

APRIL 2023

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



Welcome to the spring edition of the North Ayrshire Community Benefits Newsletter!

It's been another busy few months in North Ayrshire community benefits world, and after our last newsletter, **6 wishes** from our wish list were delivered thanks to your support!

As ever, if you would like to get in touch with us to discuss your community benefits commitments, please contact Community Benefits Officer Karen Hayburn on khayburn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

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Community Benefits News and Thanks

With spring well and truly sprung, our allotment groups are on the look out for compost and other growing materials to support activities on growing sites. A delivery of compost from **Enva** was welcomed by **Eglinton Growers Allotments** in February, with a representative from the group getting in touch to say:

"On behalf of my fellow growers, I'd like to say a huge thank you for the delivery of compost today.

When word got out that compost had been delivered the number of people on site increased dramatically and about a third of the compost delivered this morning has already been borrowed away to individual plots – happy plot holders 😊 I don't think it will last to the weekend."



The Three Towns Clean Up Crew would like to say a big thank you to **Wybone** for the donation of a galvanised steel bin with litter-picking compartment. The bin has been installed at the new Doon the Beach community hub and cafe at Stevenston Beach. Pictured are Ian from the Clean Up Crew and Craig and Vincent from Doon the Beach.



Filling vacancies with Your Next Move

Are you advertising vacancies as part of the Employability element of your community benefits commitments? If you're recruiting for your vacant posts, don't forget to get in touch with our Employability Team, who manage our 'Your Next Move' service.

Your Next Move supports local people from a range of backgrounds find jobs, whether it's a first role, going back into work after a break in employment, or moving into a new career. The team can pull together CVs and expressions of interest from a range of potential candidates, making the process simple for you as a contractor and ensuring that a diverse range of local people in North Ayrshire get the opportunity to apply for your roles.

If you'd like to find out more or advertise a vacancy through Your Next Move, contact our Community Benefits Officer Karen on khayburn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.



YOUR NEXT MOVE
Working North Ayrshire

Are you based too far from North Ayrshire to deliver an in person wish from our Wish List?

Don't worry! There are plenty of groups looking for support that can be offered remotely, like financial donations. **Orange Tek**, based in Burton-on-Trent, donated £263 in March to **Saltcoats Community Action Group**, enabling the purchase of 60 children's books.



OrangeTek @

Spotlight on: FFU Scotland CIC and CJM Accountancy and Financial Management



Fibro Friends United (FFU) Scotland CIC are Scotland's national organisation for fibromyalgia, based in Irvine. Fibromyalgia is a multi-faceted chronic condition of the central nervous system affecting 200-300,000 people across Scotland. FFU offer support to people suffering from the illness through a variety of activities, groups and other interventions.

Alison McColl, Managing Director of FFU, submitted a wish in January 2023 for accountancy support following a period of extenuating circumstances within the organisation, resulting in an urgent need for support to complete accounts for the financial year end.

CJM Accountancy and Financial Management are a Prestwick-based firm who offer business consulting services, and are on a consultancy framework at North Ayrshire Council. Colin McNally, Managing Director, reached out to offer his team's support to FFU after an appeal for support was circulated to our business contractors by the Community Benefits Officer.

Over the last 4 months, Alison and Colin have worked closely together to review the accounts for the last 2 years and prepare them for submission to Companies House. This has gone beyond a 'one off' support, and has involved ongoing communication and support from CJM Accountancy and Financial Management to build the confidence and skills of FFU around their accounts and ensure that they are set up for success when submitting in 2024. The next step will be setting up FFU with Sage Accounting software that will help to streamline processes further, and CJM Accountancy also plan to deliver training to the organisation to ensure they're confident about using this new accountancy management software.

Alison got in touch to thank Colin and his team for all of his support, saying:

"...honestly we would be so lost if NAC community benefits and Colin had not come to our support and rescue. Colin has been an absolute godsend and such a patient and responsive company. Colin has shown us the upmost respect and guidance and albeit he has such a high level of expertise and seniority in his firm, he has explained and answered in such a way that we feel supported and understood. We have felt encouraged and empowered to keep going as there is no judgement around our queries and he responds in such a positive and clear manner."

Reflecting on delivering the support as a contractor, Colin said: ""It is a delight to support FFU through a period of difficulty in resolving financial submission issues. It has been a pleasure to work with the team from FFU who have worked alongside me to create a set of charity accounts. Working with third sector organisations is a passion for me and to great to support community benefits at North Ayrshire in this matter."

If you are a contractor with specialist business or financial skills, we have local organisations and businesses who could benefit from your support. In addition to the Wish List, our Third Sector Interface are looking for some support to run workshops (see the next page), and our Business Development Team are keen for North Ayrshire SMEs to also benefit from the skills and experience of the Council's contractors. If you are interested in discussing how you could support any of these groups, please get in touch by emailing us on communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Community Benefits Wishlist: Spring into the new season!



Spring

Spring has well and truly sprung, and we've had a number of new groups come forward to ask for support from our contractors as they begin to plan their activities for the next few months. If you can help any of the groups below, please get in touch by emailing communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Our Third Sector Interface is also keen to speak with any contractors who would like to offer workshops for North Ayrshire third sector organisations on **Business Planning** and **Measuring Impact**, so if you think you can support in any way, please contact Barbara Conner barbara@tact.scot and Susan Manson susan@tact.scot.

- **Skelmorlie Community Association** would like some support to maintain the wooden floor in their community centre, a busy community hub. The floor requires sanding, varnishing and re-lining, and the group would like to speak to anyone who can either support with the work or the materials required to complete it.
- **Radio City Association** are creating a cost of living hub to support people struggling in the Garnock Valley area. They would welcome donations of electric blankets, insulation materials, food, blankets, school supplies and shopping vouchers to be distributed to those they are supporting.
- **Haus of Seisay** is a brand new social enterprise in Irvine: a hair academy for care-experienced young people. They are looking for donations of 2 iPads to support the creation of portfolios for their students; donations of food for their learner kitchen which will provide breakfast and lunch free of charge; or financial support towards the cost of development days for the students.
- **The Umbrella Holistic Approach CIC** is based in Kilwinning, and provides a range of holistic therapies to people struggling with mental health, addiction, social isolation and other personal challenges. They are looking to expand their offer for young people and are looking to purchase 8 new drums for their drum circle, and a gong for their sound bath sessions, so are seeking financial donations to help cover the cost.
- **Organic Growers of Fairlie** are an allotment group who are looking to expand their growing projects this year to support the North Ayrshire Fairer Food Network of community food larders. They are looking for 10 (or more!) cans of exterior paint to maintain their 181 outdoor raised beds and many polytunnels to ensure they can continue growing for the community.
- **Tekkers Soccer Academy** in Kilwinning are looking for donations of training equipment for the 70 young people who train with them each week. They are also keen to speak with any businesses who may be interested in becoming a sponsor for the team, which would enable them to remove the potential cost barriers for young people to attend their sessions.
- **Skelmorlie Secret Bunker** are looking for some help to ensure their site is accessible to wheelchair users, and are looking for either the construction of a permanent ramp or donation of a mobile ramp to cover the height between the ground and a 4 inch lip on one of their buildings.

