

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2021/22

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to decide on the allocation of the council's Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) for Bute and Cowal.
- 1.2 The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Bute and Cowal for distribution in 2021/22 is £23,233
- 1.3 It is recommended that 13 applicants are awarded funding.
- 1.4 Applicants awarded funds from the council's Supporting Communities Fund have 18 months in which to spend the funds.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2021/22

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The report details recommendations for the award of the council's Supporting Communities Fund (SCF). The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Bute and Cowal for 2021/22 is **£22,500**. In addition, there is a carry forward from the financial period 2019/20 of **£733** from return of unspent funds from previous applicants which gives the total amount available **£23,233**.
- 2.2 Following consultation on the SCF with the community and recommendations from this agreed at Council on 26 November 2021. Organisations can apply for up to £2,500 and the period of spend is 18 months. This is what the respondents of the consultation wanted. Improvements were also made to simplify the application process.
- 2.3 The SCF is a popular fund and has attracted 20 applications from the Bute and Cowal area requesting a total of £45,493 in funding.
- 2.4 Applications are scored against criteria set out in the guidance (<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants>)
- 2.5 Due to Covid-19 restrictions applicants who received funding in 2020/21 were granted an extension to carry funds forward to March 2022. Where an organisation has been recommended for an award and received funds in 2020/21, the award recommended within this report is either for a different project or the original award has been spent and an End of Project Monitoring Form received.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree that 13 applications are awarded funding from the Supporting Communities Fund budget totalling £23,233. These are listed with an award recommendation in Table 1 under 4.0 of the report.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The SCF is marked through a robust process which involves financial checks and contact with the applicant to verify any information where required. All applicants need to provide satisfactory essential information on governance and finance to be eligible for further assessment. The scoring is based on a set of criteria outlined in the guidance and made available on the council's website: ([Guidance for applicants](#)). Applications to the fund in March 2021 must meet one or more of the criteria:
- Fairer Communities – tackling poverty by sharing opportunities.
 - Resilient Communities – rebuilding and repairing from a pandemic; noting that this is only in the case of the group being unable to access other specific funds for this, e.g. Scottish Government funding.
 - Greener, cleaner communities – climate change mitigation
 - Creative Communities - Creativity for Health and Wellbeing
- 4.2 Of the 20 applications received, 2 applications were not eligible. These applicants have been notified and provided with support on applying to other funds where relevant.
- 4.3 Of the 18 eligible applications (requesting a total of £45,493) one is a partnership project seeking to reduce fraudulent activity due to Covid-19 and has been passed to the Community Planning Partnership which is currently supporting partnership working on this.
- 4.4. 10 applicants have not applied to the fund in the previous year/ two years. Applications to the fund are listed in alphabetical order, by applicant name, in Table 1.
- 4.5 Members are asked to agree that 13 applicants are recommended to be awarded funding from the total available of £23,233; of these, 3 are for island based projects. The applications recommended for award of funding are indicated by the award amount shown in column 'Award 2021/22' in Table 1. The detail of the projects is in Table 2.
- 4.6 Unsuccessful applicants are marked 'no award' in the table, and will be provided with information on alternative sources of funding and support.
- 4.7 Successful projects funded have to complete a report at the end to evidence the impact of the spending of the money. The results of this are brought to Area Committee in June 2023, if not before depending on project duration.

Table 1 – Supporting Communities Fund Recommendations of Award 2021/22

Ref No	Organisation	Grant 20/21	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Award 2021/22
1	Alienergy	N/A	£2,500	£625	No Award(see item 4.3 of report)
2	Argyll Arts Collective	N/A	£11,800	£2,500	£2,000
3	Beachwatch Bute	N/A	£3,500	£2,500	£2,000
4	Bute Resilience Team	N/A	£2,900	£2,500	£2,000
5	Cairndow Village Hall Recreation Committee	New	£6,381	£1,039	£1,039
6	Cowal Open Studios	New	£2,400	£2,400	No award
7	Dunoon BID PA23	No Award	£3,900	£2,200	£2,200
8	Dunoon Exp	N/A	£2,500	£2,500	No Award
9	Dunoon Gateway Project	N/A	£7,200	£2,500	£2,000
10	Dunoon Men's Shed	N/A	£2,757	£2,401 (£758 - eligible costs)	£758
11	Family Mediation	N/A	£10,000	£2,500	No Award
12	Friends of the Riverbank Bird Hide, Kilmun	£500	£3,340	£1,840	£1,840
13	Fyne Futures Ltd	New	£3,310	£2,450	No Award
14	Kames and District Recreation Hall Committee	New	£1,922	£1,922	£1,922
15	Lochgoilhead Bowling Association	N/A	£1,964	£1,964	£1,197
16	Rothesay and District Pipe Band	No award	£3,300	£2,500	£2,000
17	Sandbank Community Council	N/A	£9,237	£2,500	£2,500
18	The Shore Art Club	New	£2,112	£2,112	£1,777
		Total Available			£23,233
		Total Recommended			£23,233

Table 2 – Supporting Communities Fund Recommendation

Ref	Organisation	Application Detail
2	Argyll Arts Collective	Towards costs to deliver a 6 week community writing project – encouraging creative writing and discussion, looking to increase learning opportunities related to literacy. Also funding will be used to run outdoor workshops related to a new Woodland trail to encourage use to the outdoors. Furthermore, to promote and deliver live events in local halls throughout Cowal from July 2021.
3	Beachwatch Bute	Towards cost of purchasing and installing a 4th storage bench for the collection of marine litter on Bute. The benches are made by recycling farm plastic waste and will allow access to litter pickers / bags and PPE for all community members. The lifespan of these benches are 40 years and Beachwatch Bute has already installed 3 storage benches around the Island.
4	Bute Resilience Team	Towards costs of delivering First Aid training and Mental Health First Aid Training for the Bute Resilience team. At present the group have approximately 30 volunteers involved in their activities. The Bute Resilience Team offered a vital service as an emergency response group to the vulnerable on Bute during the pandemic, delivering prescriptions and shopping and delivering food supplies.
5	Cairndow Village Hall Recreation Committee	Cairndow Village hall has applied for funding to help increase hall usage and to start a small gardening project on its grounds for local residents - many of whom are elderly. This project aims to increase health and wellbeing by involving and attracting elderly residents to the centre. The hall is keen to develop social and support services to all members, and is furthermore involved in the delivery of NHS teleservices. The group was active during both lockdowns, providing outdoor cafes, and a meeting point in the community
7	Dunoon Bid PA23	The funding will be used to help deliver a number of outdoor cultural events in Dunoon Town centre, accessible to residents and to attract and entertain visitors to the area throughout the year.
9	Dunoon Gateway Project	The funding will be used to help cover rent and utilities to run a Youth Hub for the young people of Dunoon and Cowal in the former Seasons Coffee shop. This is reacting to a recognised gap in services, and meeting the need for a safe place for young people to congregate and socialise.
10	Dunoon Men's Shed	This application is to help install a dust extractor within the Dunoon Men's woodwork shed. This is an active move to improve the workshop environment and Health and Safety for volunteers.

Ref	Organisation	Application Detail
12	Friends of the Riverbank Bird Hide	Towards costs of Installing a small pedestrian and traffic safety barrier to improve access to the hide. This will increase safety for children and wheelchair users as it removes the risk posed by an embankment beside the path. The application also includes costs of Improving the pathways, parking and cycle parking to increase access and usage of the site in general. This is with particular reference to those with mobility issues / wheelchair users in the wider community and the group membership.
14	Kames and District Recreation Hall Committee	The group is applying for funding to help with the re-opening of the hall following the Covid pandemic. The funds will be used to purchase fans to improve the efficiency of their heating system, to provide a comfortable environment for hall users, to pay for Public Liabilities Insurance and for deep cleaning of the premises. This is to allay member's anxieties re-entering the hall.
15	Lochgoilhead Bowling Association	The Lochgoilhead Bowling Club are applying for funding to assist in the reopening of their hall and to increase the security and fire safety of the premises. The funding will be used to pay for Public Liability Insurance, a CCTV system, smoke and heat detectors - hardwired to meet upcoming legal requirements- and assistance with general running costs. The centre is a de-facto community hall in the area and offers formal and informal clubs and meeting space for local residents.
16	Rothesay and District Pipe Band	The funding will be used to run a programme of weekend pipe and drumming workshops for members and their families over the summer holidays. The band has 80 members and pre-Covid rehearsed and took part in national competitions. These workshops will provide a fun environment to ease the members back into musical practise and get the whole family involved.
17	Sandbank Community Council	The Sandbank Community Council are looking for help with costs towards the draining and stabilisation of Broxwood picnic area in Sandbank. This was identified by a community mapping exercise from Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park 2014 as an area for improvement and followed up by the Sandbank Community Council for action. This is a longstanding project with the appropriate technical knowledge sought and contractors identified.
18	The Shore Art Club	The Shore Art Club are applying for a grant to help restart the group following the Covid Pandemic, offering weekly art lessons from local tutors and also to build a store of arts equipment and materials, that can be used by group members. This will help to remove financial barriers to participation and encourage new membership.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Supporting Communities Fund application and assessment process has been completed as set out within the guidance.
- 5.2 The recommendations made fully allocate the funding available for financial year 2021/2022.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy: N/A
- 6.2 Financial: Recommendations in the report are limited to the budget allocation available in 2021/22 for the Supporting Communities Fund in Bute and Cowal
- 6.3 Legal: Applications are initially assessed to ensure that groups are constituted with managed accounts.
- 6.4 HR: N/A
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: The Supporting Communities Fund supports community groups in tackling poverty, reducing inequality and building a fairer and more inclusive Scotland.
 - 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics: Applicants are given the options of receiving the application in large print and other languages.
 - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty: None known
 - 6.5.3 Islands: 4 of the applicant projects are island based. 3 of these are recommended for funding.
- 6.6 Risk: risk to the public pound is managed through the assessment and scoring, and through the end of project monitoring process.
- 6.7 Customer Service: None

7.0 Appendices

- 7.1 Table 3 No Grant Recommendation

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12th May 2021

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Appendix 1

Table 3 – No Grant Recommendation

Ref	Organisation	Eligible applications receiving lower scoring
6	Cowal Open Studios	Design, printing and production of new Dunoon-themed flags to adorn the purposed installed flagpoles in Dunoon town centre.
8	Dunoon Exp	Towards costs of a weekend residential as part of Dunoon eXp's activities.
13	Fyne Futures Ltd	To establish a path as part of a communal community growing space for people to grow their own food.
11	Family Mediation	<p>This grant is to help expand the provision in the 4 committee areas across A&B by offering increased delivery of these services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family mediation • Individual support programmes for children experiencing separation • Child contact sessions for “estranged / alienated” partners accessing services.