



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

## Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Wednesday 22 March 2023, 7.00 p.m in the Upstairs Studio, Geilsland Estate, Geilsland Road, Beith, KA15 1HD

### BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.</b>	-	-	Cllr Bell	
2.	<b>Action Note and Log</b> Review the action note and action log and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Elaine Young	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>					
3.	<b>Grants – Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund</b> The Locality Partnership are asked to consider one grant report for the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund.	Pg 8	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	LP to consider grant report for the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund.
<b>LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES</b>					<b>7.10 – 8.50 pm</b>
3.	<b>Memorials and Plaques</b> The Locality Partnership will receive a report from the Head of Neighbourhood Services on the proposed options in terms of memorials and plaques.	Pg 10	Enclosed	Thomas Reaney	LP are asked to provide feedback on the report proposals.
4.	<b>Mental Health and Wellbeing for Young People</b> Youth Participation Officer to provide an overview on Mental Health and Wellbeing for Young People work taking place in the Locality for discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership.	-	Verbal/ Presentation	Donna Anderson	Receive update and discuss ways the LP can support this work.
5.	<b>Youth and Education Overview</b> The Locality Partnership will receive an overview from Head Teachers and the Community Development Team.	-	Verbal	Head Teachers Garry Tait	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.
6.	<b>Police Scotland - Wellbeing and Partnerships</b> Locality Partnership to receive update from Locality Inspector and discuss the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by Police Scotland.	-	Verbal	David Cameron	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.

	<b>For information:</b> Police Scotland North Ayrshire Performance Report from 1 April 22 – 31 December 22 can be viewed <a href="#">here</a>				
7.	<b>Locality Plan Progress</b> Receive feedback from sub-groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving Around</li> <li>• Facilities and Amenities</li> <li>• Work and the Local Community</li> </ul>	-	Verbal	Christina Pieraccini  Community Reps	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
8.	<b>Locality Officer Update</b> The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of the Garnock Valley Locality Team during the last quarter.	Pg 14	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
<b>AOCB</b>					<b>8.45 – 9.00 pm</b>
9.	<b>AOCB</b>			Cllr Bell	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.

### Distribution List

#### Elected Members

Councillor John Bell (**Chair**)  
Councillor Anthea Dickson  
Councillor Margaret Johnson  
Councillor Donald L Reid  
Councillor Ronnie Stalker

#### Community Representative

Catherine Wigzell Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council  
James Waite, Beith & District Community Council (**Vice Chair**)  
David Park, Community Representative  
Brenda Reilly, Community Representative  
Jane Lamont, Community Representative

#### CPP/Council Representatives

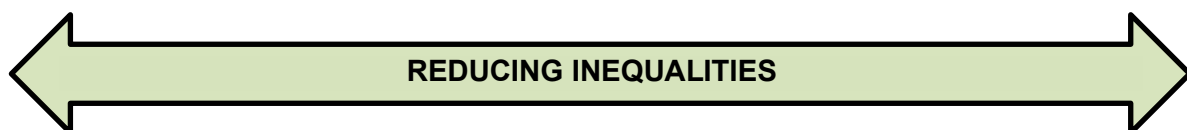
Kaileigh Brown, Third Sector Interface  
David Cameron, Police Scotland  
Neil Shearer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Angela Morrell, Lead Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer  
Elaine Young, Senior Lead Officer (NHS Ayrshire & Arran)

## Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

**Work and  
Local  
Community**

**Moving Around**

**Facilities and  
Amenities**



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Garnock Valley Locality Partnership</b>
<b>Date/Venue:</b>	8 December 2022 - Lochshore Hub, Caledonian Rd, Lochshore, Beith, KA14 3BE
<b>Present:</b>	Councillor John Bell (Chair); Councillor Margaret Johnson; Councillor Donald L. Reid; Elaine Young, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (Senior Lead Officer); Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Community Learning & Development, NAC Garry Tait, Community Development Worker, NAC; James Waite, Beith & District Community Council; Catherine Wigzell, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council; Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, NAC; David Cameron, Police Scotland; George Bradbury, Police Scotland; Fiona Gibson, Police Scotland; Louise Kirk, Senior Manager (Regeneration), NAC; Pamela McCallum, Head Teacher (St Palladius Primary School); Dennis Hopkins, Head Teacher (St. Bridget's Primary School) Samantha Ross, Community Development Worker, NAC; and Craig Stewart, Committee Services Officer, NAC Donna Anderson, Youth Participation and Democracy Officer, NAC
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillor Ronnie Stalker; Councillor Anthea Dickson, Fiona Dunlop (Beith Primary School) and Kaileigh Brown (TACT).

## ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p> <p>At the invitation of the Chair, and for the benefit of any new attendees, those present introduced themselves.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Action Note</b></p> <p>The Action Note from the previous meeting, held on 27 September 2022, was approved.</p> <p>The following point was raised as matters arising: The CIF application for Beith Playpark Action Group, which was approved on 27 September, has been passed at Cabinet and payment is now being processed.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Police Scotland – Wellbeing Unit</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update from David Cameron, Fiona Gibson and George Bradbury on a pilot project, which focuses on a</p>	

	<p>multi-agency approach and early intervention. It is hoped this project will reduce reoffending. The project involves engaging with individuals to ensure they have the correct support in place, including within a prison setting and also within Children's Units. It was reported that there had already been some success stories and had resulted in a reduction in calls. If the project is successful, it will be rolled out to other areas.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>B714</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update from Louise Kirk on the B714 engagement, which is currently underway. This project will upgrade the current route between Dalry and Saltcoats and will provide a better link between the Three Towns and the Garnock Valley, while also creating a safe active travel route. This project is part of the strategic link to the central belt, which also includes Dalry By Pass and the planned Beith By Pass. This engagement will help to build the business case to finalise the Levelling Up Funding. Louise stated that the feedback so far had been positive and encouraged as many people as possible to complete the survey before it closed next week.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Garnock Valley Young People</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update from Garry Tait on the work carried out with young people in the Garnock Valley and from Donna Anderson on the work being done North Ayrshire wide that links to and supports the work at a Locality level. This included the open evening held by the Garnock Valley Youth Forum as part of National Youth Work Week and the Youth PB, which has recently concluded. Garry highlighted three after school groups which have recently started in each of Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie and also the gaming group in Dalry, working in partnership with St. Palladius Primary. David Cameron commented that Youth Disorder across North Ayrshire was at its lowest for a number of years and it was commented that this could be the impact of strong youth engagement. It was highlighted however that incidents within school settings were higher. Pamela McCallum highlighted how significant youth engagement was as it helped encourage the young people to be part of and be proud of their community.</p> <p>Cllr Reid commented positively on the work of the Youth Forum and the Once Loved Uniform Centre, especially going out in to the community.</p> <p>Donna gave an update on Youth PB, Joint Cabinet, the Youth Conference and the Climate Change Ambassadors, which young people from the Garnock Valley all participated in.</p> <p>The Partnership noted the terms of the verbal update given.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Learning Overview</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update from Pamela McCallum, Head Teacher of St Palladius Primary School on their school fayre, which was a no cost event to ensure all families were included and linked to</p>	

	<p>Cost of the School Day. Pamela also highlighted that they had utilised COSD funding in a sustainable way, by providing warm coats, hats and wellies for the children. Dennis Hopkins, Head Teacher of St Bridgets Primary, reported they had observed an increase in attention and focus of the children and feels the school environment is almost back to normal now post covid.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Community Rep Application</b></p> <p>The Partnership considered an application from Jane Lamont for the position of Community Representative. The Partnership approved the application and Jane will be notified of the outcome.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Locality Plan Progress</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update by Christina Pieraccini and from community representatives present, who highlighted feedback from the following sub-groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving Around – Christina provided an update on behalf of the working group, highlighting the sustainable transport survey in partnership with PAS and the feedback event on 9 November;</li> <li>• Facilities and Amenities – Catherine Wigzell and Christina gave an update, highlighting the progress of the GV2023 project which consultants are currently planning the community engagement for to take place early in the new year; and</li> <li>• Work and the Local Community – James provided an update on the work of the working group, highlighting discussions around Mental Health and Wellbeing in young people.</li> </ul> <p>There has also been much discussion in the working groups around how to put ideas in to action.</p> <p>Update noted.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Locality Officer Report</b></p> <p>Christina Pieraccini made reference to her update, which had been circulated detailing the considerable work in numerous areas which had been undertaken in the locality and invited any questions. Samantha Ross gave an update on the work she had been doing to promote the Locality Partnership and the working groups.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Lochshore</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update from Angela Morrell and Louise Kirk on the progress at Lochshore.</p>	

<p>11.</p>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><b><u>Community Planning Inquiry</u></b></p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update by Councillor Bell (Chair) on the above.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p><b><u>HSCP Update</u></b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update on the above.</p> <p><b><u>Budget Engagement</u></b></p> <p>Angela highlighted the Budget Engagement, which is scheduled for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
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**The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.**



## **Locality Partnership: Garnock Valley Locality**

**Date:** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

**Subject:** To advise the meeting of an application received in respect of the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund.

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

**Background:** An Application has been received in in respect of the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund

### **Key Points for Locality Partnership:**

- The Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund has a balance of **£1,643**.

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

**For more information please contact:** *Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Connected Communities, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cunninghame House, Irvine.*  
*Email - [amorrell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:amorrell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)*

**Completed by:** *Rosemary Ramsay ([rosemaryramsay@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:rosemaryramsay@north-ayrshire.gov.uk))*

**Date:** 6/3/23

**MARGARET ARCHIBALD BEQUEST**  
**APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2022/23**

**Margaret Archibald Bequest Criteria:**

The application should benefit all those aged 65 and over and in poverty.

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Amount Requested	Previous Awards
St Margaret's Church Social Group	Financial contribution towards the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bennets of Kilwinning – Buses - £750</li> <li>• Cairn Lodger – Teas/Scones - £276.75</li> <li>• Langholm Farm – High Teas - £762.75</li> </ul> Total costs - £1,789.50 Group contribution £689.50	£1,100	2012/13 - £300 2014/15 - £350 2015/16 - £400 2016/17 - £300 2016/17 - £800 2017/18 - £1,200 2018/19 - £750 2019/20 - £900 2019/20 - £1,000 2021/22 - £750
<p>Connected Communities, Finance, and Legal Services have been consulted and their comments are as follows:</p> <p><b>Finance:</b>            Quotes have been provided for the costs detailed. The costs are based on 45 people and each individual will make a contribution of £15.32 towards the expense of the outing.</p> <p><b>Legal:</b>            As long as the Trustees are satisfied that the applicant group is “in need” financially, I am of the view that any financial assistance will be within the powers of the Trustees to award.</p> <p><b>Connected Communities:</b>            Economy and Communities are supportive of this application. Details contained with the application demonstrate that the award will be used for those who are aged 65 and over and in need.</p>			





## **Locality Partnership: Garnock Valley**

**Date: 22 March 2023**

**Subject: Memorial benches, plaques, memorial trees and other options for bereaved families**

**Purpose: To note the proposed options in terms of memorials and to provide feedback on this.**

### **Background**

North Ayrshire Council has a longstanding history of providing memorial benches and plaques to offer bereaved families the opportunity to remember their loved ones in a lasting and meaningful way. Over time, the large accumulation of benches and plaques, challenges with suitable locations, maintenance, and sensitivities of removing tributes, led to the temporary suspension of the service and the investigation of alternative approaches.

North Ayrshire Council recognises and acknowledges the desire of many members of the public to remember loved ones with a memorial in the surroundings with which they were familiar. These requests are agreed and accommodated wherever possible, but any decision must recognise the needs of the wider public. The Council will therefore ensure that the memorial process is managed and implemented for the mutual benefit of all. This can also be to the benefit of the community if the memorial enhances or makes the location more attractive by helping to maintain the character of the area. The principles will ensure that requests for memorials are responded to in a consistent, efficient and sympathetic manner.

The objectives of a memorial offer are to ensure that:

- Unique remembrance spaces for local people are provided to celebrate and mark the lives of loved ones;
- The memorial offer and service is clear and easily understood;
- The response to contrasting needs is balanced and appropriate;
- Quality provision is offered at an affordable price without constraints by space or deterioration in inclement weather;
- The use of public spaces is not compromised and ensure the quality of attractiveness is maintained for the use of all residents and visitors;
- Any memorial is appropriate for the location in which it is placed;
- All memorials are cost-neutral and low maintenance for the Council;

- Costs of supply and installation are affordable and are covered by the applicant of the memorial.

The following responsibilities and requirements are proposed for the Memorials Policy. Following agreement, the Policy will be reviewed every five years:

- The location and types of memorials for individuals will be agreed with applicants.
- Priority will be given to applicants that are resident In North Ayrshire or have a direct connection with the area. Other applications will be considered on a case by case basis;
- Memorials should have some community benefit either as street furniture or by enhancing the appearance of the local area;
- The cost of supply and installation of any memorial will be covered by the applicant and paid for prior to installation;
- The responsibility for the maintenance of any memorial is clearly defined and communicated prior to installation;
- The Council will accept no responsibility if a memorial is damaged, vandalised or stolen;
- In the event of damage by accident, vandalism or it becomes unsafe and beyond economical repair, the Council reserves the right to remove and not replace the memorial;
- Once installed the memorial can only be repositioned with the agreement of the Council;
- Any plaques or wording must be a suitable size, colour and type face and agreed with the Council in advance;
- Once installed the memorial will become the property of the Council and any routine maintenance costs will be covered by the Council.
- Any plaques will remain the property of the applicant and must be maintained in good condition;
- No additional structures or mementoes e.g. fencing, wreaths, flowers, can be placed on or at the memorial at any time.

Note: Unauthorised memorials may be removed by the Council taking account of the sensitivities around this.

## **Options**

### **Memorial Benches and Plaques**

The existing memorial option of procuring a memorial bench and/or attaching plaques to benches is nearing saturation point in some areas and it is proving difficult to support the wishes of individuals in specific locations.

To provide this service in the future, consideration must also be given to the length of time a memorial stays in place and to consider potentially bringing assets back into circulation after a period of time.

Alternatively, the option to purchase a bench with a prefabricated memorial could remain. However, the asset would be placed in a location identified by the Council and agreed with the applicant, such as parks and open spaces rather than the already congested coastal areas.

North Ayrshire Council will be responsible for all installation work. If the bench is to be placed on grass it will usually be fitted to a concrete base. Memorial plaques will require to be made of brass, stainless steel or aluminium and will be a maximum agreed size. Any inscription on plaques will require approval by the Council prior to fitting. The engraved plaque will be fitted to the bench by the Council.

It is proposed that this would be cost neutral to the Council with actual costs paid by those requesting the bench and/or plaque. It should be acknowledged that the costs of a memorial bench could be significant as the bench will be placed in a public space and will need to be durable, hard wearing and be of a higher specification than a typical bench used in someone's garden.

### Living Memorial Tree

Dedicating a tree provides a living, growing memorial to a loved one and a poignant way of remembering them.

The Woodland Trust offer this facility across the UK and can range from individual trees to whole areas of woodland and it is proposed that North Ayrshire consider a similar initiative.

This would not only provide a remembrance to a loved one but also contribute to the global climate challenge. This would also complement the Councils tree planting strategy and areas of woodland/open space could be set aside for memorial trees.

### Metallic memorial trees

Metallic memorial trees positioned in high amenity areas would offer a unique opportunity to remember family members and loved ones.

Metallic memorial trees are able to provide up to 640 memorial leaves in one location, creating a focal point for visitors and a single point of focus for families. The assets could become an attraction to visitors, require little to no maintenance, have a reduced impact on resources and would be cost-neutral.

Officers have identified an opportunity to promote this as a memorial offering. Once installed, the tree then has anodised gold-effect aluminium 'leaves', engraved with a loved ones' details, affixed securely to its branches over time. Leaves would be attached by Streetscene maintenance operatives. Similar trees have been installed successfully in other locations including across the UK and internationally.

The tree is manufactured from laser cut steel, stands at 3.2m in height, and has 640 spaces for memorial leaves. The tree is fixed to the ground with a two-part concrete foundation. The materials and manufacturing process are designed to withstand all weather conditions including exposed locations. Having purchased a memorial leaf, people can arrange the engraving of names, dates of birth and death with the possibility of a personalised message on the reverse and return it to be attached to the memorial tree. The tree memorial acts as a striking piece of public art, large enough that most leaves remain out of reach but still providing legibility of the messages engraved.

As with any public realm asset, the risks from anti-social behaviour must be considered. If this is an offering that is considered, then potential locations for this will be discussed further as appropriate. The tree is exceptionally robust, and the leaves themselves are securely fixed to the tree with pop rivets.

It is estimated that the cost of implementing this initiative could be cost neutral over a 5-7 year period.

### Memorial Rocks

Memorial rocks and stones offer a simple natural way to remember loved ones. Rocks can be placed on a beach or thrown into the sea, potentially being washed up for others to find. They can be placed in a park or open space where loved ones enjoyed or potentially into areas specifically created to house the memorials.

### Sponsoring flower bed

Sponsoring a memorial flower bed and remembering loved ones by planting some of their favourite flowers offers an appropriate memorial. Flower beds would be available in coastal locations as well as parks and open spaces.

### Digital Remembrance

Not all bereaved family and friends are local and may not be able to easily visit physical memorials.

A digital page of remembrance would offer people from all over the world the chance to log in and view memorials at any time.

## **Key Points for Locality Partnership**

It is proposed that the North Ayrshire Council memorial offer provides a range of affordable options to bereaved families and friends to assist them to celebrate a life and remember a loved one. Choice and affordability will be key with responsibilities made clear from the outset.

It is proposed that North Ayrshire Council will limit prices to the actual cost of each memorial selected. Therefore, the Council will not generate any surplus from its memorial offer.

## **Action Required by Locality Partnership**

It is proposed that the Locality Partnership consider and provides feedback on the range of memorial options for implementation including:

- Benches and Plaques
- Living Memorial Tree
- Metallic Memorial Trees
- Floral Beds
- Memorial rocks
- Digital remembrance
- Bespoke requests on a case by case basis

**For more information please contact: Thomas Reaney, Head of Service (Neighbourhood Services), 01294 324570, [treaney@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:treaney@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Completed by: Thomas Reaney**

**Date: 23 February 2023**



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

# Garnock Valley Locality Update

March 2023

**Barrmill Warm Space** – The warm space at Barrmill Community Centre has been popular, with numbers averaging 20 people per weekly session. Each event has a different food theme and there has been excellent engagement with the local community. Other winter warmer activities in the Garnock Valley include hot drinks and snacks at Garnock Valley Men's Shed, making of Canny Cookers at Bridgend, hot drinks and snacks during Dalry Larder opening times and also drinks and snacks at Beith Community Centre.

**Parklives** – Dalry Community Sports Club, The Garnock Valley Locality CLD Team and KA Leisure have been working together on Parklives, which takes place every Friday evening 6.30pm – 8.00pm at Dalry Primary School. Averaging 80 young people per week, young people are able to access a number of activities, free food, youth work support and sports.

**LGBT Silver Charter** – NAC Connected Communities are delighted to announce that they have passed the LGBT Charter at Silver level. NAC Community Learning & Development Team across North Ayrshire have worked hard over the last year to make North Ayrshire the best place possible for LGBTI young people and staff. At a Locality Level, this includes a LGBT group on a Monday evening and support to an Umbrella Group at Garnock Campus.

**Discovery Awards** – The Discovery Award is aimed at all people over 50 years of age and aims to help promote an active and healthy lifestyle, by offering challenges to both stimulate and motivate. The Award is a personal challenge, through a programme of your chosen leisure activities with no exam at the end. Participants will take a key role in both organising a launch event and in planning their own awards. Award activity is about to commence in the Garnock Valley with a launch at Bridgend Community Centre on Tuesday 4 April at 2.00pm. Please come along if you would like to find out more about it.

**GVLV Working Groups review** – Following a feedback survey and discussions, the three Locality Partnership Working Groups met on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February to discuss progress and achievements so far, how well the current set up was working and whether it continued to meet the needs of the community. The meeting also took time to look at the feedback submitted and establish a way forward for future development. Following this, the three groups have decided they will come together as one group for a 3-month trial period. This new format will include the opportunity for project subgroups to be established, which will be open to everyone in the community to join in if they have an interest in the project.

**Cost of Living Event Beith** - Radio City Association and Beith Community Association are working collaboratively providing fast, tailored support to Garnock Valley residents that are hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis. A Cost-of-Living Support event will take place on Friday 31st of March - starting at 11am. The event is a great opportunity for Garnock Valley residents to network and find out what they are entitled to, with free impartial advice from a range of community partners on every topic related to the cost of living. There will also be lots of fun activities on the day for



Locality update



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kids & adults and free food and drink on offer. Radio City Association are providing free transport to Beith Community Centre on Friday 31st of March for the event, which incorporates the launch of the cost-of-living hub. Please contact them to arrange your travel to the hub and they can help with your travel plans, concessionary travel or offer transport provision. With support from the Ayrshire Rural & Islands Ambition (ARIA) Fund, they have procured energy efficiency items to help save money on your energy bills in the Garnock Valley and keep your household warm:

- They can help fix draughty windows.
- Take home some LED light bulbs.
- Energy efficient electric blankets and infrared heaters.
- Plug in power meter tells you exactly how much each appliance costs.
- Draught excluders.
- Radiator reflector panels.
- Thermal Camera to identify your homes heat loss in a home energy visit.

With additional funding from the National Lottery Community Fund and Corra Foundation, they can offer short free home energy assessments visits and have vouchers for distribution including:

- Energy Vouchers
- Food Vouchers
- Clothing Vouchers
- Haircut Vouchers (*thanks to donation of local business Jacqui's Cut n' Dry*)

If you need help with cost of living in the Garnock Valley or think you can help with their cost of living project in any way, please contact Sarah Jones, Radio City Association's Cost of Living Support Manager by email: [sarah@radiocityassociation.co.uk](mailto:sarah@radiocityassociation.co.uk) and Phone: 07469534953

**Garnock Valley Winter Warmer Events** – Three winter fun events took place in January 2023 in Kilbirnie, Dalry and Beith. These events focussed on helping vulnerable people and families through a difficult winter, especially given the Cost-of-Living Crisis. The events offered warm food, access to support services and a number of fun activities including sports, crafts, gaming, digital art and drumming. These events were completely free to attend and over the 3 days over 230 children and adults attended (excluding staff and partners).

**Youth Transition Groups** – Three weekly groups are currently running in Beith, Kilbirnie and Dalry with an average of 50 young people attending weekly across the three groups. A variety of activities are available to the young people, along with free food and refreshments at every session. Led by the Garnock Valley Locality CLD Team, the groups run in Beith (in partnership with Beith Community Association) on a Tuesday afternoon, Dalry on a Tuesday afternoon and Kilbirnie on a Thursday afternoon. The three groups are being brought together this month for a fun trip to a bouncy castle assault course. A Game Design Group also runs in Dalry Library on a Thursday morning.



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## Moving around (Public transport, traffic and parking)

### Highlights

**Once Loved Bikes** – Dalry Men's Shed have been working hard to transform donated bikes to get them ready for redistribution to people in need across the Garnock Valley. So far, more than 50 bikes have found a new home in the community thanks to the Dalry Men's Shed. Three shedders have now completed their Velotech Silver award, which they are putting to good use recycling the bikes. Trinity Active Travel Hub have produced video case-studies of three Dalry shedders, giving them an opportunity to tell their story. The shed in Dalry has been so successful that they have now gained charitable status.

**Health Walks** – A series of winter health walks are underway and are going well with between 8 and 10 people attending each week. For further information, please contact Stewart at [stewartbeck@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:stewartbeck@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

### Next Steps

The new combined working group will meet on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Anyone with an interest is welcome to attend and get involved. Please contact Christina for further information.

### Highlights

**History Talks** – A number of history talks took place over the winter in Bridgend Community Centre. The number of people taking part each week averaged between 15 and 20. Four Walking Through History walks are currently planned for May, June, July and August, which will incorporate exercise and learning about local history.

**GV2023** – The consultants Lateral North have been out and about engaging with the local community as part of this project. So far, they have held sessions at Beith Astro, Geilsland, Tesco in Kilbirnie and Garnock Campus. A session planned for Dalry was postponed due to snow being forecast however this will now take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March outside St. Margaret's Church in the town centre.

**Café Solace** - Customer numbers continue at a steady 60-70 per week at Café Solace. Since their last update, their Food Development Worker has now started in post. Amongst other duties they have, they have also:

- Supported the Wee School Pantry with stock rotation
- Supported "canny cooker" events at the Men's Shed
- Provided food for two NAC winter warmer events
- Attended Our Community Space and other groups meeting in the Community Centre to advise of his role
- Successfully bid to provide lunches for a 10-week period for a lunch club in a sheltered housing complex

Café Solace are currently planning to open up their own lunch club on Fridays from 12-1.30pm starting on 14th April. This will be a pilot for six weeks to identify costs, participation and sustainability. They are also in the initial planning stages of establishing a kitchen garden in the grounds of the Community Centre. Apart from providing Café Solace with fresh herbs and vegetables to supplement their stock, they



## Facilities and amenities





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anticipate that this could provide further volunteering opportunities in the future to set up and maintain the garden. Finally, they received a lovely donation from Morrisons from their Christmas Bauble appeal. This was in the form of e-vouchers for use in the store, which they will use to supplement their food requirements over the coming months.

**Orienteering Day** – An orienteering day is planned for 25<sup>th</sup> March and will provide an opportunity to have a go at a sport where you can get a mental and physical challenge. NAC are working together with the Ayrshire Orienteering Club to put this event on. AOC will be having a club training session in Dalry Park, while people new to orienteering will have an opportunity to “come and try, so participants can take part in a taster session. The event is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> of March from 11am-1pm in Dalry Park.

## Next steps

The Locality Partnership working group will next meet on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Anyone with an interest is welcome to join in.

## Highlights

**Barrmill Jolly Beggars** - During January and February 2023, Barrmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club delivered 360 Jolly Bags of Kindness throughout the Garnock Valley with all Sheltered Housing Complexes included. They also delivered to Garnock Valley and Dalry Men’s Sheds. At Easter, they plan to deliver over 200 boxes of chocolates throughout the Garnock Valley. This will bring the total of Bags of Kindness/boxes of chocolates distributed to 4,360 by Easter, which is a considerable contribution to bringing smiles to older folk in the Garnock Valley.

Barrmill Jolly Beggars also plan to hold two concerts – one to celebrate the Coronation in Kilbirnie and a concert in August 2023 in Beith. The club have two more meetings prior to their break in June and they will resume their new session in August 2023.

## The Ayrshire Community Trust

· INFORM North Ayrshire – Cost of Living Support. TACT have created an online guide to provide information on the range of services available across North Ayrshire who are able to offer support and advice on topics such as energy, food, and money concerns. The directory can be accessed here:

[https://issuu.com/tactna/docs/inform\\_north\\_ayrshire\\_-\\_winter\\_guide\\_2022](https://issuu.com/tactna/docs/inform_north_ayrshire_-_winter_guide_2022)

· Positive Steps with Partners is TACT’s Pre-Employability Project. The team are focusing on Personal development activities supporting barrier removal in helping people become ready for exploring employability options. The team are offering personal development sessions such as STEPS to Excellence, Skills & Strengths, Introduction to Volunteering and Cooking on a budget. Working in partnership with Penumbra to deliver the Anxiety Matters training and The Massage Barber, who facilitates a session in techniques to overcome stress. The project is also involved at the Eglinton Community Garden with our ‘Sow, Grow & Cook’ Group as well as their



Work and the  
local community



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

# Garnock Valley Locality Update

March 2023

Woodwork Group. If you have anyone that may be interested in finding out more, please contact Cheryl Newall via: [cheryl@tact.scot](mailto:cheryl@tact.scot).

- Organisational Support – continuing to work with groups and organisations delivering relevant training including Governance, Basic Bookkeeping, Constitution & Charity Registration, Funding, and Volunteer Management. They are currently organising their training calendar for this year and will share it as soon as it is available.
- Staff are continuing to update and source a range of volunteering opportunities that are currently available. They are still receiving a high number of volunteer registrations and do not have enough placements for those interested. If you know of any groups or organisations that could benefit from additional volunteers, please contact [info@tact.scot](mailto:info@tact.scot)
- TACT and Arran CVS are currently starting to organise a 'Networking Conference' to take place in during Volunteers Week in June 2023. This will be an opportunity for a range of groups, organisations, and partners to showcase their amazing work and find out from others what great work is taking place across North Ayrshire. More details to follow.
- Organisation of the Month promotion is still going strong. To date, they have promoted 29 voluntary organisations. This promotion has been received favourably with the 3rd sector and it gives a chance to highlight and promote local groups. If you would like to nominate a voluntary organisation to be promoted, please contact Susan Manson on [susan@tact.scot](mailto: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. If anyone is interested, please contact [ann@tact.scot](mailto:ann@tact.scot)
- Adult Volunteer Recognition Award – This award is designed to recognise the hours of commitment that Volunteers give to organisations throughout North Ayrshire. TACT held their very first AVRA awards on 31st January in the Whitlees Community Centre, Ardrossan. They would like to say a big thank you to Whitlees as they went above and beyond to make the night special. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Ann Wilson on [ann@tact.scot](mailto:ann@tact.scot)

## Next steps

The working group will next meet on 28<sup>th</sup> March and anyone with an interest is welcome to attend.

### For further information contact:

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