

MONITORING OF THE SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2018/19

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 15 constituted, not-for-profit community organisations were awarded funding for community projects. Organisations are required to spend their funding within the 2018/19 financial year and to submit an End of Project Monitoring Report.
- 1.3 In 2018/19 the Supporting Communities Fund provided up to 100% of eligible project costs, with organisations able 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 Bute and Cowal 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 consider whether these should be carried forward to be included in funds available for dispersal in 2020/21.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report highlights the positive outcomes for communities in Bute and Cowal through the allocation of the Council's Supporting Communities Fund in 2018/19.
- 2.2 A Participatory Budgeting model was used for the Supporting Communities Fund where, for the first time, the residents of Bute and Cowal had the opportunity to participate in deciding which projects be funded through voting on a dedicated website.
- 2.3 A total of £27,236 was awarded to 15 organisations in 2018/19. Organisations had up to two months from the end of the project to complete and return a project monitoring report.
- 2.4 A total of £3,929 is due to be returned from projects. The amount can be made available for allocation in the financial year 2020/21.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Bute and Cowal Area Committee:

- 3.1 Note the positive contribution of the grants to community projects, detailed in section 4 and the attached table.
- 3.2 Agree that the unspent funds of £3,929 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 approximately 3,880 people to participate in a variety of themed projects encompassing outdoor activities, sports, music and mental health. Highlights include:

- Brandane Bulls were awarded the “Argyll and Bute Club of the Year” by Live Argyll. The club is open to all children from P1 –S4, with an average of 90 children attending training sessions.
 - The rejuvenation of a multi-use sports court, allowing a number of fitness and social activities, including tennis, tai chi and youth group games to take place in Strachur.
- 4.2 The attached table summarises information received from individual projects.
- 4.3 15 grant recipients have submitted an End of Project Monitoring Report.
- 4.4 We expect a return of unspent funds totaling £3,929 which can be distributed in the 2020/21 round of grant funding. The return of funds is a combination of projects under budget or funds unable to be spent.
- 4.5 Dunoon Men’s Shed were granted an extension from 2017/18 round of funding, their End of Project report has been received and is listed as No 12 in the table below.
- 4.6 Historic Kilmun were granted an extension from the 2017/18 round of funding, Their End of Project report has been received and is listed as No 13 in the table below

No	Organisation	Project Funded	Total Project Cost	Award	Actual Cost	Comments	Beneficiaries		
							M	F	Age
1	11th Greenock and District (1st Bute) Scout Group - First Camping experience	Towards training and travel costs for Scout leaders and for purchasing equipment for activities and catering for the Scouts sleepover.	£4,013.84	£1,370	£1,435.64	The camp took place over one day with planning meetings both with parents and Beavers before the camp and hikes, campsite cooking and fire building on the camp. Due to changes in leaders and an administrative oversight on the scouting regulations, the sleepover could not take place. Another camp will be rescheduled later in the year.	11	4	5-9: 9 25-64: 4
2	Barbara's Wildlife Rescue - Walk on the Wildside	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	£2,500	£2,540	A group of 7 long term volunteers travelled to Vale Wildlife Hospital, a large Wildlife Hospital near Tewksbury, spending a week working and training in all departments, working alongside permanent staff and vets. The group completed 7 one to one school, nursery and care home visits, getting the community involved and educated about our local wildlife.	0-4: 30 5-9: 100 10-16: 60 25-64: 70 65+ 40		
3	Beachwatch Bute - This 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	£1,640	£1,640	£0.00	The group were not able to get the project off the ground and have returned the funding due to changes in officer bearers and personnel matters. £1,640 has been returned.	No beneficiaries for this project as the money has been returned.		

No	Organisation	Project Funded	Total Project	Award	Actual Cost	Comments	Beneficiaries		
		premises.							
4	Blairmore Village Trust - The Shore 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	£2,228	£2,407	The Hub remained open for the year with various events taking place including a Fish & Chip supper, evening music session, a festive lunch, a trip to the cinema club at the Burgh Hall and a coach trip to the New Lanark Heritage Centre. This has increased friendship, and socialising in the community.	59	53	0-4: 1 5-9: 24 10-16: 17-24:6 25-64: 36 65+: 45
5	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	£1,160	£1,991.21	On average 90 children attended training sessions. The grant enabled discretion as to when to charge fees or offer reduced rates to families with 2 or more children, allowing inclusivity for all children.	Not known		5-9: 42 10-16: 48
6	Bute Photographic Society - Photographic Exhibition for the Elderly	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	£800	£600	£369.04	The afternoons were attended by pupils from Rothesay Joint Campus. The residents enjoyed the company and one gentleman had a captive audience reminiscing about his war experiences. Photographic evidence was given to the pupils for their community project and a photo memento given to the residents.	13	14	10-16: 8 17-24:1 65+: 18

No	Organisation	Project Funded	Total Project	Award	Actual Cost	Comments	Beneficiaries		
		photographs and share stories and experiences.				No transport was required and catering costs were lower, therefore £230 has been returned.			
7	Bute Shinty Club - Youth Section	Towards costs of activities equipment and travelling costs to attend competitions/games off the Island.	£2,050.	£1,750	£2,085	The group had teams at P1, P3, P7, under 14 and under 17 level compete in South of Scotland and National Competitions. The mini bus was used and club members accompanied players on match day and equipment and kit was provided to local schools along with weekly training sessions.	42	2	5-9: 16 10-16: 22 17-24: 6
8	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	£1,150	£1,156	The sessions were well attended and grew each week starting with 6 and reaching 15, although not as many junior players were reached as wished for. The area group has seen some girls start to play and there has been growth in the U14 section.	10	5	5-9: 10 10-16: 5
9	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.	£2,850	£2,500	£2,912	A wide variety of types of music have been recorded and events have taken place at Largs Viking Festival and St John's Church	25	130	25-64: 5 65+: 150
10	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.	£1,233.76	£763	£1,209.04	A total of 28 starter packs were given out over the course of the year. Referrals were from Argyll and Bute Womens Aid, Carr Gomm, Argyll and Bute Housing Services, Argyll and Bute Throughcare and after care, and HELP Ltd. These were distributed to five families and 23 individuals.	unknown		0-4: 4 5-9: 1 10-16: 2 17-24: 8 25-64: 20

No	Organisation	Project Funded	Total Project	Award	Actual Cost	Comments	Beneficiaries		
11	Dunoon Grammar School Parent Council - 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.	£3,000	£2,500	£2,500	Four 90 minute practical hands-on workshops provided to parents/carers focused on exams, emotions, hormones and transitions were run in partnership with Headstrong NLP. The sessions aimed to support parents/carers to develop the tools to support their children in building resilience and coping skills in our digital and high-pressured world. 43 completed evaluation forms were received with no negative comments.	28	117	25-64: 145
12	Dunoon Men's Shed (Carry Forward from 2017/18)	A contribution towards the costs of running training courses for the members in relation to developing the garden project attached to the Shed. The courses would cover information and training on a variety of gardening topics, including plant production through to vegetable preparation and cooking. The aim is to use produce from the garden for soup lunches, cooked in the shed for members and may open up, depending on capacity, to other vulnerable groups in the	£3,300	£3,300	£3,685	An extension on the project was agreed at Area Committee in September 2018 and the group also returned £1,650. 12 new members joined the group, mainly to work on the garden. Three training courses also gave skills in caring for bees and welding for construction of garden furniture.	44	5	25-64: 6 65+: 43

No	Organisation	Project Funded	Total Project	Award	Actual Cost	Comments	Beneficiaries		
		community.							
13	Historic Kilmun (Carry Forward from 2017/18)	A contribution towards costs of employing a part time Project Manager to work in partnership with third sector, public sector and service users to help deliver three strands of the project, namely Arts and Mental Health, Oral History and working with youth benefit organisations to offer a range of training on certificated courses	£15,019	£4,000	£15,026.30	Historic Kilmun requested an extension until end of September 18 from the grant received in 2017/18. All 3 strands of the project met their outcomes. The Oral Histories project involved partnership with Dunoon Grammar School to record stories and deliver intergenerational opportunities in addition to social afternoons. 12 weekly sessions were delivered as part of the Art and Mental Health project. 6-8 people regularly attended the Job Seekers project.	6	32	10 – 16: 8 17-24: 2 25-64: 14 65+: 14
14	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.	£2,195	£1,695	£0.00	Project was unable to go ahead due to the requirement from planning to provide a tarmac car park which was not possible with the level of funding. £1,695 has been returned.	There are no beneficiaries as this project was unable to go ahead.		
15	Kilfinan Community Forest - Forest Playground	Towards the cost of building a woodland playground for parents and children visiting the Forest.	£3,379.94	£2,500	£2,135.80	An exciting, safe and secure forest playground has been built and is visited by local nursery and primary school children, there has also been an increase in weekend and holiday visitors. The project came in under budget and therefore £364 has been returned.	26	22	0-4: 18 5-9: 30

No	Organisation	Project Funded	Total Project	Award	Actual Cost	Comments	Beneficiaries	
16	Kirn Gala	Towards the cost of staging Kirn Gala, a social inclusion event celebrating local achievements, and enabling charities to fundraise.	£2,500	£2,500	£2,526	Feedback from the charities attending are that it allows them to showcase their services, £7K+ raised for local organisations., building community capacity for charities and raising awareness in the community.	Unknown	3000/3500 approx
17	Strachur Memorial Hall Committee - Sport for All	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	£2,380	£2,408	The facility is now a safe and functional outdoor play and recreation amenity. It has seen an adult tennis group established, Strachur Hub uses the court for weekly Tai Chi exercises and the Youth Club also uses the court.	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 was simple, straightforward, clear and concise. Comments regarding the Participatory Voting process included positive remarks on locals voting for groups, although a concern regarding the vote being online was raised and impacting elderly members of the community. 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 Bute & Cowal area 2018/19 budget for the allocation of Supporting Communities Fund
- 6.3 Legal: None
- 6.4 HR: None
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty/Equalities/Islands: Compliant with policy and noting that 4 of the funded projects were on Bute
- 6.6 Risk: None
- 6.7 Customer Service: None

Chief Executive - Cleland Sneddon
Policy Lead - Cllr Robin Currie
Community Planning Manager – Rona Gold
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For further information contact: Community Development Officer Sharon Macdonald on 01700 501357 / sharon.macdonald2@argyll-bute.gov.uk.