | Towards the cost of the annual Bonfire, Barbecue and Fireworks night run in partnership with Kilfinan Primary School, Kilfinan Forest and Kilfinan Community Council. |

Engagement Plan: Public Vote (3rd April – 30th April 2018)

1.0 Pre-Voting Stage

- 1.1 In accordance with the National Standards of Community Engagement, efforts have been made to maximise inclusion in promoting the public vote. Digital exclusion has been identified as a barrier. A Focus Group will inform engagement with those identified as hard to reach.

2.0 Public Engagement

- 2.1 The Outreach strategy has several strands. To advertise the SCF PB website to the widest possible range of communities; to target specific communities with identified participation barriers, and to target 'advocate' groups, who would be enthusiastic participants.
- 2.2 The strategy builds on the groundwork by the team during the Ideas stage of the SCF PB pilot and follows a similar trajectory.
- 2.3 The Community Development team works with community partners such as Adult Learning and Argyll & Bute TSI to deliver the Outreach strategy.
- 2.4 In particular, the strategy targets locations and communities with identified inequalities issues and takes a variety of formats. (see table, below)

| Format | Method | Purpose |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Advertising | Posters, fliers and Postcards displayed in public places – Leisure Centres, Libraries, Community Halls, Public Notice Boards, Local Pubs, Cafes and Shops. | To widen public knowledge about SCF PB and to generate interest in voting. |
| Digital /Social Media | <p>Information on A&B Council Website, Facebook Page & Twitter.</p> <p>Community Groups are encouraged to advertise and redirect to SCF PB from their Website, Facebook page & Twitter.</p> | To multiply SCF PB coverage. |
| Face to Face Events | Publicised events with Community Development staff | To explain SCF PB and to present the voting site and to get face to face feedback with a broad section of the community. |
| Targeted Events | <p>Specific Groups</p> <p>Either: Identified as having barriers to participation, e.g Seniors, the Digitally Excluded and Groups of Multiple Deprivation.</p> <p>Or: 'Advocate' groups – enthusiastic participants, who would encourage others to the site to vote, e.g. S5 & S6 students.</p> | To demonstrate the SCF PB website and to guide hesitant members of the public whilst voting. |