

DECEMBER 2021



# COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



## Hello and welcome to the first Community Benefits newsletter!

We'll be sending you a newsletter each quarter to keep you updated with all things community benefits in North Ayrshire. You'll get good news stories, project updates and opportunities to make a difference: and we hope this inspires you to get in touch and discuss how you can get involved too!

If you want to find out more about community benefits, you can contact Nicola Gooch, Community Benefits Officer, by emailing [NicolaGooch@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:NicolaGooch@north-ayrshire.gov.uk).

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

**Community Benefits Wish List and Community Wealth Building**

**Spotlight on: Dalry Community Garden**

**Christmas Wishes**

## Spotlight on: Dalry Community Garden

Dalry Community Development Hub started work on a new community garden in April 2021, and since the first volunteers arrived, there's been a remarkable change on the previously derelict site. Sensory raised beds for groups with additional support needs have been installed; craft groups meet to share learning; older people who have been isolated for the last 18 months pop in for a tea and a chat; and children are able to get hands on experience of growing and cooking with fresh fruit and veg.

However, the garden surface was covered in a layer of chippings, making the the space inaccessible for wheelchair users and people with limited mobility.



Staff from DAMM lay the slabs donated by McLaughlin and Harvey



The garden volunteers submitted a wish to the Wish List in September 2021, asking for help to source paving slabs for the garden paths. McLaughlin & Harvey and DAMM Environmental co-delivered the new garden surface, with McLaughlin & Harvey providing the materials, and staff from DAMM providing the labour in the garden.

The work was completed over 4 days in November 2021, and there is now a network of paths crossing the entire site, which will allow more people than ever before to make the most of this fantastic community resource.

Yvonne Gilfillan, Community Liaison from McLaughlin & Harvey said: *"McLaughlin & Harvey were delighted to collaborate with North Ayrshire Council and DAMM Environmental to provide an all-accessible path within Dalry Community Garden: a holistic and eco-friendly space, operated by volunteers and open for use by everyone in the Dalry community."*

Raymond Kennedy from DAMM said: *"DAMM Environmental were pleased to be part of the Dalry Community Garden's fantastic journey so far. Working closely with McLaughlin & Harvey and North Ayrshire, we were able to provide access paths to various locations within the garden. We hope that the Dalry community can continue to benefit from the great work undertaken by the garden volunteers"*

If you've been inspired to support a similar project in North Ayrshire, we have requests for garden help from West Kilbride Community Support Group, West Kilbride Environmental Group, The Mungo Foundation, Turning Point Scotland, Arran Community Land Initiative, Fullarton ConneXions and Barrmill & District Community Centre. Contact us on [communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) to discuss the opportunities we have available.



## Community Benefits Wish List

During Challenge Poverty Week in October, we launched our new Community Benefits Wish List, which captures the requests for support from community groups and the Third Sector in North Ayrshire.

As a Council contractor, you can select projects from the list for delivery that best suit your business's skills, values or interests and this will count towards your overall community benefit commitments.

There are over 60 requests for support available for selection, ranging from small jobs installing shelving or helping in a garden, to more complex projects that need technical expertise. You can find out more by visiting [northayrshire.community/wishlist](http://northayrshire.community/wishlist) or emailing [communitybenefits@north-aysrhire.gov.uk](mailto:communitybenefits@north-aysrhire.gov.uk)

## Community Wealth Building

Successful delivery of community benefits forms a key part of our Community Wealth Building Strategy as a Council. It's about us making sure that the money we spend as an organisation has the largest possible positive impact on the people of North Ayrshire; whether it's through employment opportunities for underrepresented groups, engagement with our young people, or supporting our vibrant community and voluntary sector. The Wish List gives local people a voice in this process, improves transparency of the support provided and raises the profile of our contractors.



**"We will maximise  
our approach to  
community benefits  
to ensure they meet  
our Community  
Wealth Building  
ambitions and the  
needs of our  
communities"**

***Community Wealth  
Building Strategy,  
North Ayrshire Council***

# Christmas Wishes!

It's that time of year again, and our Third Sector and communities are looking for some support to make their Christmas dreams come true: could you be the people to make it happen? If the answer is yes, contact us at [communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) to discuss the next steps.

- **Corsehill Retirement Club:** looking for financial support to take their 24 members for their annual day out, the first since the pandemic began
- **Skelmorlie Secret Bunker:** labour to level ground outside their catering unit ahead of reopening in spring 2022; material costs covered by group
- **FFU Scotland:** loan of small heaters for 2 weeks to heat volunteer space, and donation of non-perishable food (cans, tins, pasta etc) and hygiene products for Christmas hampers
- **Kilwinning Bowling Club:** looking for advice (and installation if possible) to electricity, water and waste services for a new ladies' changing facility
- **Scottish Pony Partners:** looking for advice from relevant trades in order to make repairs to their portacabin classroom, which has been badly weather damaged and cannot be used during the winter
- **Cranberry's Community Larder:** accepting donations of long-life food (particularly tinned and dry goods like beans, pasta, soup, tea and coffee) to support their successful dignified food project for local people during the winter period



## Mentors wanted to support young people in North Ayrshire

**MCR Pathways is a national, award-winning mentoring programme dedicated to addressing the inequality in education outcomes, career opportunities and life chances for young people in care and those experiencing disadvantage in North Ayrshire.**

**At the core of the MCR Pathways programme is 1:1 relationship based mentoring. Volunteer mentors spend one hour a week listening to and encouraging their young person. The only qualification you need to be a mentor is the desire to help and be there. Our mentors help the young person they are matched with, to realise their full potential and be empowered with the confidence and belief to make it happen. Mentoring takes place in school and volunteers are asked to commit for at least one year, ideally more. The relationship that develops is what makes the difference. When one person mentors, two lives are changed. Find out more at [www.mcrpathways.org](http://www.mcrpathways.org)**