

Third Sector Interface (TSI) update for:
Bute & Cowal Area Community Planning Group - January 2024
Third Sector Support Advisor (TSSA) Cowal and Bute
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This update covers the period from 12th October 2023 to 26th January 2024.

Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund 2023-24

The TSI has been reviewing applications for year three of the Scottish Government's Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (CMHWB Fund).

In Argyll and Bute, funds to be disbursed total £282k - but requests for support amounted to double this and came from over 70 organisations.

Applications were particularly strong this year and indicate the level of need in Argyll and Bute.

42 groups have been supported and grant letters are being sent out.

Groups that have been unsuccessful will be offered support from their TSSA and signposted to other available funds.



Image description: TSI's logo for Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. A blue and white logo with artistic impressions of three faces, in profile, each emerging from the other and carrying varying expressions.

Community Wealth Building strategy report

The TSI has been **leading on the commissioning of a Community Wealth Building (CWB) strategy and action plan for Argyll and Bute's Community Planning Partnership (CPP).**

The January 2024 meeting approved the 20 high level recommendations, and the April 2024 CPP meeting will approve the final report.

All recommendations are centred around 5 pillars:-

- Plural ownership of the economy.
- Making financial power work for local places.
- Fair employment and just labour markets.
- Progressive procurement of goods and services.
- Socially productive use of land and property.

Watch this space for further work to implement the recommendations as well as the forthcoming Scottish Government legislation on CWB.

For more details on the local CPP recommendations click on the following link and see item 7 from the [last CPP meeting](#).



Image description: Fruit on a market stall including raspberries, brambles, apples and blaeberries. Photo credit: ArtTower on Pixabay.

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Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network (ABCAN)

With funding from the Scottish Government, Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) is leading on the establishment of the Argyll and Bute Climate Action Network, supported by Time for Change and the TSI.

The goal of the network is to provide **grassroots community level support to promote climate knowledge, mitigation and action**. There are four local engagement leads mirroring the administrative areas of Argyll and Bute and to March 2024 **there is £40,000 in seed capital funding available** for micro and small climate action projects.

[Click here to apply by 10th February 2024.](#)



Image description: Debris in the Holy Loch. Washed into loch due to flooding along River Eachaig at Glen Massan in October 2023. Photo credit: Dunoon Observer and Isle of Bute News.

Towards a TSI strategy 2024-2029

Following on from the development of the Community Planning Partnerships' new ten year plan, **the TSI will be consulting with community groups over the next three months about what you want your TSI to do to support your community and community groups**. More details in February about ways to have your say.

TSI website

The TSI is launching a new website on February 20th and there will be new ways of getting help and support for members.

This is the start of providing a **much more interactive website and we look forward to hearing your views** on how it works!

In 2023 we launched a new funding portal and in 2022 we launched a community directory. The TSI is committed to investing in new digital services which can help promote the work we do and make some tasks easier.



Image description: Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface's new logo to accompany new website. An impressionistic design incorporating the mainland and islands of the area.

Created by Argyll based Own Way Design and Print Studio

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Budgets 2024-25

The TSI network has been working with SCVO on a **fairer funding campaign** and all TSIs are looking to develop a long term campaign to **demonstrate the impact of our sector on our communities.**

Ultimately we want recognition of the work we all do to be reflected in the three year funding settlement agreements as well as greater transparency on funding decisions and involvement of the sector in service planning discussions.



Image description: 4 stacks of coins, each stack larger than its predecessor. Stacks sprout saplings. Then a large jar of coins, also with sapling.
Photo credit: Nattanan23 on a Pixabay.

END OF UPDATE FROM THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE (TSI)