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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE & THE  
ISLANDS  
AREA COMMITTEE**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

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**MONITORING OF SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2018/19**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide monitoring information on the grants distributed through the Supporting Communities Fund 2018/19.
- 1.2 14 constituted, not-for-profit community organisations were awarded funding for community projects. Organisations are required to spend their funding within the 2018/2019 financial year and to submit an End of Project Monitoring Report.
- 1.3 The Supporting Communities Fund provided up to 100% of eligible project costs, with organisations eligible to apply for up to £2,500.
- 1.4 Funding was distributed using a Participatory Budgeting model where, for the first time, the residents of Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands had opportunity to participate in deciding which projects would be funded through voting on a dedicated website.
- 1.5 Members are asked to consider the contents of the report showing a summary of the information supplied by organisations in their End of Project Monitoring Reports.
- 1.6 Members are asked to note the return of monies and agree for these to be carried forward for inclusion in funds available for dispersal in 2020/21.

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**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report highlights the positive outcomes for the communities in Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands through the allocation of the Council's Supporting Communities Fund in 2018/19.
- 2.2 A total of £25,660 was awarded to 14 organisations in 2018/19. Organisations had up to two months from the end of the project to complete and return an End of Project Monitoring report.
- 2.3 A total of £922.29 is due to be returned. The amount can be made available for allocation in the financial year 2020/21.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Mid Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands Area Committee:

- 3.1 Note the positive contribution of the grants to community projects, detailed in paragraph 4.1 and the attached table.
- 3.2 Agree that the unspent funds of £922.29 in paragraph 4.4 of the report be carried forward to be included in funds available for dispersal in 2020/21.

**4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 The grants distributed to community organisations supported a total of 822 people to participate in a variety of themed projects including; outdoor activities, sports, music and mental health. Highlights include:
- Fèis an Tairbeirt held an extra 2 days tuition for young people.

- Jura Care Centre gained new volunteers
- The Kintyre Regatta saw an increase in membership for 3 watersports groups
- Loch Fyne Pipe Band gained new young recruits.

4.2 The attached table summarises information received from individual projects.

4.3 12 grant recipients submitted an End of Project Monitoring report.

4.4 There is a return of unspent funds totaling £922.29. This return is from a project that was delivered under budget and can be distributed in the 2020/2021 round of grant funding.

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries		
							M	F	Age
1.	Blarbuie Woodland Enterprise Ltd	Woodworkers programme: Co-ordination and supervision. Purchase of tools and materials.	£3,760	£5,210	£1,760	We were able to upgrade the woodland environment, creating two new paths within the woodlands, repairing a bridge over a water feature, clearing drainage ditches and pruning overgrown trees. The project gave us increased recognition as a mental health charity.	11	5	Not known
2.	Campbeltown Brass	Scottish Youth Brass Band Championships in Perth in November 2018: Associated costs	£2,450	£3313.00	£2,150	During the build up to the contest there was an appreciable improvement in the overall band's abilities and many musicians improved their playing considerably. The weekend of the event was long and tiring but all the children coped very well with their experience, and everyone felt it was a great success.	16	39	5-9: (17) 10-16: (34) 17-24: (4)
3.	Fèis an Tairbeirt	Music and Sound Technology Workshops: cost of tutor, venue hire, music recording equipment, hire of computers	£1,311.88	£1333.55	£1,218	We were able to run a three day workshop in July and a further two day workshop in September. One of the key aims of the project was to engage with young people who haven't been involved with our Traditional Music Workshops due to barriers such as physical disability or financial restraint. We were able to overcome both of these barriers and open up our workshops to a new audience.	--	--	10-16: (11) 17-24: (1)
4.	Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation	Scottish Year of Young People Canal	£1,271	£1,270.91	£1,071	Many activities were carried out with the aim of highlighting the plants and animals that live alongside the Crinan Canal and	149	168	0-4: (9) 5-9: (70)

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries		
							M	F	Age
		Events: Biorecording equipment, sessional workers and transport				these species were catalogued with SNH to provide a baseline of data for future studies. Through a series of events held along the Crinan Canal, schoolchildren and members of the public of all ages assisted with this project. Over 200 different species were recorded during the week, and 96 locations of butterfly orchids were allocated a grid reference. The results included increased partnership working and a change to Scottish Canal's strimming policy.			10-16: (57) 17-24: (7) 25-64: (121) 65+: (53)
5.	Islay and Jura Youth Wind Band	Mid Argyll Music Festival: costs associated with participating.	£3,835.20	£1,577.71	£2,500	It was a very positive educational experience for our young musicians. They learned a lot of valuable life skills i.e. having to stand up in front of a hall full of strangers and play a solo, learning how to play with a pianist - developing aural perception and listening to the piano while playing- these are valuable skills which can only be learned through practical experience.	9	5	10-16: (14)
6.	Islay Baptist Church	The cost of running a community bus.	£1,530	£1661.97	£1,530	The bus helped many people from all ages attend events that otherwise they would not have got to. This contributed variously towards their physical health, mental health and social inclusion.	--	--	--

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries		
							M	F	Age
7.	Islay House Community Garden	The purchase of small consumables for children's activities, providing refreshments, and volunteer expenses.	£960		£960	An end of project monitoring form has not been received for this project.	This information is unknown.		
8.	Jura Care Centre	Weekly Lunch Club: Employing an outreach worker, transport, and meals.	£11,170.08	£10,334	£2,500	We have run various club outings, and events, such as the Christmas lunch, attended by 35 people, and the Care Centre 10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday party, exhibition and buffet lunch for 43 people. We also organised shopping trips and facilitated people attending clinics on Islay.  We have grown more inclusive attracting people under 65 to take part in our activities.	38	52	25-64: (63) 65+: (27)
9.	Kintyre Seasports	Community Regatta on Campbeltown Loch: Costs associated.	£2,300	£2,581.68	£1,700	Our project put a very large number of people on the water on Campbeltown Loch for the first time in many years. On the day of the regatta 118 took part and before that, through training programmes, we had up to 30 people per week taking part in either dinghy sailing lessons or our regular Wednesday evening club sailing night. The event brought together a large number of local organisations working very	49	69	5-9: (23) 10-16: (43) 25-64: (52)

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries		
							M	F	Age
						effectively together and many of them gained new members. Examples were: Dalintober Beach Group, Campbeltown Sailing Club, Kintyre Canoe Club, Campbeltown Sea Cadets, Campbeltown Police Volunteers, Campbeltown Sub Aqua Club, RNLI, HM Coast Guard and Kintyre Youth Café.			
10.	Kintyre Six Circle Group	Transport costs to allow members to attend the group.	£1,756	£1,414	£578	Kintyre Six Circle receives referrals from schools, social work, families and befrienders and impacts positively on social inclusion, health & wellbeing. Membership is balanced and this has been crucial over the years to ensure that the group is truly integrated and each individual is able to reach their own potential.	11	6	5-9:(1) 10-16: (4) 17-24: (2) 25-64: (8) 65+: (2)
11.	Kintyre Youth Café	Take a Break: Activity breaks for young carers and their peers.	£4,890	£5,419.86	£2,370	We travelled to Pitlochry to participate in the Enchanted Forest, an activity at night where there is light and sound shows in a forest. We also travelled to Glasgow to 'Proms in the Park' and we tied this experience in with an overnight hotel stay, bowling, eating in a restaurant and a cinema trip. Friendships have been made and relationships developed. One participant said: I feel guilty for leaving everyone else at home, but I need this space for me.....sometimes it just gets too much for me'	6	22	5-9: (3) 10-16: (25)

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries		
							M	F	Age
12.	Loch Fyne Pipe Band	Venue hire, and items for maintaining instruments	£2,986	£3,133.82	£2,500	The main purpose of the project was to improve the sound quality of the band. Bagpipes were upgraded with new parts and now all pipers are using the same type of bags, reeds, drones and moisture control systems. This consistency of parts made each instrument more stable and easier to set up and maintain.	21	6	10-16: (8) 25-64: (19)
13.	Tarbert Academy Parent Council	Forest Friends: volunteer training courses, equipment and weatherproof clothing, and the purchase of forest tools, taurpaulin and kettle.	£2,948	£2,400.90	£2,323	Two Woodland Activity Leader posts were created, and they are both now actively passing on skills in several local woodland groups and through partnerships with Scottish Natural Heritage, OWL Argyll or local school activity. An increased engagement of local families in environmental education and community building activities has been witnessed and there are plans in place to develop the volunteer network and to utilise the positive Forest Friends ripple.	64	64	0-4: (10) 5-9: (68) 10-16: (18) 17-24: (8) 25-64: (18) 65+: (6)
14.	Tarbert Castle Trust	Costs associated with archaeological dig	£29,000		£2,500	An end of project monitoring form has not been received for this project.	This information is unknown.		

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The project monitoring form has a section asking for comments on the grant process. Not all applicants have completed this section but of those received the comments have largely been very positive. The majority note that the process is simple, straightforward, clear and concise. Thanks are noted for the support received from staff and elected members.
- 5.2 The Participatory Budgeting method of allocating the grants was evaluated independently. It was concluded that costs to resource this are disproportionate to the fund being allocated, and so not a viable option to continue at the present time.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Policy: None
- 6.2 Financial: The report sets out the expenditure from the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands 2018/19 budget for the allocation of Supporting Communities Fund.
- 6.3 Legal: None
- 6.4 HR: None
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty/Equalities: Compliant with policy
- 6.6 Risk: None
- 6.7 Customer Service: None

**Chief Executive: Cleland Sneddon**  
**Policy Lead: Cllr Robin Currie**  
**Community Planning Manager: Rona Gold**  
8<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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