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**ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

**Oban, Lorn and the Isles**

**Area Committee**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT**

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

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## **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2021/22**

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### **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 Oban, Lorn and the Isles.
- 1.2 The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Oban, Lorn and the Isles for distribution in 2021/22 is £25,734.
- 1.3 It is recommended that 16 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.

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### **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 Oban, Lorn and the Isles for 2021/22 is £22,500. In addition, there is a carry forward from the financial period 2019/20 of £3,234 from return of unspent funds from previous applicants. The total available for allocation is £25,734.
- 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 32 applications from the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area, requesting a total of £69,545 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 where 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 16 applications are awarded funding from the Supporting Communities Fund budget totalling £25,734. 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 32 applications, two applicants withdrew and one project did not provide the supporting paperwork required to accompany their application.

4.3 Of the 29 eligible applications (requesting a total of £62,345), 26 of these 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. One of the 29 eligible applications 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 Of the eligible applications to the SCF, 16 are recommended to be awarded funding from the total available of £25,734. 7 of these 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.

4.5 Unsuccessful applicants are marked 'no award' in the table, and they will be provided with information on alternative sources of funding which is available through the council's Funding Alert bulletin and Grantfinder facility on the webpages.

4.6 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	Ardchattan Centre	n/a	£3,500	£1,800	£1,800
2	Argyll & Lochaber RDA Carriage Driving Group	n/a	£2,500	£2,500	No Award
3	Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Energy Agency (ALLenergy)	n/a	£3,700	£625	No award – Refer to 4.3
4	Artmap Argyll	n/a	£5,400	£600	£600
5	Bendoran Watersports CIC	n/a	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500
6	CHARTS	n/a	£2,447.88	£2,048	£2,048
7	Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain (Oban Mòd Academy)	n/a	£10,565	£2,000	£1,500
8	Cùram Thiriodh	n/a	£27,340	£2,500	No Award
9	Dalavich Improvement Group (DIG)	n/a	£6,735	£2,485	No Award
10	Family Mediation Argyll & Bute	n/a	£19,500	£2,500	No Award
11	Friends of Kilbride	n/a	£9,750	£2,500	No Award
12	Girlguiding Oban	n/a	£4,550	£2,500	No Award
13	Hebridean Pursuits Outdoor Learning	n/a	£5,100	£2,500	£2,000
14	Hope to Oban	n/a	£8,700	£2,500	No Award
15	Kilchrenan Village Hall	n/a	£12,500	£2,500	No Award
16	Lismore Historical Society	n/a	£11,500	£2,500	No Award
17	Lorn and Oban Healthy Options	n/a	£224,753	£2,500	£2,500
18	MECOPP – Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project	n/a	£3,450	£1,225	£1,225
19	Mull and Iona Community Trust	£2,500	£32,390	£2,500	£905
20	North West Mull Community Woodland	n/a	£2,500	£2,500	£905
21	Oban & District Access Panel	£1,972	£3,750	£1,500	£1,500
22	Oban Men's Shed	n/a	£1,946	£1,946	£1,946
23	Oban Winter Festival *	n/a	£2,500	£2,500	No Award
24	Ross of Mull and Iona Community Transport	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	£2,000
25	Seil & Easdale Community Council	n/a	£1,900	£1,900	£905
26	The Community Bureau	n/a	£3,375	£1,240	£1,000
27	Tiree Community Council	n/a	£2,480	£2,480	£2,400
28	Tobermory Harbour Association	n/a	£4,355	£2,500	No Award
29	Western Isles Yacht Club	n/a	£12,487.46	£2,496.30	No Award
		<b>Total Available</b>			<b>£25,734</b>
	* Events & Festivals	<b>Total Recommended</b>			<b>£25,734</b>

**Table 2 – Supporting Communities Fund Recommendation**

Ref	Organisation	Application Detail
1	Ardchattan Centre	A contribution towards initial running costs for the Ardchattan Centre. The building is a former local authority school, which transferred to community ownership on 1 April 2021.
4	Artmap Argyll	Support for the fourteenth Artmap Argyll open studios event in August 2021.
5	Bendoran Watersports CIC	Delivery of two "Watersports and Wellbeing" - learn to sea kayak courses for the people of the Ross of Mull and Iona. One course will be targeted at young people under 18 and the other course targeted at people who are not in full time employment.
6	CHARTS	Support a pilot project offering simultaneous translation at online community meetings within Gaelic speaking communities.
7	Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain (Oban Mòd Academy)	PVG registered tutors to support Gaelic and non Gaelic speaking children from the local area, to prepare for Local and National Mòds.
13	Hebridean Pursuits Outdoor Learning	The activities to be funded are the delivery of regular Outdoor Art and Creative sessions on a 121, (or small family group) basis, with local young carers/young carers and their families.
17	Lorn and Oban Healthy Options	Funding to deliver core activities of community based health improvement project. Clients tend to fall into 3 main groups: those living with or at risk of developing long term health conditions; those in pre-rehabilitation or rehabilitation with operations; those who are socially isolated or feeling disconnected from their communities.
18	MECOPP – Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project	The MECOPP Gypsy/Traveller Project will deliver a series of traditional basket making workshops involving members of Mid and North Argyll's Gypsy/Traveller community, led by an Argyll based basket maker. Participants will be able to attend either on a 'taster' basis or to attend the series of workshops to develop their skills incrementally.
19	Mull and Iona Community Trust	<p>A contribution towards the costs of the Ulva Ferry Transport Project. The project provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an accessible minibus which runs a scheduled service 3 days a week throughout the area.</li> <li>• an electric car offering transport for 3 or less passengers which supports a range of uses, including patient transport to Glasgow hospitals and mainland services.</li> <li>• 7 days a week door-to-door service anywhere on Mull outside the scheduled service.</li> </ul>

Ref	Organisation	Application Detail
20	North West Mull Community Woodland	Cost of materials and workshops to create a living willow project. Participants will work with the project leader/willow artist to determine where best to build structures such as a caterpillar play tunnel for outdoor play, willow domes to provide shelter over seating areas, dens, and tepees.
21	Oban & District Access Panel	The funds will sustain the part-time post of support officer for the Panel, thereby allowing the voluntary secretary to concentrate on audits and scrutiny of planning applications. Funding will also help to support part-time fundraising assistance so that the support position and other work of the Panel will be sustainably funded going forward.
22	Oban Men's Shed	To restore the WWII Register Number 552 (Small Craft) Clinker Built Dipping Lug Sail boat built on Easdale by the MacQueen Boatyard in the 1930's. The Men's Shed will work to make it sea worthy and enable it to be restored as a valuable piece of local history.
24	Ross of Mull and Iona Community Transport	The award will pay for hire of local community facilities, catering and flexible community transport arrangements to facilitate community activities (in line with Covid guidance) to encourage and support the re-establishment of community activities in the Ross of Mull. The project will particularly support the participation of the elderly and vulnerable.
25	Seil and Easdale Community Council	Community improvement, activities. Post Covid: card and food parcel to lift the spirits of older people, books and educational activity packs for young children. General: repair of public seating at the Square at Ellenabeich, repair to seating area at the playing field, signs and information boards, pots, compost and plants.
26	The Community Bureau	Costs to staff and run outdoor activities for older people, people with long-term health conditions and people with mental health issues, to support them with the impact of lockdown. The project will be delivered in partnership with Developing Potential and will aim to provide low level walks initially, gradually increasing the duration but with a support vehicle available should anyone need to rest. These walks would be themed around exploring our woodlands to seek and identify the wild mushrooms which grow abundantly (suggested by several service users).
27	Tiree Community Council	To establish a community food growing garden to aid food resilience throughout the island of Tiree. The money will be used to provide a number of raised beds, hand tools, suitable groundworks and storage facilities.

## **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 Oban, Lorn and the Isles.
- 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: 12 of the applicant projects are island based. 7 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

**Chief Executive Pippa Milne**

**Policy Lead Cllr Mary Jean Devon**

**Community Planning Manager Rona Gold**

13 May 2021

**For further information contact:** Laura MacDonald on 01631 567944

Appendix 1

**Table 3 – No Grant Recommendation**

Ref	Organisation	Eligible applications receiving lower scoring
2	Argyll & Lochaber RDA Carriage Driving Group	Argyll RDA Carriage Driving Group relocated our activity base in 2020 from Benderloch, Argyll to Lochaber Rural Complex, Fort William Costs to support travel for people from Argyll & Bute to access the project in its new location in Lochaber between 1 <sup>st</sup> April and 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022.
3	Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Energy Agency (ALLenergy)	This application 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.
8	Cùram Thiriodh	Employment of Outreach Worker (30hrs/week) and the running costs of a minibus to provide social interaction and reduce social isolation in the older population on Tiree.
9	Dalavich Improvement Group (DIG)	To fund the action planning stage and production of a new Community Action Plan for DIG's operating area.
10	Family Mediation Argyll & Bute	Additional support hours to provide 1:1 support to parents prior to mediation.
11	Friends of Kilbride	Funding for the casting of a replica Kilbride Bell. The finished bell would feature at the relaunch of Historic Kilbride event in late August where it will be piped down Lergas Glen to Kilbride.
12	Girlguiding Oban	To provide a range of age appropriate outdoor activities led by suitably qualified Outdoor Instructors, supported by volunteer leaders for the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Ranges in the Oban and District area, including current members and girls on Waiting Lists.
14	Hope to Oban	Memento Box is a new 12 month project that seeks to break down some of the isolating barriers caused by Covid-19/lockdown by bringing primary school children closer to their communities. Memento Box is a virtual project involving the production of a suite of videos each month that explore a variety of positive topics including identity, community, environment, social skills, resilience and others. Each month's exploration culminates in the creation of a craft that the young people then place into their Memento Box. What is created by the end of the year is a collection of positive reminders of the previous 12 months. Memento box will be delivered through local primary schools and art



		work will be displayed in vacant shop properties in Oban Town Centre.
15	Kilchrenan Village Hall	Running costs for Kilchrenan Village Hall. The hall is in need of significant refurbishment and the hall committee is working hard on this project. The funding requested would support the running costs of the hall, freeing up the hall committee to raise the £12,500 required for the improvements.
16	Lismore Historical Society	Community archaeology in Summer 2021. The proposal is to return to the area around the 7 <sup>th</sup> century burial and expose as many burials as possible in a 12 day dig, to allow sampling of the bones. The main project will be associated with a school programme (4 formal lessons, worked out with the head teacher), regular updates from the society website, and an Autumn public meeting to explain the findings.
23	Oban Winter Festival	Festival Events & Venue Support - Scottish themed and local produce markets, outdoor/street attractions, town center themes, fundraising events, partnering heritage establishments, concerts & recitals. Shared venues and creative resources will be offered to assist groups to create all of above.
28	Tobermory Harbour Association	To provide free STEM sessions for schools, pre-5 units and pre-school children on Mull to increase their knowledge of the wider natural world and the marine environment on their doorstep. Sessions will include hands on touch pool demonstrations and the project will develop "borrow boxes" which can be used by schools and community groups.
29	Western Isles Yacht Club	WIYC aims to become a Royal Yachting Association Recognised Training Centre and introduce kayaking to the local community. The funding will be used to cover a one off fee to gain recognition as well as a range of equipment aimed at lowering the barrier to entry for sailing, powerboating and kayaking. The equipment would include wetsuits and buoyancy aids which could be lent to club members to take part in training or activities at the club so that they did not need to provide their own.