

MARCH 2022

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



## Hello and welcome to the March issue of the Community Benefits newsletter!

We hope you are all keeping well and are looking forward to spring - this month we'll be highlighting some opportunities to get involved in 'spring cleaning' wishes in the community to take advantage of the good weather. Read on to catch up on what's been happening since our last update in December!

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).

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# Community Benefit Updates: March 2022

As a Community Wealth Building Council, we're working across our services to identify mechanisms that support the development of our local economy and communities. We have recently completed the first batch of Procurement Support Sessions for local businesses and based on great feedback will be putting on more sessions in the future.

We are also seeing a growing interest in the potential of community benefits to support groups going through the Community Asset Transfer process, which we've outlined for your information in this issue.

## Procurement Support Sessions

If you are a North Ayrshire business, or subcontract to North Ayrshire businesses who are interested in tendering for public sector contracts, then you might be interested in our Procurement Support Sessions run by our Procurement Development Manager, Lisa.

Initial sessions can cover:

- An overview and sight of the platforms for public service procurement, including Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) and Public Contracts Scotland Tender (PCST).
- How to register and ensure that your profile is set up correctly to ensure that alerts are coming through for suitable opportunities for your sector of work.
- How to search for public sector opportunities.
- Basic understanding of a Quick Quote/Tender Process

Sessions may lead onto more individualised support as businesses progress with tendering.

Please contact [Lisaburns@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lisaburns@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) for more information, including how to book a slot (and let her know the newsletter sent you to her!).



## Community Asset Transfer 101

Community Asset Transfer involves the transfer of responsibility for an asset from a public body such as the Council or NHS to any suitably qualified community, voluntary or social enterprise group.

Examples of assets that a group might request transfer of include public buildings, community centres, small museums, sports pitches and halls, public conveniences, small buildings and parks.

A cross-Council working group supports groups through the process, providing multidisciplinary advice and guidance from initial expression of interest to final transfer of the asset. You can find out more about the process by visiting the North Ayrshire Council website, where you can also view the live register of available assets and transfers in process.

Two groups are currently looking for community benefits support with their asset transfer projects; Millport Town Hall and Children 1st, and you can find out more about the help they are after by visiting our Wish List here: <http://northayrshire.community/wishlist>

# Spotlight on: Barrmill Community Centre



Barrmill and District Community Association run a successful community centre from a prefabricated former army barracks building in the centre of the village. The age of the building is beginning to show through general wear and tear, exacerbated by the centre having to pause lets and other activities due to COVID restrictions. Water is running into the centre in a few places from the roof, and the windows are reaching the end of their life.



The Community Association uploaded their request for support with the centre in September 2021, and an offer of support came through the wish list a month later. Jean Gilbert, the Association's Chairperson, said 'the wish list threw us to start off with – is it just a 'wish'? We need action! But when we read into it, we realised what it meant and the help it could provide.'

City Building LLP are a Glasgow-based construction firm who deliver a contract to supply new kitchen units for North Ayrshire Council. Following a discussion about the support that the group required, they offered to complete a roof survey for the group to give them a clear picture of the state of the roof and provide suggestions for next steps.

The surveyor from City Building visited the centre to carry out his review and had completed his follow up report by December 2021. This has provided the group with an up to date picture of the hall's structure, in addition to recommendations about the next steps the group should consider to ensure they have a full picture before any significant repairs are carried out.

The surveyor was also able to make some suggestions based on his experience of working in the construction industry while he was visiting the hall, such as whether there might be local businesses interested in sponsoring the construction work in return for advertising on the building or within the village. This has helped to provide the Association with some ideas about ways forward in addition to their practical next steps from the report.

In response to the survey, the Association have updated their wishes on the list, and are keen to hear from businesses who may be able to help them to complete an asbestos survey, or could arrange a conversation with a structural engineer about the options available to them for new roof coverings.

If you could help Barrmill and District Community Association with an asbestos or building survey, or an offer of advice from someone with the right background, we'd love to hear from you.

Contact us on [communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) and we can put you in touch with the group.

# Spring cleaning the Community Benefits Wishlist!



As we head into the better weather, we have a whole host of community groups and Third Sector organisations looking for some support to get their spaces ready for 2022 and the activities that will help them make a difference in North Ayrshire. If you could help, contact us at [communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) to discuss the next steps.

- **West Kilbride Environmental Group:** paving materials and help to lay a new path in their community garden, increasing access to all regardless of mobility
- **Turning Point Scotland:** donations of garden materials and volunteers to help with a garden maintenance day to ensure their outdoor space continues to provide respite for those who need it
- **Skelmorlie Secret Bunker:** replacement fence posts to keep the site safe from the local sheep and cows!
- **Garnock Valley Youth Forum:** painting and decorating support for their swap shop space to create a dignified shopping experience for young people
- **Arran Community Land Initiative:** donations of materials to make raised beds and help with general maintenance (e.g. hedge cutting and drainage improvement) to support local food production
- **Beith Community Development Trust:** support with maintenance of the car park tarmac
- **Radio City:** help with an office refresh and renovation, including donation of ICT equipment
- **Evolution Skatepark:** help to repair public toilets, install fire doors on cabin units and painting supplies for children to decorate the on site portacabins
- **ACES Woodwynd:** help to create an accessible ramp for their new community food larder in the community centre garden
- **PRYDE:** donations of materials or money to help towards a new roof for the community centre
- **Eglinton Community Gardens:** volunteers to help erect a polytunnel to support a range of local groups to increase production of local fruit and veg and improve wellbeing through gardening
- **Enable Scotland (Bute Walk):** donations of garden furniture, pots and plans for the new residents of supported accommodation in Largs
- **Corsehill Community Centre:** survey of community centre to assess issue with damp on exterior wall
- **Equal Community Garden:** help to rebuild a donated portacabin for young people to use as meeting and training space

