



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Irvine Locality Partnership

Monday 18 October 2021, 6.00 p.m. Via Microsoft Teams

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Timings
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Burns	6.00
2.	Action Note Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 3	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	6.00 – 6.05
3.	Community Investment Fund Update – Positive Changes Receive update on the project.	-	Presentation	Leeanne Bratton/ Darren Anderson	6.05 – 6.20
4.	Great Harbour Project Receive presentation from Kasia Smith, Regeneration Manager.	-	Presentation	Kasia Smith	6.20 – 6.45
5.	Cost of the School Day Receive update from Lesley Forsyth.	-	Verbal	Lesley Forsyth	6.45 – 6.55
STANDING AGENDA ITEMS					
6.	Learning Update Receive update.	-	Verbal	Head Teachers	6.55 – 7.10
7.	HSCP Update Receive update.	-	Verbal	Louise Gibson	7.10 – 7.25
8.	Youth Forum Update Receive update from Justin Jones.	-	Verbal	Justin Jones	7.25 – 7.35
9.	Locality Officer Update Receive report from Elaine Baxter	Pg 8	Enclosed	Elaine Baxter	7.35 – 7.45
10.	Grants Receive report from Lesley Forsyth.	Pg 15	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	7.45 – 7.55
11.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none">Report for information – TACT update	Pg 17	Enclosed	Cllr Burns	7.55 – 8.00

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13 December 2021 at 6.00 pm via Microsoft Teams					

Distribution List

Elected Members

Councillor Marie Burns **(Chair)**
 Councillor Ian Clarkson
 Councillor John Easdale
 Councillor Robert Foster
 Councillor Scott Gallacher
 Councillor Margaret George
 Councillor Christina Larsen
 Councillor Shaun Macaulay
 Councillor Louise McPhater
 Councillor Angela Stephen

Community Representative

Sylvia Mallinson **(Vice Chair)**
 Diane Dean (Co- opted)
 Donna Fitzpatrick
 David Mann
 Peter Marshall
 Janice Murray
 Annie Small
 Ian Wallace

CPP/Council Representatives

Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer
 Scott MacMillan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
 Andy Dolan, Police Scotland
 Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer

Meeting:	Irvine Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	14 June 2021 – Virtual Meeting at 6.00 p.m.
Present:	<p>Councillor Marie Burns (Chair) Provost Ian Clarkson Councillor John Easdale Councillor Christina Larsen Councillor Shaun MacAulay</p> <p>David Mann, Community Representative Annie Small, Community Representative Ian Wallace, Community Representative Justin Jones, Youth Forum Scott McMillan, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Paul Bleakley, Head Teacher (Loudoun Montgomery Primary) Elaine McNeil, Head Teacher (Glebe Primary) Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer Elaine Baxter, Community Education Locality Co-ordinator Marnie Ritchie, Regeneration Manager Angela Cassells, Senior Manager (Education) Lauren Fletcher, Active Schools Co-ordinator Diane McCaw, Committee Services, North Ayrshire Council</p>
Apologies:	<p>Louise Gibson, HSCP Representative Katy Hegarty, Head Teacher (Greenwood Academy) Donna Fitzpatrick, Community Representative</p>

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present, including Scott McMillan, the new Station Commander for Dreghorn, to the Irvine Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Action Note</p> <p>The action note from the meeting held on 15 March 2021 was approved as a correct record and the implementation of decisions confirmed.</p> <p>The Community Investment Fund application from Irvine Youth Forum had been approved by the Cabinet in the sum of £100,000 for the opening of a Youth and Community Skills Hub at Bridgegate in Irvine.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
3.	<p>I3 Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a presentation by the Regeneration Manager providing an update on I3 and including:-</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information on the I3 Ayrshire Growth Deal project area and Scotland's largest enterprise area; • £21m of funding towards projects. including £15m towards new flexible industrial/office space; • £6m of funding towards a national centre for digital processing industries; • I3 investment and development supported by the Local Development Plan, Local Planning protocols and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP); and • North Ayrshire's focus on delivering projects through a Community Wealth Building lens which involve local companies in local contracts. <p>The Partnership discussed travel requirements in the local area and the current position regarding SPT and demand, especially around the Drybridge area, and the need for transport systems connecting main roads to the industrial estates. The Regeneration Manager undertook to discuss the current position with Active Travel Team colleagues and to provide an update to the Partnership.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	Marnie Ritchie
4.	<p>Locality Partnership Priorities</p> <p>The Partnership received a presentation by the Lead Officer on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the draft Locality Partnership impact report, which the members of the Partnership were invited to digest and comment upon; • the outcome of public engagement work which had taken place over 14 weeks on key themes for the Locality Partnership's consideration; and • whether the Partnership wishes to retain its existing priorities, replace some/all, or refocus existing key theme. <p>The Partnership agreed that the Locality Priorities be refreshed in light of recent community engagement work and agreed that the Lead Officer consult Members on agreed wording which encompasses the following four priorities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health and Wellbeing • Employability • Poverty • Green Health 	Lesley Forsyth
5.	<p>Neighbourhood Action Plan Progress Infographic</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from the Locality Co-ordinator on the Neighbourhood Action Plan Progress Infographic including information on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an awareness session provided to the local community on the 'Report It' app; • investment to upgrade IT suites in community centres within Irvine; • support provided to Community Associations through various virtual online meetings, telephone calls and emails; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • virtual training opportunities delivered and events facilitated; • online support to various community groups currently going through Community Asset Transfer; • various activities with young people in Irvine; • the launch of the new adult learning programme in May; • support provided to the older and more isolated within communities through zoom and telephone contact; • Walking Leadership Training undertaken in order to support the development of local walking activities; and • support provided in the development of community larders at Choices (Fullarton), The Farm Basket (Towerlands) and The 'Side Larder (Springside). <p>The Partnership discussed how information is updated, shared and accessed through the CPP website and neighbourhood action plans, particularly in relation to older and more isolated members of local communities.</p> <p>The Locality Co-ordinator will provide a detailed update to the Partnership on engagement taking place with older and more isolated members of local communities.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	Elaine Baxter
6.	<p>Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy</p> <p>The Partnership received a presentation from Justin Jones, Youth Forum representative, on the North Ayrshire Youth Citizenship and Participation Strategy 2021-25 which was launched at a recent meeting of the Joint Cabinet. The presentation highlighted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key elements of the previous strategy, including suicide prevention and period poverty; • the four key themes of the new strategy, namely health and wellbeing, poverty and inequality, young people's voice and rights, and digital connections; • the importance of greater engagement with young people, including the theme of "nothing about us without us"; • key pressures associated with Covid; • next steps following the launch of the strategy; and • the opportunity for members of the Partnership to sign the pledge. <p>Noted.</p>	
7.	<p>Learning Update – Headteachers</p> <p>The Head Teacher from Glebe Primary School, Mrs. McNeil, highlighted the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that children in schools should be consulted in terms of their school plan; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the child friendly school plan where children draw what they want to happen within their school; pupil equity fund monies being spend on outdoor activities for children e.g. a fit trail activity in the playground for older children; and that children missed working together and social interaction during lockdown. <p>Noted.</p>	
8.	<p>HSCP Update</p> <p>An update will be circulated to members of the Partnership.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
9.	<p>Digital Irvine Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a brief update from the Locality Co-ordinator in the absence of the Digital Participation Officer with the following highlighted:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the digital infrastructure which has been updated since the last meeting including 463 devices sought from Connecting Scotland; and the move into phase 3 of Partnership working. <p>The Locality Co-ordinator advised that Jim Cooper, Digital Participation Officer will soon come to the end of his contract period and the Partnership indicated that they would invite him back to a future meeting.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	Elaine Baxter
10.	<p>Youth Forum Update</p> <p>Justin Jones provide a verbal update on the Youth Forum work from March to June 2021 including the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the CIF funding award of £100,000 to enable the opening of the Youth and Community Skills Hub at Bridgegate; actions taken to date by the Youth and Community Skills Hub; the ongoing community benefit work which will take place over the school holiday period; the change to the delivery of the NA Youth Festival in that it will be delivered both face-to-face and digitally by way of a roadshow with the formal launch on Monday 3 August 2021; and groups and activities taking place across the locality area, including the programme of Summer activities. <p>Noted.</p>	
11.	AOCB	
11.1	Report for Information - Roads Maintenance Programme 2021/22	

11.2	<p>The Partnership received a report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Council's roads, structures and street lighting maintenance programme for 2021-22. Appendices 1a and 1b set out the approved programme for 2021/22. Appendix 2 provided details of the process for prioritising works. The assessment matrixes used for scoring and ranking for carriageways/footways and structures was contained at Appendices 3 and 4, respectively.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Update on Consultation regarding the Review of Libraries, Halls and Community Centres</p> <p>Information was sought in relation to the future of the Woodlands Centre and the Vennel, both of which were not part of the review of Libraries, Halls and community Centres.</p> <p>The Lead Officer undertook to contact Donna Morrison, Community Facilities Manager in order to obtain further information to be circulated to the Partnership.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	Lesley Forsyth
12.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The date of the next virtual meeting of the Irvine Locality Partnership meeting is Monday 27 September 2021.</p>	

Meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.



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CLD Priorities

Adult Learning

Literacy and Numeracy 1-1 Support currently being offered by Literacy Worker at Redburn Community Hub and via online through zoom. Currently 12 learners are being supported and are attending weekly sessions. In order to streamline the referral, process an online form has been created which can be completed by learners and partnering agencies. The link is as follows: <https://forms.office.com/r/fn61z6R6cP>

Youth Work

North Ayrshire Youth Fest Roadshow 2021.

The roadshow began its journey across North Ayrshire and was launched in Irvine on Monday 2nd August 82 young people attended the day at the Redburn. Thereafter we visited Kilwinning, Largs, Arran and Kilbirnie. There was a second specialised event for young people with additional Support Needs in Kilwinning all where well attended and supported by the Irvine Team.

Youth Festival After Party

To evaluate the festival, we held an after party on Saturday 28th of August at the Redburn 25 young people attended that event.

Youth Work Summer Programme

The Programme commenced on 12th July for 3 weeks on the lead up to the Youth Festival in the Irvine Locality Area. The Areas that were covered are as follows, Dreghorn, Springside, Bourtreeside, Fullarton, Vineburgh and the Redburn. The detached youth work team focused on Irvine Town Centre, Harbourside, Irvine Railway Station and Irvine Beach Park the engagement per evening from the young people was great especially in relation to the teams keep safe messages. Life hacks Arts Group in Partnership with the National Galleries for Scotland continues on a Zoom Platform on a Tuesday night and there have been face-to-face sessions held over the summer at Eglinton Country Park

Be U girls group- youth group for young women in North Ayrshire focusing on self-imagine, relationships, encouraging one another, making the right choices for you and setting goals.

Over the summer the girls group worked in partnership with the park rangers to plant flowers in Eglinton Country Park.

Current Youth Work Programme

Commenced on Friday 3rd September and shall be ongoing until Christmas. The ongoing work that has been supported by our partners at Fullarton and Scottish Sports Futures, Twilight Basketball Continues and a 16+ Group has been established at Woodlands P.S. and the National Gallery work is also ongoing.

Community Capacity Building

All Community Associations are being provided with on-going support, and through the attendance of regular monthly meetings by CDW. Weekly updates are also



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received from Office Bearers. Support also being provided by Community Facilities in the re-opening of community centres, to insure Covid safety measures are in place.

The following Community Association have held successful AGM's, with the election of the new committees overseen by the CDW:

- Drybridge Hall Management Association – Thursday 8th July 2021
- Dreghorn C.A. - Thursday 29th July 2021
- Springside C.A. – 15th September 2021

Ongoing training opportunities continuing to be offered to the associations through the Leadership Collective Training Programme.



Employment and the economy

Employability and skills group in partnership with the Rosemount Project HSCP.

This is a 12-week person centred employability and training programme including group work and 1-2-1 support. The programme will take parents and carers on their own learning journey with each programme incorporating literacy and skills development, health and well-being and support to work towards adult learning awards and volunteering opportunities.

The aim of this project is to support individuals to learn new skills and build confidence through groupwork and exposure to new activities. There will also be a focus on what's on in your local area, encouraging further engagement and connection for individuals and families.

Modern Apprenticeship in Youth Work

The locality team have two new modern apprentices in youth work who started at the beginning of August. Focusing on employment for young people and their future career prospects and goals. Linking in with the Youth Employment Agenda.



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Mental Health

CDW currently meeting every month as part of a working group (including Health and Social Care Partnership- Community Link Workers, Social services, KA Leisure and Crossreach) to develop a collated Irvine Locality programme of walking groups delivered by all the partners. The programme will feature an array of different types of walks, both referral based and self-referral.

CDW Working with Community Link Workers to develop a programme of social media content for World Mental Health Day on the 10th October. The media content will feature input from various partners across the locality, and the posts will be scheduled on the Irvine Virtual Community Centre.

CDW Working in partnership with Community Link Workers on developing a course on 'Comedy For a Healthy Mind', which will commence on Friday 22nd October. The course is aimed at referrals that are on the journey of Mental health recovery, and need that extra encouragement. Participants will learn the basics of stand up comedy, and techniques in dealing with anxiety.

Following on from the closure of Age Concern, CDW has met with reps from Irvine Seniors Forum, BABCA and BABTARA to discuss possible activities for older members of the community. The working group are currently holding a consultation on the possibility of running activities in Towerlands Community Centre for residents in Broomlands and Bourtreehill that are 55 years and above. The consultation is available via paper copies that have been distributed to key partners in the neighbourhood, local GP surgery, and shops. The consultation is also available online through the below link: <https://forms.office.com/r/VXcisCYK1P>



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Choices Community Matters

launched their new community food project in April 2021

- Choices Community Matters Shop, 25 Fullarton Street in Irvine. Choices was the first community food initiative to launch in partnership with NAC Connected Communities Team in Irvine. The facility works on a membership basis and provides a mini supermarket like environment where residents can access quality food at a lower cost. They have 236 active members.

To join members are asked to pay an annual membership fee of £1 and a weekly charge of £3 per week for individuals and £5 per week for families.

Choices is not emergency foodbank provision and no referral is required to access the community food shop. Residents in the KA12 area can apply for membership to access Choices by clicking on link below.

<https://tinyurl.com/choicesfullarton>

Volunteers within the shop will be able to sign post individuals and families to other services that can provide support on a range of topics including managing money, budgeting, cooking on a budget, accredited learning, community learning, volunteering opportunities and employability support.

To make an appointment please call 01294 278207 or 01294 317156.

Alternatively, you can email:

fullarton.secretary@gmail.com



Fair For All

The Farm basket is part of North Ayrshire's Fairer Food Network which comprises of 21 community food ladders offering dignified access to affordable food.

The Farm Basket is one of our latest ladders to launch and is situated in Towerlands Farm Community Centre.

The Farm Basket allows for individuals and families to stretch a limited food budget further and use the ladder to top up their weekly shopping. Costing between £3 - £5 per visit, members of the ladders can access a range of fresh, frozen, dried, and tinned foods along with household essentials worth between £12-£20.

I have included their membership form and ask that you promote this to any of your service users from the KA11 postcode in Irvine.

They can also book an appointment by calling 077593 313444 or email: towerlandscass@yahoo.com

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=stT1vp5s4E-b30U5irQzJwH2vpO2fhxDv9iSVYEviXRuOThZR1BZT1VGSEExODZKRDE3U0IRtkVHMS4u>

Irvine Youth Forum Community Breakfast Club



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Resumed on Saturday 17th July for 3 weeks as always very well attended with safe guidance in place due to covid restrictions.

The Breakfast Club shall resume once again on Saturday 25th September and shall be in place until the Christmas break. Dates are as follows.

- September 25th
- October 9th, 16th, 30th.
- November 13th, 27th.
- December 11th.

Thanks to all the volunteers who are giving their time to help.



**Influence and
sense of control**

Irvine Virtual Working Steams

6 Neighbourhood Virtual Working groups have met on zoom each month since December. Neighbourhood Action Plans are now being drawn up for each area. An Irvine Locality Network group will be identified with NAC locality teams who have responsibility as leads identified. We will develop a process and system using a RAG approach which will track and monitor progress against each action. This process will be taken back to each of the virtual working groups to provide feedback to working groups – You said...we did. This will inform the working groups of all progress made against each neighbourhood plans. Our next chit chat (virtual working group) will be held on zoom on Wednesday 15th September 7pm-8.30pm.

Irvine Chit Chat Magazine

Following previous community chit-chats across Irvine, and through current engagement with partnering community groups, there is an identified need for a community newsletter that promotes good news stories, and importantly reconnects the community as we move into the recovery from the pandemic. The community newsletter will highlight the success stories of the various community associations, organisations, and groups within the Irvine boundaries of Fullarton, Vineburgh, Castlepark, Dreghorn, Broomlands and Bourtrees Hill, Springside, Drybridge, Lanfine, and Girdle Toll.

The focus of the content will be generated by the users of community centres, community organisations and community groups that are:

- overcoming loneliness and isolation. ·
- alleviating financial poverty. ·



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- Overcoming food poverty. ·
- Assisting the older and disadvantaged members of the community. ·
- Providing opportunities for Adults and young members of the community.

These key groups and organisations will also become the community champion reporters who will have editorial input into content with scope for additional literacy coaching from North Ayrshire Council- Irvine Locality Team. The newsletter will comprise of articles, short features, spotlight features on community groups and volunteers who are working hard within the Irvine community.

Irvine Chit Chat magazine will be launched at our September Chit Chat meeting on Wednesday 15th September 2021.

Community Asset Transfer

Irvine Victoria 2004 Youth football club- group have been invited to complete full application. The group are working on their SCIO application, and Pam has put them in touch with TACT re their Business Plan. Pam SPOC until someone else can be identified.

Castlepark Community Association (in partnership with Irvine Youth Forum) – have submitted an application to lease the land and Mugga next to Redburn Centre. They have been invited to complete full application and Business Plan. Pam made contact with Sally, and she explained things had been held up due to COVID 19 Pandemic, but they were hoping to get back on track and she would be making contact with Euan Lees.

Coastwatch – ongoing challenges with toilets due to COVID restrictions. NAC have provided a cleaner to allow the toilets to open. Group have met with Lesley and Regen Team to discuss options going forward. They were to get back to us re their preference to take up the options or, proceed with the CAT. Euan Lees SPOC

Lanfine Hall – initial expression of interest received from Irvine Takeado. Pam and Euan met with group and discussed Governance requirements and sensitivities re current group in situ. Euan has been trying to arrange meeting with both parties, to discuss partnership approach, group are not responding to the request. In the meantime the Takeado group are using Lanfine twice per week for their activities!! Euan SPOC

Littlestone Hall – NASA would like to pursue full ownership (currently lease the building). Pam has contacted the group for an update as haven't heard anything since last update. SPOC - Pam

Lawthorn Pitches – Initial enquiry received from group interested in pitches – may be an opportunity to partner with NASA – to be explored further. No update

Thornhouse Tennis Courts - initial expression received from Irvine Tennis Club and group have now been invited to complete full application, which they are working on. Funding from the CAT fund has been paid for a gate, so that one court will be available to



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the public. The group have been established as a SCIO and are working with estates on a lease, which has now been issued, pending their full CAT. They have applied for NAVT funding, this has been deferred until next round. They are currently carrying out Community Engagement. SPOC Pam. Elaine Baxter Locality Officer and Rosemary Fotheringham have met with the group to explore options to apply for CIF. Awaiting EOI and full application for September meeting.

Disability Motor Sports - new application received for storage unit, so far nothing suitable has been identified, as all units are deemed as commercial and therefore not available for CAT applications.

[BABCA have submitted an expression of interest application to take on the lease of the play park situated behind the studio, in order to develop a community garden. The space will be developed as a community space for various partners to learn about gardening, whilst growing fresh produce for the Farm Basket Food Larder.](#)

For further information contact:



Locality Partnership: Irvine Locality

Date: 27th September 2021

Subject: To advise the meeting of applications received in respect of the 2021/22 Elderly Grants Fund.

Purpose: To consider the applications as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.

Background: Applications have been received in respect of the 2021/22 Elderly Grants Fund.

Key Points for Locality Partnership:

- The 2021/22 Elderly Grants budget for the Irvine Locality is **£14,992**
- Officers will continue to work with local groups to explore how the remaining funds can be used to support the needs of older people.

Action Required by Locality Partnership: To consider the applications for grant funding as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.

For more information please contact: *Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Connected Communities, 2nd Floor Cunninghame House, Irvine.*
Email - amorrell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Completed by: *Rosemary Fotheringham (rosemaryfotheringham@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)*
Date: 13/8/21

**ELDERLY GRANTS FUND
APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2021/22**

Grant Allocation for Irvine LPP Area £ 14,992

Group	Purpose of Grant	Grant Allocated to Group	Amount Requested	Remaining Balance
BABCA	Contribution towards delivery of a range of classes and events for the elderly.	£ 2,145	£ 2,145	£ -
LBLB & Girdle Toll Age Concern	Contribution towards provision of day out and Christmas lunch for elderly (dates TBC)	£ 2,969	£ 1,500	£ 1,469
Dreghorn Old Peoples Welfare Committee	***Have not applied	£ 1,720	£ -	£ 1,720
Drybridge Hall Management Association	***Have not applied	£ 174	£ -	£ 174
Springside Community Association	***Have not applied	£ 513	£ -	£ 513
Irvine Joint Wards Old Peoples Welfare Committee	Contribution towards provision of a festive lunch/dinner (Dec/Jan) and a summer outing with meal (May/June) for each Ward. Funds will be distributed between the 6 Wards in accordance with the number of senior citizens held in each Ward.	£ 7,471	£ 7,471	£ -
		£ 14,992	£ 11,116	£ 3,876

Locality Partnership The Ayrshire Community Trust Update – 28th August 2021

The Ayrshire Community Trust continues to support the Community and Voluntary Sector with a range of services. Below is a list of support / activities since the last Locality Meeting:

- www.tact.scot continues to be updated with a range of information.
- We have sent out various information bulletins highlighting useful resources, funding information and general advice.
- TACT Social Media continues to be used as a platform to promote safety messages from Police Scotland, Funding Information, Benefit Support, Energy Advice and vital local service provision. We would welcome any information from other service providers that we can share.
- TACT Staff have been organising and facilitating monthly 'networking' Forums for all 3rd Sector groups and organisations that wish to attend. The next online Forum Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 21st September. If you are a 3rd Sector organisation and you are interested in attending please email: info@tact.scot
- Staff continue to maintain regular dialogue with North Ayrshire Council to update on progress and identify additional ways we can work together.
- TACT still have a small supply of PPE for local volunteers / groups to access. This includes: gloves, sanitiser, aprons and face masks. If you know of any groups that could benefit from this, please telephone the office on: 01294 443044.
- TACT Digital are continuing to work on a digital reconstruction of Kilwinning Abbey. We hope this will enable a greater number of individuals to access the Abbey on a range of digital platforms. We have completed a new website for CLASP and will soon be starting work on a new website for the NA Green Health Partnership. We'll also be creating Virtual Reality experiences for the Neuro Hub initiative for engaging with neuro-divergent individuals.
- Positive Steps with Partners is our Employability Project focusing on working with local individuals to access quality work placements, training and personal development opportunities. The team have adapted the programme to a virtual setting offering a variety of short fun and interactive zoom sessions covering topics such as, Personal Skills and Strength's, Comfort Zones, goal setting and Cooking on a Budget. The project is involved at the Eglinton Community Garden and work with a variety of partners such as Scottish Fire and Rescue Service in offering work placement and training opportunities. If you have anyone that may be interested in finding out more please contact Cheryl Newall via: cheryl@tact.scot
- North Ayrshire Third Sector Chief Officer Group – This is open to Senior Staff working with a 3rd Sector Organisation across North Ayrshire. This Group works together to tackle local issues collectively whilst providing great networking opportunities. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 23rd September at 10am. If you are interested in getting involved, please email: kaileigh@tact.scot
- Eglinton Community Garden Collaboration - we are continuing to work with a range of organisations including North Ayrshire Council, Turning Point Scotland, The Conservation Volunteers, HSCP Learning Disability Team and North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership to deliver a successful Community Garden for local people to get involved and learn to grow their own produce. If you have any one who is interested in volunteering at the Community Garden, please contact Ann Wilson by email at ann@tact.scot
- Organisational Support – continuing to work with groups and organisations delivering relevant training including Governance, Basic Bookkeeping, Constitution & Charity Registration and Volunteer Management. We are also assisting with Charity

Registrations, PVG Support, Funding Support and Support with compiling Constitutions.

- Community Wealth Building, North Ayrshire is the first Community Wealth Building Council in Scotland – this is fantastic news and something very positive for North Ayrshire. As the Third Sector Interface, TACT sits at the Community Wealth Commission. This commission supports the implementation of the CWB Strategy and will encourage involvement from local businesses, government agencies and local organisations on CWB initiatives.
- SLACK – The Ayrshire Community Trust and Arran CVS as the Third Sector Interface have opened up an engagement platform, known as SLACK, to the wider sector. This platform has a wide range of information and resources for 3rd Sector Organisations to access provided through 17 dedicated channels. If you know of any 3rd sector groups or organisation that could benefit from access to this platform please contact: info@tact.scot
- Staff are continuing to update and source a range of Volunteering Opportunities that are currently available. We are still receiving a high number of Volunteer Registrations and don't have enough placements for those interested. If you know of any groups or organisations that could assist with some additional volunteers please contact info@tact.scot
- TACT and Arran CVS staff will offer at least 100 individuals from different groups and organisations the opportunity to attend Mental Health Improvement Training to support the ongoing needs of service users and staff throughout this pandemic and importantly there on after. If you are interested in attending this training please email: info@tact.scot
- TACT and Arran CVS as the local Interface were asked to consult with local 3rd Sector Organisations by the Scottish Government on proposed changes to Charity Law. The consultation event was held on 21st January 2021. Results from the consultation have been returned to the Scottish Government. The consultation was closed on 19th February 2021. The results have now been published and an analysis report of the findings has been created and can be found on the following link: <https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/strengthening-scottish-charity-law/> Any further updates on charity law will be provided later in the year.
- TACT Capacity Building Officers have facilitated a focus group in partnership with Laura Taylor, Community Economic Development Officer (Community Wealth Building) to discuss how best a portal for wish lists/ requests for Community Benefits would work for the 3rd sector be that contractors or community groups hoping to access community benefits. The Capacity Building Officers have also been in contact with local contractors and put them in touch with local third sector organisations.
- We're excited to inform you the NHS Scotland Community Benefits Gateway is now live. This initiative, in partnership with Public Health Scotland, is a key part of NHS Scotland's work under Sustainability to ensure our commercial solutions fully embed sustainable, ethical and social values. The focus is that by 2025, NHS Scotland's Procurement services will work together across Health Board's for Scotland's people, and a key initiative of this work is the Community Benefit Gateway. Through our easy to use online tool, we'll work to match willing NHS Scotland suppliers with Scottish third sector organisations who are looking for assistance with a variety of needs. We encourage you to promote the Community Benefits Gateway to your partners, invite them to join and upload needs to support communities across Scotland.
 1. Access the portal: https://nhsnss.service-now.com/community_benefit
 2. Find out more: Access our Community Benefit Gateway: <https://www.nss.nhs.scot/procurement-and-logistics/sustainability/access-our-community-benefit-gateway/>
 3. Public Health Scotland: <https://www.publichealthscotland.scot/our-organisation/procurement/community-benefits-gateway/>

- TACT had a very successful online Volunteers Week celebration. It was very well attended and we were able to present hampers to all of our winners and goody bags to all of the nominated volunteers and organisation. We would like to thank all of the presenters and all of the sponsors, without whom we could not have made this happen.
- We presented trophies to all organisations who have been part of our Organisation of the Month for the for the first 6 months of this year. This promotion has been received favourably with the 3rd sector and it gives a chance to highlight and promote them. If you would like to nominate a voluntary organisation to be promoted, please contact Susan Manson on susan@tact.scot
- The Volunteer Friendly Award is available for community groups who engage with volunteers. This award shows the commitment of groups to embed volunteers at the heart of their work. **Our next information session is on 1st October at 10am.** If anyone is interested, please contact ann@tact.scot
- The TSI Network Scotland has published a new report – focussing on the roles played by Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) during Covid-19. Funded by Scottish Government, and prepared in partnership with Evaluation Support Scotland, the report identifies five particular recommendations: celebrate the role of the third sector and volunteers during Covid-19; build awareness locally and nationally of the role and impact of TSIs; invest in the capacity and reach of the third sector in local decision-making; build on the opportunities that have come out of Covid-19; and review funding for TSIs. To view the full report, please visit: <https://tsi.scot/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Roles-Played-by-TSIs-During-Covid-19-ESS-Report-Final.pdf>