
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES
AREA COMMITTEE**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S UNIT

09 MARCH 2022

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2022/23

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 2022/23 is £24,030.29.
- 1.3 It is recommended that 11 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 2022/23

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 2022/23 is £22,500. In addition, there are unspent funds returned from the financial periods 2018/19 of £650 and 2020/21 of £400. A further sum of £480.29 remaining from the Covid-19 Micro Grants Fund has been allocated to the OLI Supporting Communities Fund for distribution in 2022/2023. The total available for allocation is £24,030.29.
- 2.2 Organisations applying to the fund were able to request up to £2,500 and the period of spend is 18 months.
- 2.3 The SCF is a popular fund and has attracted 20 applications from the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area, requesting a total of £44,236.90 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 Where an organisation has been recommended for an award and received funds in 2021/22, 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 £1,050 of returned funding from previous Supporting Community Fund awards can be used in this round of funding. Information on the two returned amounts are detailed at 4.6 of the report.
- 3.2 Members are asked to agree that 11 applications are awarded funding from the Supporting Communities Fund budget totalling £24,030.29. These are listed in order of assessment score in Appendix 1 and details of the projects are noted in the same order in Appendix 2.

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 January 2022 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 eligible applications (requesting a total of £44,236.90), 15 organisations have not applied to the fund within the previous two years. Applications to the fund are listed in assessment score order, in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 Of the eligible applications to the SCF, 11 are recommended to be awarded funding. Two of these are for island based projects. The applications recommended for funding are indicated in the recommendation column with 'Award' and are highlighted green; applications that are recommended for 'Award with conditions' are highlighted in amber in Appendix 1. The detail of the projects is in Appendix 2.
- 4.4 Unsuccessful applicants are marked as 'No Award' and highlighted in red in Appendix 1. These applicants will be offered support from the Community Development team and provided with information on alternative sources of funding available.
- 4.5 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 March 2024, if not before depending on project duration.

- 4.6 Two amounts have been returned from previous rounds of funding and have not been included in a monitoring report to Area Committee: £650 returned by Oban Community Sensory Garden from 2018/19. The group were unable to complete their project initially due to illness and then the garden lease ending.

£400 awarded to Connel Community Council in 2020/21. The group did not take the award due to the Covid-19 restrictions preventing the World War 2 memorial event from taking place.

- 4.7 Remaining funds from the Covid-19 Micro Grants Fund of £480.29 have been allocated to the OLI Supporting Communities Fund for distribution in 2022/2023. These funds are ring fenced to the highest scoring project under the 'Resilient Communities' criteria.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Supporting Communities Fund application and assessment process has been completed as set out within its guidance (<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants>).

- 5.2 The recommendations made fully allocate the funding available for financial year 2022/2023.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy: N/A

- 6.2 Financial: Recommendations in the report are limited to the budget allocation available in 2022/23 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: 7 of the applicant projects are island based. 2 of these are being recommended funding.
- 6.6 Climate Change: One of the four criteria within the process is specific to mitigating climate change.
- 6.7 Risk: risk to the public pound is managed through the assessment and scoring, and through end of project monitoring process.
- 6.8 Customer Service: None

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11 February 2022

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Assessment Score and Recommendations

Appendix 2 – Project Summary Sheets

Appendix 1 – Assessment Score and Recommendations

Ref	Applicant	Recommendation	Assessment Score	Value of Project	Amount Requested	Recommended Award 2022/23	Cumulative total
1	The Ardchattan Centre*	Award with conditions	8.2	£ 5,052.00	£2,492.00	£ 2,492.00	2,492.00
2	Aros Park Historic Walled Garden	Award	7.6	£ 15,315.00	£2,500.00	£ 2,500.00	4,992.00
3	Down's Syndrome Scotland (Oban and Area Positive Futures)	Award	7.1	£ 3,500.00	£2,500.00	£ 2,500.00	7,492.00
4	Oban Communities Trust Rockfield Centre - Lego Club	Award	7.1	£ 2,952.00	£2,412.00	£ 2,412.00	9,904.00
5	Argyll Wellbeing Hub	Award	7	£ 2,500.00	£2,500.00	£ 2,500.00	12,404.00
6	Mull and Iona Community Trust	Award with conditions	7	£ 38,755.00	£2,500.00	£ 2,500.00	14,904.00
7	Oban Communities Trust Rockfield Centre - Dye Garden	Award	6.7	£ 2,493.90	£2,493.90	£ 2,493.90	17,397.90
8	Oban Youth Café	Award	6.4	£ 6,720.00	£2,500.00	£ 2,500.00	19,897.90
9	Argyll and Bute Befrienders	Award	6.3	£ 2,500.00	£ 604.00	£ 604.00	20,501.90
10	Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain (Oban Mod Academy)	Award with conditions (partial award)	6.2	£ 10,550.00	£2,500.00	£ 1,764.20	22,266.10
11	Oban FM Community Radio Ltd	Award (partial award)	6.2	£ 27,353.00	£2,150.00	£ 1,764.19	24,030.29
12	Hebridean Pursuits Outdoor Learning	No Award	6.1	£ 4,500.00	£2,500.00	£ -	24,030.29
13	Adventure Oban	No Award	6.1	£ 4,500.00	£2,500.00	£ -	24,030.29
14	Isle of Seil Golf Club	No Award	6	£ 3,916.00	£2,500.00	£ -	24,030.29
15	Lorn Agricultural Society	No Award	5.9	£ 4,680.00	£2,500.00	£ -	24,030.29
16	Lorn and Oban Healthy Options Ltd	No Award	5.9	£ 3,536.00	£2,240.00	£ -	24,030.29
17	Mull Museum	No Award	5.8	£ 12,699.00	£2,500.00	£ -	24,030.29
18	Craignure Bay Community Group	No Award	5.7	£ 2,381.00	£1,465.00	£ -	24,030.29
19	Solar Tiree CIC	No Award	5.7	£ 5,400.00	£1,000.00	£ -	24,030.29
20	Isle of Kerrera Development Trust	No Award	5.3	£ 2,406.00	£1,880.00	£ -	24,030.29
	TOTAL			134,889.90	44,236.90	24,030.29	

* Project recommended to receive the remaining £480.29 from the Covid-19 Micro Grants Fund

Appendix 2 – Project Summary Sheets

Applications Received (in order of scoring by Community Development Officer)

For submission to Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee for final decision (maximum value £2,500).

* Project recommended to receive the remaining £480.29 from the Covid-19 Micro Grants Fund

Ref:	1
Applicant: The Ardchattan Centre *	
Recommended Award: £2,492.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 8.2
Project Summary:	
<p>Costs are requested towards the delivery of two intergenerational family projects over 32 creative sessions for Bonawe and Barcaldine. This will create opportunities for the isolated communities to join after the effects of lockdown and enhance wellbeing. The funding will support transport and venue hire for 16 family workshops and 16 Heritage Group meetings as well as Coordinator time. The Heritage Group will focus on the area's 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' status and the local quarry. The workshops delivered will include print making, music and theatre sessions for families.</p>	
Recommendation:	Award with conditions
Conditions:	Return of End of Project Monitoring Form for 2021/22 SCF

Ref:	2
Applicant: Aros Park Historic Walled Garden	
Recommended Award: £2,500.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 7.6
Project Summary:	
<p>Purchase of tools for volunteers to contribute to the repair of the stone wall surrounding the garden, recycling the existing stone. The funding will support rural skills training which will provide dry stone wall instruction for 50 volunteers. Tangible change will take place as volunteers work to a plan created by a horticultural designer. The project will restore the Victorian garden of the former Aros House, with areas dedicated to Australian connections, physics, heritage and the Beaton family.</p>	
Recommendation:	Award
Conditions:	None

Ref:	3
Applicant: Down's Syndrome Scotland (Oban and Area Positive Futures)	
Recommended Award: £2,500.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 7.1
Project Summary:	
<p>Funding is requested to provide venue hire for 20 meetings for 11 families with children with Down's Syndrome. Makaton training will be available for the families to support better communication, sensory and educational play equipment will be provided. The project seeks to offer opportunities that enable access to sport and</p>	

music activities requiring additional support. The group provides overall support to families, linking them with services and professionals.

Recommendation: Award

Conditions: None

Ref: 4

Applicant: Oban Communities Trust Rockfield Centre - Lego Club

Recommended Award: £2,412.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 7.1

Project Summary:

The Master Builders – Lego & Creative Construction Club is requesting funding for their hall hire for 18 monthly family Lego club sessions, new Lego kits and other toy kits. Funding will provide an opportunity to refresh the club coming out of Covid-19 restrictions. The high use of the Lego means that the bricks are getting worn out, the Supporting Communities Fund helped start the club in 2017, it now welcomes 80 people from different backgrounds and improves children's confidence through shared challenges.

Recommendation: Award

Conditions: None

Ref: 5

Applicant: Argyll Wellbeing Hub

Recommended Award: £2,500.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 7

Project Summary:

Funding for a project in partnership with Oban Pride to support the LGBTI community to make connections, develop strengths and resilience, rebuild and thrive following Covid19 pandemic. Costs are requested for 24 sessions for Oban Pride for peer support meetings and two community events at the Hub, including the Oban Pride event in September 2022, followed by LGBT history month in February 2023. The project will support the inclusion of Oban Pride members in the Wellbeing Hub's volunteer training and provide access to walking groups, days outs, fitness classes as well as quarterly rapid HIV testing clinic in partnership with Waverley Care.

Recommendation: Award

Conditions: None

Ref: 6

Applicant: Mull and Iona Community Trust

Recommended Award: £2,500.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 7

Project Summary:

Funding is requested for the Community Ranger service based at Ardura Community Woodland. The project aims to connect people with places, improve local spaces and outdoor facilities, encouraging people from all backgrounds to enjoy Mull and Iona's countryside responsibly and take action to address biodiversity loss and climate change. The Community Ranger will work with volunteers on a diverse range of activities including path repairs, visitor liaison and management, a series of nature-based community events, development of a volunteer programme and an after school/ holiday club. Skills and team building

opportunities are offered for high school pupils and outdoor therapy sessions will be delivered for local mental health support groups.	
Recommendation:	Award with conditions
Conditions:	Return of End of Project Monitoring Form for 2021/22 SCF

Ref:	7
Applicant: Oban Communities Trust Rockfield Centre - Dye Garden	
Recommended Award: £2,493.90	Assessment Score (out of 10): 6.7
Project Summary:	
Funding is sought for further development of the EcoCreative Cluster dye garden at The Rockfield Centre to provide seeds, compost, pots and path surface for horticultural activities. The activities will enhance visual amenity of the site, encourage biodiversity and increase wellbeing. The funding is requested to pay for 54 artist sessions and the development of a space by volunteers for a dye garden of plants harvested and used in artworks. The produce of the dye garden will inspire further community workshops focusing on natural dyeing techniques, the group aspires to eventually make items to sell in a shop on site.	
Recommendation:	Award
Conditions:	None

Ref:	8
Applicant: Oban Youth Cafe	
Recommended Award: £2,500.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 6.4
Project Summary:	
Funding is requested to support group activities for 5 groups of 8 young people to have 10 free of charge creative or outdoor sessions. The sessions will be created by the young people, focusing on skills development, challenge, wellbeing, confidence building, friendship, and fun. They can choose from a list of activities including arts and crafts, camping, creative writing, rapping and beatboxing, yoga and photography.	
Recommendation:	Award
Conditions:	None

Ref:	9
Applicant: Argyll and Bute Befrienders	
Recommended Award: £604.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 6.3
Project Summary:	
To fund therapeutic and personal development activities for young people affected by childhood adversity, where families are unable to afford the associated costs. Activity selection and co-ordination is supported by a volunteer befriender or support worker. Funds are requested to cover the fees of activity and workshop providers and entry fees for sporting and cultural activities. 57 sessions are planned in the Oban Lorn and the Isles area.	
Recommendation:	Award
Conditions:	None

Ref:	10
Applicant: Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain (Oban Mod Academy)	
Recommended Award: £1,764.20	Assessment Score (out of 10): 6.2
Project Summary:	
Funding is requested for tutors for Gaelic conversation and Gaelic singing, with 350 hours of professional tuition and towards official MOD music and song downloads. The project encourages children to experience their Gaelic culture and heritage. The project offers an opportunity to bring people together around the cultural event and for the children to experience joy in learning their songs.	
Recommendation:	Award with conditions (partial award)
Conditions:	Return of End of Project Monitoring Form for 2019/20 SCF

Ref:	11
Applicant: Oban FM Community Radio Ltd	
Recommended Award: £1,764.19	Assessment Score (out of 10): 6.2
Project Summary:	
Funding is requested to support an improvement plan to update equipment and specialist software, to provide tutor fees, volunteer expenses and a project worker to develop a community survey report. Training on the new equipment will be provided for 30 volunteers, some of them island based, in community radio sessions, enabling them to log on remotely to broadcast from home. Oban FM is moving to the Rockfield Centre as part of the project, this is an opportunity to relaunch, expand and synergise with arts and culture groups.	
Recommendation:	Award (partial award)
Conditions:	None

Ref:	12
Applicant: Hebridean Pursuits Outdoor Learning	
Recommended Award: £0.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 6.1
Project Summary:	
Regular outdoor activity sessions on a one-to-one basis with pupils from Oban High School, to include provision of 12 non- residential outdoor sessions and equipment for disadvantaged young people referred by the school's Family Liaison service, who will identify those in need of opportunities to improve their health and wellbeing. The project provides tailored sessions to give extra support to young people through difficult times enabling them to learn and grow through activities including hill walking, coasteering, climbing and abseiling, day camping, outdoor art sessions and gorge walking, delivered by an experienced instructor.	
Recommendation:	No Award
Conditions:	None

Ref:	13
Applicant: Adventure Oban	
Recommended Award: £0.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 6.1
Project Summary:	

Provision of 'Come and Try' sporting sessions that compliment and extend the Adventure Library project. The project will provide 60 instructor hours for 'Come & Try' activity sessions with access to paddleboards and equipment. Funding is requested towards equipment maintenance and a gazebo, refreshments and transport hire including fuel costs. One-to-one support is offered for special needs participants. Once equipped with the necessary skills, participants can continue themselves, making the most of the local outdoor area. Free taster sessions are run in partnership with local clubs, breaking down financial and confidence barriers in taking up new activities.

Recommendation: No Award

Conditions: None

Ref: 14

Applicant: Isle of Seil Golf Club

Recommended Award: £0.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 6

Project Summary:

Funding is requested to improve the playing surface of the golf course on the Isle of Seil, to include machinery hire and purchase of grass seed, fertiliser and sand. This is a volunteer- led activity that will encourage use of the course by residents and will attract visitors and revenue. The Club is purchasing the parcel of land this year for the benefit of the island community, including the course itself and also the coastal area that is used by all, leaving insufficient funds for the usual maintenance of the greens and planned improvements.

Recommendation: No Award

Conditions: None

Ref: 15

Applicant: Lorn Agricultural Society

Recommended Award: £0.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 5.9

Project Summary:

Costs of running the annual show, funding is requested towards big show tent hire needed for the annual agricultural show at Tralee, Benderloch. Funding is required to help towards increasing costs of running the event. The event improves wellbeing and is an opportunity for farming communities usually working alone, to integrate socially and for the general community to see livestock, understand where their food comes from and what farmers do for a living.

Recommendation: No Award

Conditions: None

Ref: 16

Applicant: Lorn and Oban Healthy Options Ltd

Recommended Award: £0.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 5.9

Project Summary:

Funding is requested towards ongoing training and supervision for Tai Chi/Qigong classes, including the purchase of recorded video sessions and face to face individual training, with professional tutor and support with a training day for volunteer tutors. The project will deliver Tai Chi/Qigong classes in Taynuilt with

potential to roll out this to other communities via 3 volunteers on a similar basis of 3 classes per week in a 6- week block.

Recommendation: No Award

Conditions: None

Ref: 17

Applicant: Mull Museum

Recommended Award: £0.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 5.8

Project Summary:

Costs are requested towards the post -excavation analysis of artefacts and biomass at a Norse farmstead site at Lephin on the Isle of Mull. This third and final phase of the project allows professional excavation of the site, identifying artefacts using scientific analysis and expertise of archaeologists to tell the story. A special publication will communicate local and national historical significance of the site and finds. The project seeks to involve the local community and primary school children in the exploration of their historic environment and encourage tourism to Mull.

Recommendation: No Award

Conditions: None

Ref: 18

Applicant: Craignure Bay Community Group

Recommended Award: £0.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 5.7

Project Summary:

To provide funding for a central village notice board, construction materials, groundworks machinery and landscaping. The project aims to create an attractive piece of street furniture designed by a local architect. A central point is needed for flyers as not everyone uses social media. Landscaping around the board will blend into the natural scene with cemented-in pebbles and rocks. Wood is locally sourced from Mull, this will be a locked, heavy-duty unit to withstand heavy weather as it will be placed near the ferry terminal.

Recommendation: No Award

Conditions: None

Ref: 19

Applicant: Solar Tiree CIC

Recommended Award: £0.00 **Assessment Score (out of 10):** 5.7

Project Summary:

To support the establishment and development of Solar Tiree CIC, funding is requested towards the rent of a food and freezer store at Tiree community rural centre. The newly-formed CIC has the main aim of reducing hidden food poverty and isolation on Tiree and has developed discreet strategies to deliver food to 16 families in need. The community phone box is used as a foodbank. People are keen to reduce build-up of food waste by using food from the CoOp that is up to its use-by date and are not stigmatised by doing so.

Recommendation: No Award

Conditions: None

Ref:	20
Applicant: Isle of Kerrera Development Trust	
Recommended Award: £0.00	Assessment Score (out of 10): 5.3
Project Summary:	
Support for a second youth cycling event, costs are requested towards marquee hire, a sessional event coordinator for 6 days, prizes, transport, catering, safety equipment and insurance. The event will welcome up to 60 young people to participate in three off- road bike courses. The event aims to promote active travel, family cycling and bike skills.	
Recommendation:	No Award
Conditions:	None