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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

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

**COMMUNITY PLANNING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2020**

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**MONITORING OF SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2019/20**

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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 2019/20.
- 1.2 15 constituted, not-for-profit community organisations were awarded funding for community projects. Organisations were required to spend their funding within the 2019/20 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 able to apply for up to £2,500.
- 1.4 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.

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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 2019/20.
- 2.2 A total of £25,869 was awarded to 15 organisations in 2019/20. Organisations had up to two months from the end of the project to complete and return an End of Project Monitoring Report.
- 2.3 No organisations declined their funding award and 1 organisation (South Kintyre Development Trust) has not been able to go ahead with their project and have requested a rollover of funds.
- 2.4 No funds are due to be returned.

## **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 the carry forward of £2,000 for South Kintyre Development Trust until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

## **4.0 DETAIL**

- 4.1 The grants distributed to community organisations supported a total of 745 people to participate in a variety of themed projects including;

outdoor activities, sports, music and mental health, providing benefits to people with long-term health conditions, children and young people and the elderly.

Highlights include:

- The Multiple Sclerosis Centre has supported people with long term health conditions to manage their health conditions and improve their lives and their outlook. This project intended, for the first time, to reach out to people in work. Evening sessions were held and employees were able to offer peer support and get support from Centre staff, enabling them to stay in work. Employers also wanted to know what more they could do to help valued staff – the Centre would like to follow up on the learning from this.
- The Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust (IGHT) were fortunate enough to recruit a young person onto their Board who requested that his peers be consulted on their needs. They identified a need for a hub, where they could replicate the extra-curricular activities enjoyed on the mainland, but which need to catch the last ferry prevents them from doing. They now have a portacabin, which they are equipping themselves and planning the management of and hope that this will provide incentive for young people to continue to stay on the island.
- Tayinloan Playpark project made people feel that their village had not been abandoned and that people were willing to help them make it better. It particularly came into its own during the lockdown when all other facilities were closed, where it helped to relieve the social isolation of parents and provided opportunities for social cohesion in the village. It has been well looked after and hopefully will continue to provide health and social benefits for many years to come.

4.2 The attached table summarises information received from individual projects.

4.3 15 grant recipients submitted an End of Project Monitoring report. Their End of Project Monitoring Report is included in the table below.

4.4 South Kintyre Development Trust have requested to carry forward their award of £2,000 towards the costs of a lunch club for those on a low income. Due to staff difficulties and the closure of venues they were unable to complete the project within the timeframe and request that the Area Committee grant an extension to carry forward the remaining funds to enable the delivery and completion of the project during 2021. They identified increased loneliness and isolation as a result of the necessary social distancing measures and have the resources to deliver this project in a safe way.

The group have confirmed that:

- The grant will be spent on the purpose outlined in the original application.

- Funding will be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries			
							M	F	Age	
1.	ACT - Argyll & the Isles Coast & Countryside Trust	Moving On sessions to maintain continuity of activities for participants of 'Branching Out' aimed at those affected by mental health	£2,912.53	£1,382.47	£1,254.00	Delivered 3 sessions of outdoor activities for people using Blarbuie Woodlands. Overall our participants responded that they look forward to and benefit from the social interaction, the fresh air, the meaningful activity and that regular sessions are a useful tool that helps to manage long-term conditions and stay connected.	4	7	17-24	2
									25-64	5
									65+	4
2.	Heart of Argyll	Restoration of wild oyster beds	£1,931.79	£892.99	£954.00	We developed a classroom lesson on oyster reintroduction and the benefits this species will bring to a marine ecosystem. We delivered this lesson at Craignish Primary School in November 2019 to both the younger and older children. We also developed a teaching pack for primary schools that can be used either independently of the project or as an introduction for active participation in the project in the future. It's been encouraging that five schools have already decided to partake in this project.	6	10	5-9	7
									10-16	5
									25-64	4
3.	Inveraray Senior Citizens	Running costs to free up funds for purchase of new tables	£1,712.00	£1,806.75	£1,000.00	The grant enabled us to buy new folding tables, which together with decorative work has improved the ambience and functionality of the hall increasing its use and therefore its sustainability.			10-16	20
									17-24	10
									25-64	20
									65+	40

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries			
							M	F	Age	
4.	Islay High School Parent Council	School Trip to India	81,639.00	£2,284.54	£2,215.00	Many pupils would have not have been able to take part in the trip without support from the community and the above fund. 100% of students completed the volunteer project in the Kullu Valley Community School and gained a fantastic experience of the difficulties facing communities in more remote areas.			Information not received.	
5.	Islay Link Club	Bee Friendly gardening for those affected by mental health	£354.76	£294.69	£305.00	Many of us, not knowing each other have become firm friends. The project brought groups together in a different way, inspiring confidence. Collaboration drew on participants existing skills and experience.			Information not received.	
6.	Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust	Fees towards design of multi-use games area	£2,350.00	£1,829.96	£1,750.00	This project has enabled the young people of Gigha to develop a community development project based on their wants and needs and address the negative impacts of rural isolation, which causes some young people to leave Gigha.			17-24	20
7.	Jura Village Hall	Running costs for community hall	£3,674.00	£3,974.20	£1,012.00	Due to the refurbishment of the lavatories, the standard of hygiene has greatly improved. As a result, the use of the hall has increased. We now have a weekly Baby and Toddler group which is well attended. The local children also have a weekly Soft Tennis Session. The hall was used extensively during COVID lockdown for food delivery management at no charge.	100	102	0-4	10
									5-9	11
									10-16	15
									17-24	15
									25-64	75
									65+	76



No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries			
							M	F	Age	
						knowing others would understand. It also gave the opportunity to take part in activities including an outing to The Corryvreckan to encourage people to face their fears and take on a challenge.				
11.	PACTMAK	Trips and events for people living with learning disability	£2,890.00	£2,732.90	£2,090.00	The range of activities meant that all members derived benefit from the programme and the shared activities supported group bonding. Work with both Heads Up (Lochgilphead) and the Chit Chat (Islay) groups has been very successful and we are looking forward to return visits. Partnership working has also proved valuable in pooling resources and value for money.	6	14	25-64 65+	16 4
12.	Shopper Aide	Hall Fees for Elderberries group & lunch club	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£2,500.00	The Elderberries group is attended by up to 25 people per day with the majority having lunch there, there is a wide variety of activities for everyone including an exercise session, music, dancing, crafts, quizzes, bingo etc or just chatting to friends. We also have people from Woodlands and the Kintyre Care home attending. Tea and coffee is provided by staff and volunteers. Volunteers include students from the Learning Support Department Campbeltown Grammar school.	5	30	65+	35
13.	South Kintyre Development Trust	Lunch club for those on low income	£3,190.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	Unfortunately we've not been able to complete the project for a number of reasons. Staff difficulties and the closure of venues. <b>We would like to request a rollover of these</b>				

No	Organisation	Project funded	Total Projected Costs	Actual Costs	Award	Comments	Beneficiaries			
							M	F	Age	
						funds.				
14.	Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust	Tourist information point & hub	12,580.00	£19,930.00	£2,500.00	The project involved up to 20 local volunteers who worked on the display and provided opportunities for local people to tell their story to visitors. It also provided visitor information through leaflets and local knowledge and established a children's corner which was actively used throughout the season.			20 volunteers	
15.	Tayinloan Villagers Association	Lease & digger to update site: playing fields	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	£2,500.00	The playpark has only just been completed within the last week and already we have received very positive feedback. The children are delighted and one resident said that it had breathed new life back into the village.	35	30	0-4	6
									5-9	14
									10-16	34
									17-24	5
									25-64	6

## **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. One development suggestion, was for the community development team to maintain supportive contact to ensure requirements of grant conditions are focused on. This will be considered for future. Thanks are noted for the support received from staff and elected members.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Policy: None

6.2 Financial: The report sets out the expenditure from the Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & the Islands area 2019/20 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: Pippa Milne**  
**Policy Lead: Cllr Mary Jean Devon**  
**Community Planning Manager: Rona Gold**  
4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

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