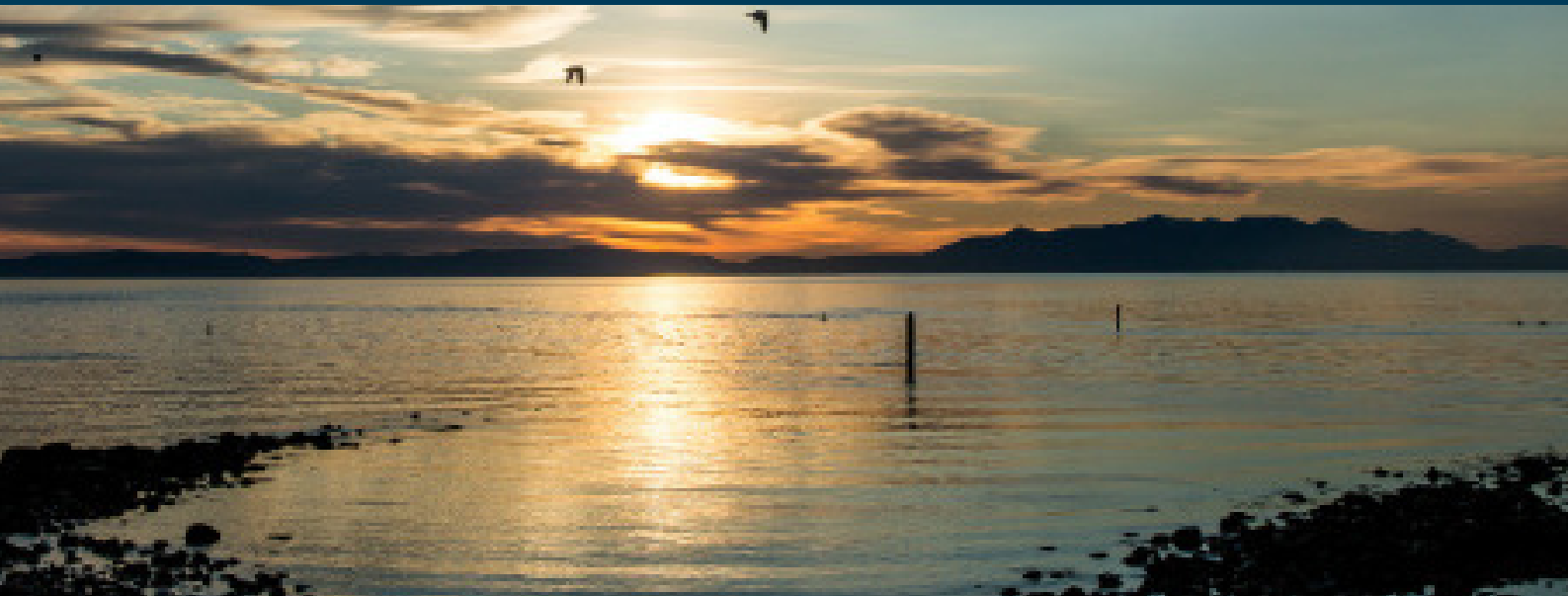


JULY 2023

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



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

We're over halfway through 2023 and what a year it's been so far! Community benefits at North Ayrshire Council continue to go from strength to strength, and we have some really exciting projects to share with you in this month's bumper edition of our newsletter.

We're always looking for examples of good practice to feature in the newsletter, so please keep filling out your community benefit returns and sending over photos - we love to see them!

As ever, you can reach out to Community Benefits Officer Karen Hayburn on khayburn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk with any questions. We hope you enjoy this issue!

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

Community benefits news and thanks

Upcoming DYW sessions

Spotlight on: Dem-Master Ltd

Spotlight on: jmarchitects

Community Benefits Wish List

Community Benefits News and Thanks

ASN Parents and Kids 3 Towns would like to say a big thank you to Connect Modular for the donation of a £100 Amazon gift card for the group this month. Founder Amy Johnston reached out to say: "Thank you so much for your recent donation to ASN Parents & Kids 3 Towns group, your donation will go far by providing lots of smiles and happiness to children who often get left out on day to day fun activities. Every day as a group we fight for inclusion and it's donations like this that allows us to continue the fight and create safe judgement free environments for children and young people with additional support needs. THANK YOU :)"



Garnock Valley Helping Hands give preloved baby items a new lease of life, and received a donation from **Levenseat Ltd** to purchase a new commercial washing machine.

Sam from Helping Hands said "What a machine it is, fantastic for getting all the cot duvets and bigger items back to white again. It will definitely save a lot of time and effort. Thank you!"



**JAMES
FREW**



LEVENSEAT

James Frew made a generous donation of £500 towards **Auchenharvie Academy's** production of 'Matilda' in June. This is a great example of a local business supporting a local school as part of their community benefits!

Sharp made a donation of furniture to **Radio City Association**, who had been impacted by flooding to their office space over the winter. The new furniture has allowed them to get back into their building to work, and Scott from Radio City passed along this thanks to Sharp: "the Sharp furniture has been delivered and is looking very good...it's been invaluable as don't think we could have managed without it."

SHARP

Upcoming DYW Careers Sessions

If you're advertising careers opportunities aimed at school leavers as part of your contract with us, you might be interested in attending one of the upcoming careers events being hosted by the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce in North Ayrshire schools:

- **Kilwinning Academy: S4-S6 Careers Event**- Tuesday 26th September, 9.30am – 12.30pm
- **Greenwood Academy: S3-S6 Apprenticeship Awareness Event** - Tuesday 10th October, 9.30am – 1.30pm
- **Ardrossan Academy: S4-S6 Careers Event**- Tuesday 31st October, 2.00pm – 4.30pm

Any employers interested in coming along should contact Brooke and Emma at Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce on: bmctaggart@ayrshire-chamber.org and emcclymont@ayrshire-chamber.org to register their interest



Inseego made a donation of £150 to **Tekkers Soccer Academy**, which will allow the group to purchase new training kit and equipment for the children who participate at the club.

inseego

Spotlight on: Dem-Master Demolition Ltd

DEM-MASTER
DEMOLITION LIMITED

Dem-Master Demolition Ltd were appointed by North Ayrshire Council to manage the demolition of Irvine's 'high flats' in Fullarton Street. The 5 high rise blocks were built in the 1960s and have formed part of Irvine's skyline ever since. The project is not only significant as a piece of urban regeneration and the creation of new, ultra modern housing, but is highly emotive for local people and their memories of the community in the tower blocks.

Dem-Masters began to liaise with the Council early in the project around the associated community benefits, as it was important for there to be visible and impactful community benefits generated as a result of this project.

A range of projects and interventions have been delivered as a result of the contract, and in particular there has been close working with the local primary school, Loudoun Montgomery and its Parent Council. Laura Kelly from Dem-Master explained "We selected Loudoun Montgomery Primary School as our key focus as the school is adjacent to our project, therefore, we felt that giving something back to the school was important." In addition to the donation of 150 hi-viz vests for the pupils at the school, Dem-Masters supported the creation of a community garden, which the Parent Council had been planning and fundraising hard to bring to life.



Steel benches were donated, along with £1000 to the Parent Council to enable them to purchase the items needed to create a sensory garden. Dem-Masters also provided 2 days of voluntary staff time (with equipment) to progress the groundworks needed for the sensory garden, which significantly advanced the project. A representative from the Parent Council said "The project had been in the planning and fundraising for over 3 years and even with a team of volunteers we would never have made the progress we have without Dem-Master's help. They were friendly, helped with their expertise and managed to do an immense amount of work on the garden, digging areas, helping load sand, bark and gravel, digging up turf and laying it to create designated areas...We cannot thank Dem-Master enough to achieve something in 2 days which would've taken us months and months. The children were so delighted to see if when they came back after Easter holidays."

In addition to the work at Loudoun Montgomery, Dem-Master also employed a total of nine local people as part of the contract, of whom one was previously long-term unemployed and 8 had previously been on zero hours contracts. 4 new apprentices were also recruited onto the project, with two undertaking a SAP 2 Demolition/Asbestos qualification and one working on SAP 2 Demolition. In addition, the contract enabled Dem-Master to offer 8 operatives upskilling training. The nine new employees recruited locally will be retained once the contract at Fullarton Street is completed, which is a fantastic result for the new staff, one of whom said "I'm grateful for the opportunity of a job close to home".



Working on a demolition project of this scale provides invaluable experience and learning for local people recruited as employees and apprenticeships, with apprentices putting their experience on site to use as part of an SVQ.

Laura sums it up by reflecting that "we appreciate that the demolition works at Fullarton Street come with an emotional tie to many people in the area, however we are delighted to have been able to contribute and add value to the local community and we hope to have left a positive impression. We respect our surroundings and endeavour to do the best we can to contribute locally."

If you've been inspired by the example of how hyper-local community benefits can bring a positive change to the area you're working in and want to chat about your own commitments, please get in touch with Karen to discuss your contract and any potential additional support you may be able to provide on khayburn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Ardrossan Campus is a multimillion pound project that provides a new community campus in Ardrossan on the site of a former Shell plant. The project will merge the current Winton Primary School, and Ardrossan Academy along with a new library, leisure facility, public cafe and space for local authority offices and facilities.

jmarchitects were appointed by the Council to develop the plans for the site, and as part of their community benefits, committed to delivering support to a local project via the Community Benefits Wish List. A match was made with the Scottish Centre for Personal Safety (SCPS), who were looking for advice and support to progress a project at their site in Ardrossan. SCPS offer empowering and holistic personal safety training, particularly to groups who may be vulnerable when out alone. The charity has been keen to develop a community wellbeing cafe space where a disused lean-to was present on their site, but needed significant specialist advice and support to get the plans off the page and moving in reality. Getting the architectural plans to a level where they could be submitted for planning permission (and the corresponding plans from a structural engineering perspective for a building warrant) takes time, and costs "thousands of pounds - which for a small charity that offers its services free of charge to vulnerable people, is a huge amount that we simply didn't have", says Alan Bell, Executive Manager of SCPS.

The two organisations began working together in April 2022, with jmarchitects making several site visits and discussions with SCPS and their partners to understand the scope of the project. Over the course of a year, jmarchitects worked on the design for the cafe, eventually gaining planning permission in February 2023. They also brought in Blyth & Blyth, engineers on the campus, to offer support and advice to get the plans through the building warrant stages of sign off, which the plans passed in April 2023 - a year after the support began.

Alan is delighted with the outcome of submitting the request to the wish list, saying that "the whole way we felt supported and the team at jmarchitects were a pleasure to work with...once complete, our cafe will aim at reducing social isolation within our community. We will offer games, quizzes and fun events to help vulnerable people laugh, make friends and integrate back into our community again. We will help female survivors of violence, blind people, LGBT+ people, people with addictions and the many Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian refugees in our area to feel safe and welcome. It's not just a cafe - it's a refuge where we will focus on bringing a smile to your face and improving your mental wellbeing."

The project has also been enjoyed by the team at jmarchitects, with architect Craig Mathers saying: "Working with Alan Bell and the team at ScotCPS to extend their existing facility over the past year has been a truly humbling experience, and we have been delighted to be able to support the expansion of their much-valued work for the community of Ardrossan and North Ayrshire through the Community Benefits programme. We have no doubt that the addition of a community café will provide a safe space for ScotCPS to extend their fantastic work in enabling all people to be able to live their lives with independence and without fear of physical harm, regardless of age, race, disability, sexuality, or gender."

SCPS are now beginning the fundraising journey towards the £80,000 needed to build the cafe. If you have a contract with us and would like to continue the community benefits support started off so brilliantly by jmarchitects, in addition to financial donations, any offers to builders, plumbers, electricians, and other installation specialists will be welcomed by the organisation.

To offer support with the next phase of the cafe, just drop us a line at communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Community Benefits Wishlist: Summer's here!



Summer holidays are upon us and many of you will be taking some well-earned breaks over the next few weeks. Before you put your out of office on, why not take a look at our Wish List to see if there's anything your company could deliver when you're back at your desk?

Our online Wish List has had a spruce up since our last issue, and you can now search the list and filter the wishes by locality, meaning you can easily see everything that's available in the area you're working in. We hope this is a useful update, and thank you to those of you who have provided feedback on the list so far!

Our Third Sector Interface is trying to source speakers who can run workshops for community organisations, charities and other third sector groups in North Ayrshire 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.

If you think you could deliver any of the wishes in this issue that are looking for support, drop us an email at communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk and we'll put you in touch!

- **Arran Community and Voluntary Services** are looking for their small car parking area (large enough to take 4 cars) to be resurfaced ahead of taking delivery of 2 cars to support their Community Transport Scheme, which helps people living in more isolated communities on the island access essential services.
- **Dalry Action Group** are planning their Christmas activities (yes, Christmas in July!). They're looking to build a new sled and are looking for donations of materials and some help to get everything ready for Friday 24th November.
- **Kilwinning Rangers Football Club Girls u10s** are looking for donations or sponsorship to put towards training kit and equipment
- **Stanley Primary School Parent Council** are creating an outdoor learning space for their nursery pupils, and looking for some help with building materials and volunteer labour to help bring it together
- **North Ayrshire Forum on Disability** are creating an accessible community garden at their premises and would love to create some raised beds for their members to use for growing produce and socialising outdoors.
- **Hessilhead Wildlife Rescue** are accepting donations of PPE of all kinds - rubber sweeping brushes, Safe4 disinfectant, washing up liquid, rubber gloves, wellies, rubber gloves, waterproof trousers and more! Their clients range from sparrows to seals (and everything in between!) so they get through *a lot* of protective equipment!
- **Creative Recycling Ltd** are promoting the circular economy and repair to the people of North Ayrshire, and their sewing machines and overlockers need regular maintenance to keep them in good working order. A service starts from £75 so even a small donation can be a big help!
- **Abbeyfield Care Home** are sprucing up their outdoor space for their residents and would appreciate any donations of garden benches, trellising, outdoor paint, window boxes and planters or small bird feeders to make the garden as colourful and relaxing as possible for the community at the care home.

