

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 At the February 2017 Budget Meeting Members allocated additional funding for environmental projects and works. The EDI Committee in April 2017 agreed that the funding was to be used to:
- 1) Provide 4 additional environmental wardens,
  - 2) Provide a Sustainable Community Initiative and
  - 3) Support any reliability issues to assist with the three weekly bin collection programme and assisting with the transition and changes to ground maintenance (grass cutting services), with initiatives to tackle the problems with dog fouling, litter and marine litter.
- 1.2 There were 21 successful applications to the Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund and a total of £35,297.69 was granted. The majority of projects started in autumn 2017 and all are expected to finish by September 2019 at the latest. This has been previously reported to the ED&I Committee.
- 1.3 Four temporary Environmental Warden posts were appointed to cover the four Area Committee areas. The post covering Bute and Cowal has been re-advertised after being filled for a short time. The Environmental Warden role is to improve enforcement and public awareness around litter and dog fouling and to enhance resources to tackle these issues. This report outlines their achievements to date.
- 1.4 It is recommended that the Committee notes the report.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 At the Council Budget Meeting held on 23 February 2017 members approved an earmarked allocation of £200k in the financial year 2017/18. The funding is to support any reliability issues to assist with the three weekly bin collection programme and assisting with the transition and changes to ground maintenance (grass cutting services), with initiatives to tackle the problems with dog fouling, litter and marine litter, with an emphasis on sustainable community initiatives.
- 2.2 At its meeting on 6 April 2017, the Environment, Development and Infrastructure (EDI) Committee agreed to delegate to the Director of Development and Infrastructure to prioritise and allocate funding for Community Bid applications based on agreed criteria.
- 2.3 This report provides information about the grants awarded from the Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund and details progress of the projects.
- 2.4 The report also provides an update on the appointment and activities of the Environmental Wardens.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Note the contents of the report, the progress made by funded projects and achievements of the Environmental Wardens.

**4.0 DETAIL**

**Sustainable Communities Initiatives Fund**

- 4.1 The EDI Committee had agreed that the Fund was to be used to support any reliability issues to assist with the three weekly bin collection programme and assisting with the transition and changes to ground maintenance (grass cutting services), with initiatives to tackle the problems with dog fouling, litter and marine litter, with an emphasis on sustainable community initiatives.

- 4.2 There were 21 successful applications to the Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund and a total of £35,297.69 was granted. The majority of projects started in autumn 2017, when the funds were disbursed, and all are expected to finish by September 2019 at the latest. To date, £32,797.69 has been paid to groups.
- 4.3 The remaining 27 applicants that were not successful were offered funding advice from the Council's Social Enterprise Team and signposted to other sources of funds and advice on the Council's website.
- 4.4 The attached appendix outlines the successful projects and timescales for completion. All projects will continue to be monitored until September 2019 and will produce a report of their achievements. Further progress reports will be brought to EDI at regular intervals.

### **Environmental Wardens**

- 4.5 Four temporary Environmental Wardens were recruited in August 2017 on 12 month contracts to cover each of the Area Committee areas. The post covering Bute and Cowal area was filled for a short time (due to the postholder being successful in gaining permanent employment) and has been readvertised to continue the post from March – October 2018.
- 4.6 The Environmental Wardens have a specific focus on enforcement and education around litter and dog fouling to provide a boost to resources to tackle these issues. The objectives are to increase enforcement, increase public awareness and improve compliance and cleaning.
- 4.7 Environmental Wardens have made weekly foot patrol visits to locations identified as hotspots for dog fouling, fly tipping and littering as well as weekly or fortnightly visits to other areas. Wardens also follow up reports of abandoned vehicles.
- 4.8 There has been a focus on public education to increase awareness about the impact of dog fouling and littering. Environmental Wardens have worked with local businesses including pubs and cafes, community groups, housing associations, schools and national agencies, such as Keep Scotland Beautiful, to reduce littering issues and increase awareness.
- 4.9 Wardens have been equipped with body-mounted cameras to help enforcement of fly tipping and dog fouling.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Twenty-one projects have been funded by the Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund and all are expected to be completed by September 2019 at the latest. The projects will make a difference to the amenity of their local communities by helping to tackle ground maintenance, dog litter and

marine litter.

- 5.2 Most projects have made some progress in a short time and will continue to be monitored for the duration of the Fund. Further updates will be reported to the EDI Committee at regular intervals.
- 5.3 Environmental Wardens have made a positive impact on tackling fly tipping, littering and dog fouling in the first six months since appointment. A further report on progress will be brought to a future meeting.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy: none
- 6.2 Financial: budget provision allocated through the 2017 budget
- 6.3 Legal: none
- 6.4 HR: none
- 6.5 Equalities: none
- 6.6 Risk: none
- 6.7 Customer Service: none

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure Pippa Milne**  
**Head of Roads and Amenity Services Jim Smith**  
**Policy Lead: Councillor Roddy McCuish**  
February 2018

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund - Project Updates

## APPENDIX 1: Sustainable Community Initiatives Fund - Project Updates

Applicant	Project	Progress	Grant awarded
Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust	Community garden/ growing area	Match funding in place; project due to be completed by August 2018	£2,000.00
Bute Community Council	Enhance amenities at Meadows Area, playing field and Esplanade Frontage	Working in partnership with Bute in Bloom; match funding in place; project due to be completed by September 2019	£2,500.00
Connell Community Council	Litter pick equipment	Equipment for beach clean will be purchased in February 2018	£150.00
EnviroKirn Action Group	Indestructible benches and planters to improve Kirn area	Planters delivered; benches ordered; expect all works to be finished by mid-November 2018	£2,370.20
Gigha Heritage Trust	Purchase tractor mounted flail mower and training for volunteers	There has been a slight delay in purchasing the flail mower. Expected completion February 2018.	£3,300.00
Helensburgh Community Council	Improve and maintain Colquhoun Square	Formal agreement in place with HCC and ABC; match funding in place	£2,500.00
Helensburgh Tree Conservation Trust	Planting 100 trees to replace dead trees	Land owner permissions in place to commence planting	£2,500.00
Hope Kitchen	Beach litter pick equipment	Project due to be completed by September 2018	£500.00
Innellan Village Hall	Community garden furniture and plants	Project due to be completed by March 2018	£500.00
Islay and Jura Dog Management	Public education in dog management	Project due to be completed by September 2019	£300.00
James Street Community Garden Association	Install curved benches to community garden	Benches purchased and delivered January 2018; installation to be arranged; Project due to be completed by March 2018	£3,365.00
Kilfinan Community Council	Beach litter equipment and awareness-raising publications	Match funding in place; project due to be completed by September 2018	£670.69
Kilmun Community Council in conjunction with The Shore Sweepers	Improving local environment and amenity	Project due to be completed by September 2018	£2,598.00
MACPool	Improve common	Match funding in place; Project	£2,143.00

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Grant awarded</b>
	external area	due to be completed by February 2018	
Port Bannatyne Gala Group	Build draught board at Old Stone Quay	Project due to be completed by April 2019	£2,000.00
Rosneath and Clynder Community Council	Replace picnic tables and benches with durable	Due to commence in spring 2018; grant to be paid when match funding is in place	£2,500.00
Rosneath Peninsula Amenity Society	Maintain and develop the Brownie Park	Project due to be completed by September 2018	£150.00
South Islay Development (SID)	Enhance Community Garden	Project due to be completed by March 2018	£2,070.80
Strachur and District Community Development	Improvements to Heron Park	Project due to be completed by September 2018	£1,000.00
Tarbert Village Hall	Landscaping and dream garden	Project due to be completed by August 2018	£1,500
West Rossthdu Residents Group	Planting and maintenance of cherry trees	Project due to be completed by April 2019	£680.00
		<b>TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED:</b>	<b>£35,297.69</b>