



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Wednesday 20 September 2023, 7.00 p.m. in the Conference Room,
Garnock Campus, Glengarnock

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Bell	
2.	Action Note and Log 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?
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					7.10 – 7.25 pm
3.	Café Solace Update on work undertaken since receiving CIF grant.		Verbal	Ann Russell	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
DECISION REQUIRED					7.25 – 7.50 pm
4.	Grants The Locality Partnership are asked to consider grant reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elderly Grants Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund 	Pg 9	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	LP to consider grant reports.
5.	Community Investment Fund – Expression of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beith Community Association 	Pg 12	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	LP to consider one CIF Expression of Interest.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					7.50 – 8.50 pm
6.	Garnock Valley 2023 The Locality Partnership will receive an update from Christina Pieraccini of the Garnock Valley 2023 project.	Pg 17	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
7.	Education & Youth Overview The Locality Partnership will receive an overview from Head Teachers and the Community Learning Development Team.	-	Verbal	Head Teachers & CLD Team	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
8.	Scottish Fire and Rescue/Police Scotland - Wellbeing and Partnerships To discuss with the Locality Partnership the key impact of wellbeing and	-	Verbal	Neil Shearer/David Cameron	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.

	partnership work being carried out in the Garnock Valley				
9.	Community Learning & Development & HMIE Inspection The Locality Partnership will receive an update regarding Community Learning & Development and the current HMIE Inspection.	-	Verbal	Angela Morrell	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
10.	Locality Plan Progress Receive feedback from the sub-group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving Around • Facilities and Amenities • Work and the Local Community 	-	Verbal	Christina Pieraccini Community Reps	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
11.	Locality Officer Update The Locality Partnership will receive an updated on the work against the priorities of the Garnock Valley Locality.	Pg 65	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
AOCB					8.50 – 9.00 pm
12.	AOCB	-	Verbal	Cllr Bell	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
REPORTS FOR INFORMATION					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Ayrshire Youth Work Update • TACT update 	Pg 70 Pg 92	Enclosed	Cllr Bell	Locality Partnership are asked to note the reports and share as appropriate.

Distributions List

Elected Members

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

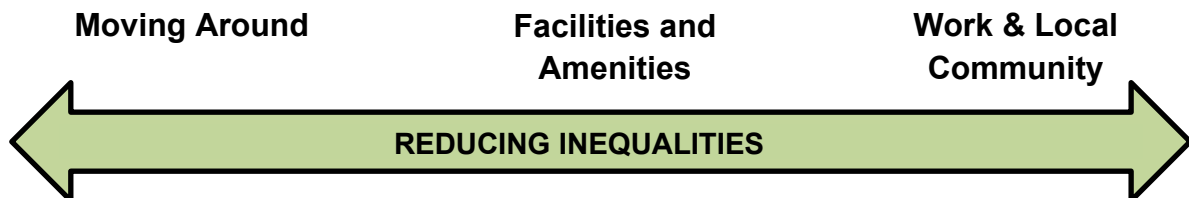
Community Representatives

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
Allan Wright, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council

CPP/Council Representatives

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

Garnock Locality Partnership Priorities



Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	15 June 2023 – Lochshore Hub, Caledonian Rd, Lochshore, Beith, KA14 3BE
Present:	Councillor John Bell (Chair); Councillor Margaret Johnson; Councillor Donald L. Reid; Councillor Ronnie Stalker; Elaine Young, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (Senior Lead Officer); Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Community Learning & Development, NAC (Lead Officer); James Waite, Beith & District Community Council; Catherine Wigzell, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council; Allan Wright, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council; David Park, Community Representative; Brenda Reilly, Community Representative Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, NAC; Inspector David Cameron, Police Scotland; Susan Mack, Locality Worker, NAC; Louise Kirk, Interim Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration); and Craig Stewart, Committee Services Officer, NAC
Also Attending:	James Robson, Beith Community Association (Agenda Item 3 only)
Apologies:	Councillor Anthea Dickson, Neil Shearer, and Jane Lamont, Community Representative.

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Action Note and Log</p> <p>The action note from the meeting held on 22 March 2023 was approved as a correct record, subject to noting that Brenda Reilly should be added to the list of those in attendance in the sederunt and Dionne Griffiths removed.</p> <p>Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, confirmed that regarding future applications for the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund, there would now be (a) an emphasis on poverty and reducing inequalities and applications invited with a particular focus in that particular area and (b) that funds would be promoted among the wider community in order to encourage applications around alleviation of poverty.</p>	All to note

<p>3.</p>	<p>Community Investment Fund – Expression of Interest</p> <p>There was a short presentation by James Robson, representing Beith Community Association (BCA), in respect of an Expression of Interest Application in terms of the Community Investment Fund. In this respect, BCA were seeking funding of £83,158.01 for staffing costs (3-year, 3 x full time posts (namely): Centre Development Officer, Chef and Activities and Wellbeing Co-ordinator Officer, which it was anticipated to attract match funding, including a contribution of £10,000 from BCA funds.</p> <p>Following a question and answer session, the Locality Partnership agreed (a) that the Application be continued to enable a Feasibility Study and/or Business Plan to be undertaken by the organisation, which would include matters such as sustainability, and offered the help of the Business Development Team at North Ayrshire Council in this respect; (b) that further consultation should take place with the local community, as necessary, with regard to the proposal and (c) that the Application could then be considered by the Partnership at a future meeting, once this level of detail had been completed.</p> <p>Councillor Bell, Chair, thanked Mr Robson for his attendance and for the presentation, and Mr Robson then left the meeting.</p>									
<p>3.</p>	<p>Grants – Elderly Grants and Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund</p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered reports for Elderly Grants and for the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund. A copy of Appendix 2 (Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund) which had been inadvertently omitted from the agenda, was circulated at the meeting. Accordingly, the Locality Partnership agreed to award the following:</p> <p>Elderly Grants Fund 2023/24</p> <table data-bbox="220 1397 1050 1509"> <tr> <td>Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Age Concern</td> <td>£2,964</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beith Old People’s Welfare Committee</td> <td>£3,053</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee</td> <td>£2,414</td> </tr> </table> <p>Margaret Archibald Bequest</p> <table data-bbox="220 1621 1023 1655"> <tr> <td>St Palladius Ladies Guild</td> <td>£650</td> </tr> </table>	Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Age Concern	£2,964	Beith Old People’s Welfare Committee	£3,053	Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee	£2,414	St Palladius Ladies Guild	£650	<p>Rosemary Ramsay</p>
Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Age Concern	£2,964									
Beith Old People’s Welfare Committee	£3,053									
Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee	£2,414									
St Palladius Ladies Guild	£650									
<p>4.</p>	<p>Garnock Valley 2023</p> <p>The Locality Partnership received an update from Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, of the Garnock Valley 2023 Project.</p> <p>The update provided highlighted key aspects of the Garnock Valley 2023 Project.</p> <p>Christina advised that she would send out a copy of the Presentation Slides to Locality Partnership members following the meeting.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Christina Pieraccini</p>								

<p>5.</p>	<p>Regeneration</p> <p>The Locality Partnership received a verbal update from Louise Kirk, Interim Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration); on regeneration in the Garnock Valley.</p> <p>The update provided information on a number of matters, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where investment/money had already been spent, including information on future plans for the Garnock Valley; • Community Wealth Building (CWB) and how Regeneration supported community structures; • Town centre regeneration, including condition of some of the buildings, and who was responsible for improving their condition, taking into account ownership; • Priorities specific to Beith and the Place Framework locally beyond the pilot; • Local transport and active travel; and • Lochshore and how success of the project would be measured. <p>Louise Kirk asked that anyone wishing to ask further questions, could send her an email and she would arrange to provide a response to the Locality Membership. lkirk@north-ayrshire.gov.uk</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p><i>Locality Members/ Louise Kirk</i></p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Communities and Place Fund</p> <p>The Partnership received an overview from Louise Kirk, Interim Head of Service (Economic Development and Regeneration), on the Communities and Place Fund which was launched in June 2023.</p> <p>The update provided highlighted areas including the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups who could apply for funding, and it was confirmed that those who had a constitution in place could make application; • Interest in the Place Fund that had been received, so far, which had been considerable; • Timescales which had been set by the UK Government; and • Likely award amounts for possible projects. <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Education & Youth Overview</p> <p>The Partnership received an overview from Susan Mack, Locality Worker, on learning and partnership opportunities.</p> <p>The update provided information on a number of matters, including:-</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with Primary schools throughout the Garnock Valley, and after school clubs, dealing with mental health and wellbeing, amongst other things; • Work that had been ongoing with regard to school transition, after school sessions, North Ayrshire ranger service and Dalry community gardens; • Youth Forum activities that had been planned throughout the summer period; • Project with Café Solace; • Dalry Community Sports Club which had great attendance from participants; • Sessional youth worker work on LGBT+ at Garnock Campus, and participants had attended Glasgow Pride; • Diversionary activities over summer aimed at school refusers; • Partner agency work including early intervention projects and work shops; and • Joint Youth Cabinet work. <p>Noted.</p>	
8.	<p>Police Scotland – Wellbeing and Partnerships</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Police Scotland on the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by Police Scotland in the Garnock Valley.</p> <p>The update highlighted areas including the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work that had been undertaken with NHS colleagues at Garnock Campus in relation to making children and young people aware of the dangers of vaping products, given the difficulties with current legislation; • Work with Trading Standards and advice on home security and personal security advice that had been provided at drop-ins at Garnock community centre and Bridgend Community Centre; • Wellbeing work undertaken at Garnock Campus which had proven very successful; • Information on 2 roadshow events in the Garnock Valley, which Wellbeing officers had attended and participated in; • Numerous success stories involving domestic violence, drug and alcohol addiction; • Update on quad bikes and training for officers using them; and • Safer shores, particularly concerning young people visiting the area and the dangers of misadventure. <p>Noted.</p>	
9.	<p>Scottish Fire and Rescue – Wellbeing and Partnerships</p> <p>As there was no representative from Scottish Fire and Rescue present to provide an update in relation to this item, it was agreed to continue consideration of this matter to the next meeting of the Partnership.</p>	

<p>10.</p>	<p>Locality Plan Progress</p> <p>The Partnership received an update by Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, and from community representatives present, who highlighted feedback from the following sub-groups, who have now recently amalgamated into one group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving Around; • Facilities and Amenities; and • Work and the Local Community. <p>An update on the Dalry to Kilbirnie Cycle Track, which was reported through the Moving Around sub-group, was provided by Christina and it was noted that Network Rail had been in touch regarding a topography survey, and the outcome of Sustrans funding was still awaited.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Locality Officer Update</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.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Reports for Information</p> <p>The following reports were submitted for information and sharing, as appropriate:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads, Structures & Streetlighting Report • North Ayrshire Youth Work update • LDP3 <p>Noted.</p>	

The meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.



Locality Partnership: Garnock Valley Locality

Date: 20th September 2023

Subject: To advise the meeting of applications received in respect of the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund and the 2023/24 Elderly Grants Fund.

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

Background: Applications have been received in respect of the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund and the 2023/24 Elderly Grants Fund.

Key Points for Locality Partnership

- The Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund has a balance of **£10,271**.
- The 2023/24 Elderly Grants Fund has a balance of **£8,432**.

Action Required by Locality Partnership

- To consider the applications for grant funding as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.

For more information please contact: *Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Connected Communities, 2nd Floor Cunninghame House, Irvine.*
Email - amorrell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Completed by: *Rosemary Ramsay, Funding Officer, Connected Communities*
(rosemaryramsay@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Date: 31.8.23

MARGARET ARCHIBALD BEQUEST
APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2023/24

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
Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee	Financial support towards Christmas Meal and Summer Trip: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christmas Meal Transport - £1,200 - Christmas Meal - £4,600 - Over 90's cheque & gift - £650 - Summer Trip Transport - £2,000 - Summer Trip Meal - £2,250 TOTAL £10,700 Match Funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee Contribution- £3,286 - NAC Elderly Grants - £2,414 	£5,000	2022/23 - £4,000 2021/22 - £6,000 2019/20 - £6,000 2018/19 - £6,000 2017/18 - £6,000 2016/17 - £4,000 2015/16 - £4,000 2014/15 - £6,000
<p>Connected Communities, Finance and Legal Services have been consulted and their comments are as follows:</p> <p>Finance: No quotes have been supplied for the costs listed. The bank statement at July 2023 shows a balance of £14k.</p> <p>The fund has £10,271 available for disbursement.</p> <p>Legal: The details providing within the application and supporting documentation appear to satisfy the criteria of the Trust.</p> <p>If 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>Connected Communities: Details contained with the application demonstrate that the award will be used for those who are aged 65 and over and in need. Many members of Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee are on limited incomes and are now even more stretched with the increased cost of essential fuel and provisions. Consequently, the Committee endeavours to make their 'treats' of a Christmas meal and summer trip available to their over 65's free of charge.</p> <p>Connected Communities are satisfied that this application meets the criteria of the Trust.</p>			

**ELDERLY GRANTS FUND
APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2023/24**

Grant Allocation for the Garnock Valley LPP Area

£ 8,432

Group	Purpose of Grant	Grant Allocated to Group	Amount Requested
Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Age Concern	Contribution towards a Christmas lunch, transport costs and entertainment.	£ 2,964	£ 2,964
Beith Old People's Welfare Committee	Contribution towards Christmas dinner, annual bus trip and afternoon teas.	£ 3,054	£ 3,054
Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee	Contribution towards Christmas meals and summer outings.	£ 2,414	£ 2,414
		TOTAL	£ 8,432

Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

Please see notes on reverse before completing this form.

Organisation name	Beith Community Association SCIO
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Brief details of organisation	<p>BCA has operated Beith Community Centre since 1964, providing space for private hires as well as fitness and sports classes.</p> <p>In the last few years, we have developed a community larder, providing low-cost alternatives to supermarket shopping which has helped to support people through COVID 19 and the Cost-of-Living Crisis.</p> <p>Our free Baby Bootcamp combines a fitness class and baby/toddler to support parents and carers of pre-schoolers and in partnership with NAC we developed a Youth Club.</p> <p>We run music nights, partner with Radio City on a Cost-of-Living project and are developing a community growing space.</p> <p>Over the last year we have seen many changes to the Association and how it is managed, including revitalising our committee, with new trustees with a variety of experience joining our existing team, and becoming a new SCIO. These changes enable us to employ staff and make positive steps to further engage the community, enabling us to become a true community hub and ensuring that the community are involved in every step of the development of the centre.</p> <p>In the next 3 years, BCA intends to grow and increase our capacity to develop the organisation to a stage where we can realistically look at a community asset transfer of the community centre to ensure the facilities remain open for the community now and in the years to come.</p>
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Locality	Garnock Valley
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Amount Requested	<p>Year 1</p> <p>Development Manager - £20,612.59</p> <p>21 hours p/w @ £17 = £18564</p> <p>E'er NI = £1306.03</p> <p>Pension @ 4% = £742.56</p> <p>Project Assistant - £11,485.45</p>
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	<p>16 hours p/w @ £13 = £10,816 E'er NI = £236.81 Pension @ 4% = £432.64</p> <p>Year 2 Development Manager - £25,559.01 25 hours p/w @ £17.51 = £22,763 E'er NI = £1885.49 Pension @ 4% = £910.52</p> <p>Project Assistant - £11867.69 16 hours p/w @ £13.39 = £11,140.48 E'er NI = £281.59 Pension @ 4% = £445.62</p> <p>Year 3 Development Manager - £29,685.83 28 hours p/w @ £18.04 = £26,266.24 E'er NI = £2368.94 Pension @ 4% = £1050.65</p> <p>Project Assistant - £12,259.72 16 hours p/w @ £13.79 = £11,473.28 E'er NI = £327.51 Pension @ 4% = £458.93</p> <p>Total Cost = £111470.30 Amount Requested = £81,470.29</p> <p>Match Funding applied for: UKSPF & ARIA Match Funding Secured: NAVT - £10,000 X 3 YEARS</p>
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Timescale	
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Brief Overview of Proposal	<p>Beith Community Association aims to develop the Community Centre into a thriving Community Hub that will provide a range of services and activities to encourage the community to come together in a safe and welcoming space, creating opportunities for people to share issues and develop support circles, enhance skills through volunteering and training opportunities, access information & advice services and employment support as well as participate in a range of sport, leisure, fitness and wellbeing sessions and activities to promote healthy living, having a positive impact on both physical and mental health. Social groups will help reduce isolation and provide a platform for people to develop peer support groups.</p> <p>We will continue to provide support for people to access more affordable groceries through our Community Larder.</p> <p>In 2021 BCA carried out a community consultation which was very supportive of the work carried out by the association. Following on from the feedback received by the locality partnership we have launched another survey across the</p>
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Garnock Valley, the survey is live at the moment and to date has had 35 responses from people who do not currently use the centre. Responses showed a lack of usage due to activities not being of interest or direct benefit to respondees however also showed support towards the development of the centre and confirmed if provisions suggested through the community hub were available that they would use the centre more.

To enable BCA to carry out the proposed development of the centre we will require experienced staff in place and have used existing BCA funds to pilot a Development Manager on a 6 month temp contract to help build the capacity of the organisation. The Development Manager, with 12 years' experience in the charity and voluntary sector, including similar experience within a previous project, will support BCA to ensure the sustainability of the project by securing additional funding, developing relationships with current and new partner organisations, ensuring relevant paperwork is in place, managing and developing staff and volunteers as well as developing services and implementing groups which will increase the number of people using the centre. We will also employ a part time Project Assistant to support the Development Manager with the day to day running of the services and activities, ensuring there is always someone on the ground engaging with the community. The CiF funding would allow us to employ the Development Manager on a 3 year contract and employ a Project Assistant on a part time basis, enabling us to then carry out the further development of the centre, employ more staff and increase benefits to the community.

We currently work with people from Beith as well as across the wider Garnock Valley and expect that the positive work and changes that the Community Centre are going to implement will see our numbers increase which will in turn help to reduce isolation, increase confidence, and improve both the physical and mental wellbeing of those participating.

Additional project outcomes over the next three years will be: an increased income to BCA, increased sustainability, increased number of volunteers, increased number of members, and increased community engagement.

As shown in the Garnock Valley 2023 Presentation, there is a lot of potential within the centre, some of which we have already started developing, such as our community allotment and with CiF funding our DM and Project Assistant, we would be able to ensure it reached it's potential as a hub for the community of Beith.

The work we will carry out in the next 3 years, developing the community hub, increasing usage and community engagement will be part of an ongoing feasibility study carried out as part of the role of the Development Manager to help build our case for community ownership of the centre.

Sustainability of the project will go beyond funding and the Community Centre itself; the people will be the legacy of the

	<p>project with lifelong friendships and support networks being developed, supporting ongoing wellbeing, and reducing isolation. Alongside this, the skills people will learn and develop will support their daily lives for years to come and enable them to pass these on to future generations. The project will aim to create a more cohesive community, promoting people's abilities and what they can do, which will enable them to continue to build services and activities beyond the life of the project.</p> <p>Following feedback from locality partnership meeting in June, we have engaged with the NAC Locality Business Advisor about developing a business plan and have been advised at this stage it is too premature to be exploring this however we will keep in contact with them.</p>
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Timescale	Employment of staff January 2024
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Contact Details	
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The Community Investment Fund (CIF) will support proposals and projects that:

- Connect with:
 - The North Ayrshire [Fair for All Inequalities Strategy](#);
 - the [Community Planning Partnership](#) (CPP) and [Locality priorities](#); and
 - North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) values, priorities and business [objectives](#).
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;
- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

When to apply and how?

- Groups should have an initial discussion with the relevant Locality Officer. Their contact details are available by emailing communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.
- Initial interest in a CIF application should be via an expression of interest form sent to the Locality Officer. This will be discussed by the LP or an associated working group.
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form, which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.

**PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
GARNOCK
VALLEY**

MANIFESTO

The Garnock Valley in North Ayrshire has a rich, diverse and engaging heritage built around its landscape, environment and natural world. Garnock Valley 2023 is a project which aims to look at, engage with and be inspired by this natural and built heritage; the environment of the region; and the arts and cultural offer the area can provide for tourists and locals alike.

Garnock Valley 2023 has sought to engage with local people and reflects their ideas as potential projects and recommendations which can be taken forward and lead towards more opportunities for the people, communities and organisations of the area.

First and foremost, this document acts as a way of connecting these proposals together, ensuring that projects are not developed in isolation, but instead, collaboratively, design led and community driven. As such, there are three strategic proposals proposed which focuses on the region as a whole, while 3 short term, 3 medium term and 3 long term projects are also proposed, sitting underneath - and working in tandem with - the strategic proposals.

PART 01:

INTRODUCTIONS

GARNOCK VALLEY

The Garnock Valley is one of North Ayrshire's electoral wards with a population of over 20,000. It includes the towns of Dalry, Kilbirnie and Beith as well as other smaller villages such as Barmill, Longbar, Gateside and Barmill.

Historically, the area was built around the flax and weaving industries before iron and steelmaking took over in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is a rural area with lovely walks, scenery and plenty of wildlife.



GARNOCK VALLEY

The map to the right shows the main three towns of the Garnock Valley as they now sit and it is clear to see that they are geographically close to each other, however the may travel options are roads (pink) rather than pathways and cycling routes.



KILBIRNIE

Some 7,000 people call Kilbirnie home, making it the biggest town in the Garnock Valley. It is spread out across the valley floor and the Kilbirnie Loch is situated to the east of the town, resulting in a number of walks and trails through the landscape.

The Walker Memorial Hall, dedicated to Dr Walker (one of the first doctors in the town), was a major cultural draw in the 'swinging sixties' with many famous bands performing there; at one point it became second only to the Barrowland Ballroom within Glasgow for music.



KILBIRNIE

Flax production and weaving were the main industries within the town before the 19th century; iron and steelmaking became the dominant industries throughout the 20th century. Like many other places in Scotland, the name Kilbirnie is found throughout the globe with a suburb in New Zealand's capital sharing its name.



DALRY

Dalry is a small town in the southern part of the Garnock Valley with a population of just over 5,000 people. It sits along the Rye Burn and just south of the town is the Lynn Falls; a magnificent natural waterfall.

Dalry has a strong history of myths and legends. For example; "a passageway at Cleeves Cove, the 'Elf Hame' – so called because Dalry locals believed that this was a site of potent faerie magic – is associated with the 16th century story of accused witch Bessie Dunlop, who was burned at the stake in 1576".



DALRY

Originally established as a weaving community which sewed and embroidered for the Paisley and Glasgow markets, Dalry was changed drastically in the 1840s with the arrival of coal mining. Iron works were prevalent throughout the town (such as the Ayrshire, Glengarnock, Eglinton and Blair) with clay bricks also manufactured and produced in the local area. A large chemical plant now operates in the town producing vitamins.



BEITH

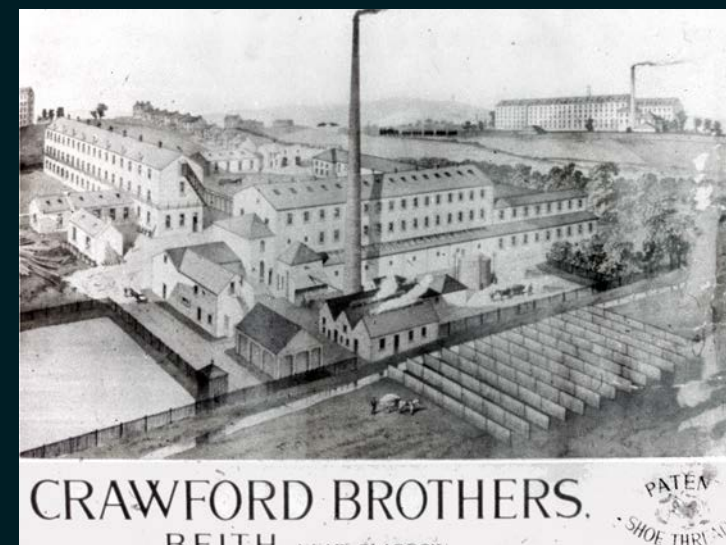
Beith is a small town in the north of the Garnock Valley around 20 miles from the city centre of Glasgow. It is found on the top of a hill which was originally known as the "Hill o' Beith".

The town was reportedly a home for smugglers in the 18th century and at that time the economy was built on the linen industry, in particular its production. It continued to develop as a manufacturing town - like others in the Garnock Valley - which specialised, and was best known for, its furniture making. The town has recently become a commuter settlement with the collapse of the furniture industry and other job opportunities being scarce within the town itself.



BEITH

Many listed buildings are found within the town itself with the remains of the Auld Kirk dating from the 1500's and the High Church being established in the early 1800's. Eglington Street has a variety of heritage buildings along it with two storey buildings dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The town has a football team which plays on a sloped pitch; *"always playing down the slope in the second half"*.



THEMES

As part of the engagement sessions six themes were developed to frame the responses sought from people. These are presented to the right.

As part of the engagement materials a number of inspiration projects were presented under each theme to inspire ideas from people during the engagement sessions and workshops.

HERITAGE

The Garnock Valley has a vast wealth of heritage ranging from bronze and iron age all the way through to the industries of its past. This is primarily represented by the existing conservation areas and architecture; but what happens to these buildings in the future? Especially those that are currently underused, vacant or derelict?

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Many activities for young and old are available throughout the region to help with peoples health and wellbeing. However, what can the Garnock Valley be doing better to help address both physical and mental health and wellbeing?

ART & CULTURE

Throughout the Garnock Valley there are small pockets of art, culture, design and creativity, with annual events bringing people from throughout the world. However, with such a wealth of heritage, how can the Garnock Valley create new festivals, artworks, events or other cultural activities?

ENVIRONMENT

From urban to rural and remote, the Garnock Valley has a host of unique environments that have shaped the landscape of the region. With environments changing across the globe because of climate change, how does the Garnock Valley address these changes?

GREENSPACES

The Garnock Valley has a wealth of parks, walking routes, forested areas and greenspaces. How can these spaces be made more accessible, safer and more informative? Can an interpretation strategy be employed throughout the whole of the area to tie all these sites together?

RECREATION

Within the Garnock Valley a number of sports clubs (football, rugby, etc) all sit at the heart of their respective towns and are passionately supported. How can a Future Garnock Valley make these spaces more accessible, more sustainable and more vibrant to engage more people?

PART 02:

ENGAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Between January and April 2023 Lateral North and Studio SJ+M Architects engaged with people throughout the Garnock Valley on the future of the region and what small, medium and large scale projects they would like to see developed by the community and, most importantly, for the community.

The engagement workshops have been extremely helpful in understanding the different towns, the challenges being faced, and the opportunities local people see for the Garnock Valley.

The outcome of this work is to develop a series of proposals and recommendations which voice the ideas of community groups, people and organisations, which could then potentially apply for funding from the Working Group - which this work was commissioned by - and other funding sources.

The projects and recommendations are presented towards the end of this presentation and are broken down into strategic, long-term, medium-term and short-term projects.



ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

A series of consultations and direct engagement with people, communities and organisations within the Garnock Valley have taken place throughout the region in January, February and March 2023. These workshops have focused around a set of colourful, bold and bright interpretation panels which present the following information:

- Information on the overall project, its aims and its ambitions
- A series of themes to begin conversations with people (i.e. Greenspaces and what people would like to see happen within the Garnock Valley in terms of these spaces)
- A history of each of the three towns (Dalry, Kilbirnie and Beith) with key buildings and listed structures identified on the maps of the towns
- A series of inspirational projects (of similar scale) which could be similarly developed for the Garnock Valley. These were developed per theme.
- An interpretation panel which people could contribute their ideas through colourful stickers of the same brand and identity

Further to this, an A4 questionnaire has been utilised when walking around the towns and engaging people one-to-one.



ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

Throughout the engagement period around 250 people have contributed or engaged with the project.

On average people have spent around 5 minutes talking to us with some people spending much longer (for example, two hours were spent with Dalry Community Sports Club). The workshops have been held across the Garnock Valley and were in the following locations:

- Garnock Valley Campus
- Kilbirnie Tesco
- Dalry Public Park
- Dalry Town Centre
- Beith Astro
- Geilsland Estate
- Dalry Primary School
- Beith Community Centre



COMMUNITY IDEAS

The engagement workshops have been extremely useful to understand the challenges, opportunities and solutions that local people see for the Garnock Valley as a whole as well as at their local level (i.e. in each town or village).

At a regional level the main idea and proposal to come out of the workshops is that there needs to be a strong, bold and engaging brand and identity for the Garnock Valley. This could take inspiration from Paisley Is, for example, and highlight why people would want to come to the Garnock Valley for heritage, outdoor activities, events or other opportunities. This brand and identity should then be translated on to physical interpretation (as an outdoor ecomuseum, for example) and digital interpretation (a website and social media, for example).

At a local level the main ideas focused around specific projects within each town ranging from community gardens and growing spaces to sports pitches and the regeneration of specific buildings within each town. Again, access to nature and greenspaces featured heavily as ideas that people wished to see taking forward. It was also noted that Beith and Dalry seem to be better resourced and have better ideas about where they wish to go (through community groups and volunteers) than Kilbirnie. Where possible, support for people and groups within Kilbirnie should be considered a potential priority if they have capacity to take on the ideas.



PART 03:

PROPOSALS

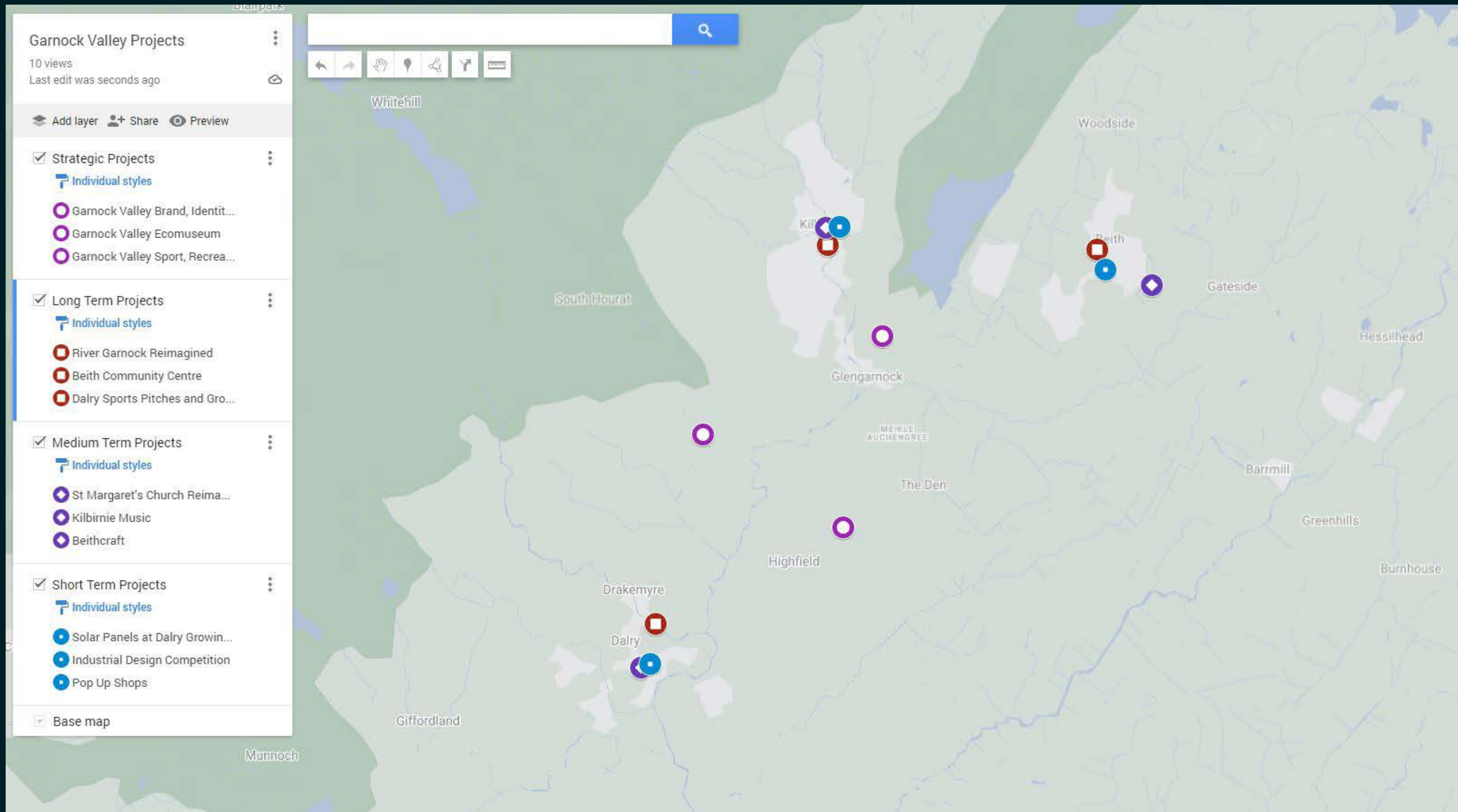
PROJECTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This document presents the work undertaken by Lateral North, in collaboration with Studio SJ+M Architects and the community of the Garnock Valley. The consultations undertaken to date have identified a series of key projects and recommendations which should be considered for funding by the Garnock Valley 2023 working group and other funding sources. These recommendations are broken down into the following categories:

1. Strategic Projects
2. Long-term Projects
3. Medium-term Projects
4. Short-term Projects

Each project is presented on a single page as part of this presentation with a timeline for each project contained within the next section.





MAP OF IDEAS

The map to the left shows the geographic spread of the projects throughout the Garnock Valley. The three strategic proposals are positioned randomly as they cover the whole of the Garnock Valley region.

STRATEGIC PROPOSALS

Porto.



GARNOCK VALLEY BRAND

To attract more people to the Garnock Valley a strong, bold and engaging brand and identity should be created. Porto (Portugal) has taken a key part of their industrial heritage - the tile - and developed it into an extremely appealing and engaging brand that is used throughout the city on public and private buildings, through digital promotions on websites or social media, and as part of permanent and temporary installations. The Garnock Valley should aspire to do something similar, to reflect on its past, while looking into the future and what YOU want the world to see as the best bits of the Garnock Valley. The creation of a unique brand and identity will feed into all the other projects.

GV ECOMUSEUM

Ecomuseums - a blend of outdoor and indoor interpretation - are becoming increasingly popular to encourage people to engage with nature, heritage and culture within a landscape rather than solely within a museum or gallery setting. The Garnock Valley - utilising a new brand and identity for the region - should commission a series of exterior interpretation panels to present parts of the area in the landscape itself.

Two examples are given below and to the right highlighting how these types of interpretation panels can tell the story of landscapes, heritage or cultural significant locations within the area. Visitors, and locals alike, should be encouraged to find these locations and find out about the past (links to industry and the forming of the towns), present (current walking routes and cultural / heritage features) and the future (how the Garnock Valley will be affected by changes to the climate, environment and its relationship with nature).





ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

The Garnock Valley has a wealth of walking and cycling routes, sports, and other active endeavours. As such, and to promote better health and wellbeing with the region, a series of studies should firstly be undertaken to identify how sport, recreation and active travel can enhance the region for locals and visitors alike.

These studies should also focus on how sport teams / activities themselves can be used to help promote a more healthy lifestyle, and also explore how these organisations can themselves be reimagined to become much more sustainable.





CULTURE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

To deliver all of the strategic, long term, medium term and short term projects a culture development officer should be appointed to act as the chief coordinator of all projects and to feedback into the working group / council / etc what is being developed and by whom.

It is suggested that this person is employed through an existing community focused organisation which has a strong history of delivery these types of projects and with the appropriate capacity.

LONG TERM PROJECTS

RIVER REIMAGINED

A series of design strategies should be proposed for the River Garnock, in particular where it meets the town of Kilbirnie. These strategies should explore everything from interpretation through to renewable energy artwork.

To the right is the Milan 'Energy Park' which creates unique artwork with an environmental and energy focused purpose, while below shows how interpretation could point towards an existing piece of the industrial heritage and tell the story of what this was previously used for (tying in with the Garnock Valley Ecomuseum proposal).





BEITH COMMUNITY CENTRE

Beith Community Centre requires a feasibility study to understand how it can be adapted, changed, modernised and become more connected to ensure it becomes a hub for the community of Beith. Thereafter it should be looked at for a potential community buy out and then redesigned by the local association to be a nodal point within the local community. The current two buildings need to be reconnected in some manner and this could be achieved by developing an overly extensive car park into something more focused towards the young people - and community as a whole - which the community centre serves. Introducing nature and play spaces can begin to achieve this.



GROWING DALRY

The Dalry Community Sports Club has a clear and thorough plan to develop the public park and adjoining greenspaces into a host of sports pitches, growing spaces and more.

The idea is already partially developed by the community group, however they do now need support to engage with the community and design a much more extensive plan of action for the space and how it can be utilised as a growing space, orchard, sports facility and a host of other activities.



MEDIUM TERM PROJECTS

ST MARGARETS CHURCH

Lying at the heart of Dalry - and currently proposed to be sold off as part of Church of Scotland's move to offload many of its churches throughout the country - St Margaret's Parish Church has the opportunity to be reimagined as a unique venue / space for future activities.

A feasibility study - with local engagement - should be undertaken to propose how this unique space can be repurposed for the benefit of local people and to ensure that the town centre has a nodal point for local, community-driven activity.

KILBIRNIE MUSIC

Through the community engagement workshops two unemployed musicians within Kilbirnie highlighted that they did not have anywhere that they could learn or play music.

As young people within the area these two musicians should be engaged with and support should be provided to them to help establish their art practice.

Precedent of how music can transform a community can be taken from Dumfries where DMC (Dumfries Music Conference) has had a fantastic influence on the cultural scene within the town and has done since 2016.

DMC
DUMFRIES MUSIC CONFERENCE





BEITHCRAFT

Building on the various spaces available within the Geilsland Estate, an exhibition of arts and crafts within the Garnock Valley should be presented, while local makers and fabricators should be provided with space and support to develop their ideas, outputs and other activities with a primary focus on the industry of the past, Beithcraft Furniture Makers.

Developing new furniture which can sit within the landscape or the buildings on the estate can engage with a Scotland-wide industry of bespoke furniture makers and engage local people in the process as part of an artist-in-residence programme.



SHORT TERM PROJECTS



SOLAR PANELS

The community growing space within Dalry requires two solar panels to help provide lighting to this, now, thriving space that is used by many local community groups for a variety of activities.

The addition of solar panels would allow for the space to be open longer during the autumn/winter months of the year and provide new opportunities for groups to engage with the space.

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

Working with the Stonyholm Mill Trust a series of design competitions should be launched with the aim of attracting architectural, graphic design and other forms of design proposals for the mill. This will help generate ideas - which the community can vote on - while also advertising the area at a much broader scale.

Subsequently, and to utilise vacant spaces within the town, an exhibition (see precedent below) should present these ideas to continue the discussion and generate a buzz of activity around what this - and other - significant heritage buildings within the area can be repurposed as.





POP UP SHOPS

A pop up shop should be reintroduced within Beith to offer spaces to local people, businesses and organisations to sell their products.

This space could also be used to advertise the Garnock Valley and become a small tourist information space, as well as the shop front itself being utilised as an advertisement board for local events and activities.

PART 04: **TIMELINES**

TIMELINES

Based on the above proposals a series of timelines have been proposed over the next pages which relate to the different types of project.



LATERAL NORTH																	
Garnock Valley - Proposal Timeline																	
	2023						2024										
Project and Activity	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
STRATEGIC PROPOSALS																	
Garnock Valley Brand																	
Development of brand design brief	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Appointment of consultant			█	█	█												
Development of brand strategy				█	█	█	█	█	█	█							
Implementation of brand strategy									█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Garnock Valley Ecomuseum																	
Development of ecomuseum brief	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Appointment of consultant					█	█	█	█									
Development of ecomuseum strategy						█	█	█	█	█	█	█					
Installation of interpretation / ecomuseum activity											█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Active Communities																	
Development of active communities brief	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Appointment of consultant			█	█	█	█	█										
Development of active communities strategy						█	█	█	█	█	█	█					
Implementation of active communities proposals									█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Culture Development Officer																	
Development of culture development officer brief	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Appointment of culture development officer		█	█	█													
Oversight of all projects bu culture development officer			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

Garnock Valley - Proposal Timeline																		
	2023						2024											
Project and Activity	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
LONG TERM PROJECTS																		
River Reimagined	[Project Overview Bar]																	
Concept Design	[Yellow Bar]																	
Design Development					[Yellow Bar]													
Implementation									[Yellow Bar]									
Next Stages																		[Yellow Bar]
Beith Community Centre	[Project Overview Bar]																	
Concept Design	[Yellow Bar]																	
Design Development					[Yellow Bar]													
Implementation									[Yellow Bar]									
Next Stages																		[Yellow Bar]
Growing Dalry	[Project Overview Bar]																	
Concept Design	[Yellow Bar]																	
Design Development					[Yellow Bar]													
Implementation									[Yellow Bar]									
Next Stages																		[Yellow Bar]

LATERAL NORTH																
Garnock Valley - Proposal Timeline																
Project and Activity	2023						2024									
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
MEDIUM TERM PROJECTS																
St Margarets Church	[Orange bar]															
Concept Design	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												
Design Development	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												
Implementation	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												
Next Stages	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												
Kilbirnie Music	[Orange bar]															
Concept Design	[Orange bar]															
Design Development	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												
Implementation	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												
Next Stages	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												
Beithcraft	[Orange bar]															
Concept Design	[Orange bar]															
Design Development	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												
Implementation	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												
Next Stages	[Yellow bar]			[Yellow bar]												

LATERAL NORTH										
Garnock Valley - Proposal Timeline										
2023										
Project and Activity	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	
SHORT TERM PROJECTS										
Solar Panels										
Design Development										
Implementation										
Industrial Design										
Design Development										
Implementation										
Pop Up Shops										
Design Development										
Implementation										

PART 05:
FUNDING PARTNERS

FUNDING PARTNERS

It is anticipated that additional funding partners will be required to deliver the majority of the above proposals; or for there to be different parts of the project funded up-front to secure additional funding (for example, engaging a consultant to deliver the brand/identity to secure additional funding for the ecomuseum etc will be extremely helpful).

Additional funding partners for the above proposals could include: Heritage Lottery Funding, Big Lottery, Creative Scotland, NatureScot, RSPB, Historic Environment Scotland, local businesses, Development Trust Association Scotland, Sport Scotland, various foundations, local authority funding and other funding sources.

In Kind support should also be considered as well as partnering with local organisations / community groups to deliver the projects.



**PART 06:
NEXT STEPS**

NEXT STEPS

Based on the above report it is suggested that the next step should be the appointment of a culture development officer to deliver the projects on behalf of the working group and council. The appointment of the brand, ecomuseum and active community consultants should then be the next step (it is likely those three strategic proposals could [and should] be delivered by one consultant to ensure consistency across the project).

Thereafter, the short term projects should be funded to ensure 'quick wins' before the process for the medium and long term projects begin. For the medium and long term projects it is likely additional funding will be required to deliver them. With this in mind, some of the budget for these two types of project should be allocated to fundraising / engaging with potential partners.



LATERAL NORTH

www.lateralnorth.com



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Update

September 2023

Dalry She-Shed – Dalry Community Sports Club are supporting the setup of a She-Shed within DCSC Sports Pavilion on a Tuesday between 10am – 2pm. A She Shed is where participants can make friends, participate in activities, share and learn new skills, or just pop in for a cuppa and a chat.

Lend an Ear Project - Geilsland Estate recently welcomed an exciting guest:- Emma Roddick, the Minister for Equality at the Scottish Government, when she paid a visit to Beith Community Development Trust. The purpose of her visit was to celebrate the successful renewal of funding for the Lend an Ear project. This three-year funding extension comes from the Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund 2023-26. During her visit, Emma met with Alison Berry of Beith Trust, lend an ear volunteers and service users, delving into the fundamental impact of the Lend an Ear project on the local community's battle against isolation and loneliness. During Emma's visit, participants engaged in conversations about the positive impact of the Lend an Ear project, how they became involved and their hopes for the future of the project and its reach. These discussions reinforced the notion that addressing loneliness requires not only financial investment, but also genuine human connection and support.

Dalry Men's Shed Bike Recycling Project – The Dalry Men's Shed was recently nominated for an award at the Scotland's Learning Partnership Awards. The ceremony took place on Tuesday 5th September at the City Chambers in Glasgow, where 6 shedders attended, alongside a representative from the Garnock Valley Locality Team. The Shed were very proud winners in their category. Huge congratulations! The project goes from strength to strength, with many people from both Ukrainian and Syrian communities requesting bikes. A waiting list has now been developed due to high demand.

Barrmill Mad Hatters Tea Party - 13 people attended a "Mad Hatters Tea Party" at Barrmill Community Centre. The event was to mark the conclusion of the Barrmill Warm Space events.

Holiday Meals – The Holiday Meals programme was delivered across the Garnock Valley during the month of July. Local children were able to enjoy a variety of free activities, socialise with friends, as well as access a free lunch. In total, 231 children were registered across three venues, with 1434 attendances recorded.

Take Time on The Road - Over 400 children, young people and their family took part in two Take Time on The Road events at Kilbirnie Park and Dalry Park during July and August. Local young people were able to enjoy a petting zoo, face painting, glitter, yoga, surf simulator and info stalls, as well as learn information about how to care for their own wellbeing.

Garnock Valley Youth Forum – Six young people from the Garnock Valley Youth Forum attended a weekend of outdoor fun at Arran Outdoor Education Centre, where they took part in activities like raft building and kayaking. During the weekend, they had the opportunity to meet and socialise with young people from the North Coast.



Locality update



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Update

September 2023

Café Solace - Dinner customer numbers continue at a steady 60-70 per week at Café Solace. In addition, they are regularly attracting between 20-36 customers at their lunch service. Café Solace have completed a sustainability review of the new lunch service on both attendance and cost. Although numbers are relatively low, in comparison to the volume of customers coming along at night, it is a different customer base. Income is also relatively low but is sufficient to cover their costs. They have therefore decided to continue with lunches in the longer term. This has, however, highlighted that a number of their volunteers are working for long hours on a Friday. Café Solace have therefore started a drive to attract new volunteers and held an information session on 28th August. This will hopefully allow them to schedule volunteers in on a rota basis.

Their kitchen garden is very slowly starting to take shape, with the assistance of a volunteer. Costs have also been estimated for the equipment and materials required and they will be submitting some funding applications over the next month to assist with costs. Café Solace provided the catering for the Health & Social Care Partnership Awards event in June, where Café Solace volunteers were finalists in the Community Superheroes category. Over the last quarter, they have engaged with Alcohol and Drug Partnership and met them in August to see how they can work more closely together and have also engaged with Children First. Café Solace were the guest speaker at a NAC frontline staff event in June, where their session on the work of Café Solace was very well received.

Coffee Solace - "Coffee Solace," run by Café Solace in partnership with Developing the Young Workforce (DYW), was launched on Friday 11th August at Bridgend Community Centre. Volunteers at Café Solace and local young people now have their Barista training and have capacity to serve speciality coffees at events and within Café Solace.

Participatory Budgeting - 16 people attended a Garnock Valley launch event in Bridgend Community Centre on Thursday 31st August. The application process is underway and will close on Sunday 17th September, with voting commencing on 13th October.

Highlights



Moving around
(Public transport,
traffic and parking)

Bike Recycling – The project at Dalry Men's Shed continues to go well, with over 60 bikes now having been recycled and donated to those in need locally. Men's Shed Dalry Bike Recycling project was selected as a finalist in this year's Scottish Adult Learning Awards and attended a ceremony at Glasgow City Chambers on the 5th September, where the group were very deserving winners.

Health Walks – Three members of the Garnock Valley Health Walks group have now been trained as Walk Leaders with Paths for All. Following a period of experiential training on the job, the Garnock Valley Health Walks group will have the capacity to be self-supporting and will be led by participants.

Skirt the Skeith Kid's Fun Run – Dalry Community Sports Club organised alongside the annual 12.5k Skirt the Skeith Adults Run, the very first run for children, which was



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Community Planning Partnership

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approx. 1 mile within Dalry Public Park. This was a great success, where every participant got a medal and a goodie bag. There are now plans to make this an annual event.

Highlights

Countryside Rangers – A bat walk took place on 18th August at Lochshore, with another planned for the 8th September as part of the Walking Festival at Spier's Old School Grounds and at Geilsland. An Autumnal Amble is planned at Lochshore on the 19th October. The Locality Ranger also led a nurture group from Garnock Community Campus through their John Muir Award, including a host of activities such as birdwatching, litter picking, responsible fire-building, identifying animal tracks and trails (and making plaster casts of the tracks). This will help foster a good relationship between the young people and their local greenspace (and nature in general). They have started up again this year and the Ranger is hoping to work with them, to help them gain the next level of award.

Judo club for New Scots – In partnership with The Loretta Doyle Judo Foundation, weekly Judo lessons have progressed to a fully recognised National Award by Judo Scotland. All 19 children and young people aged from 5-17 years have achieved their first belt gradings appropriate to their age and stage. Active Schools and KA Leisure have supported with premise hire and storage of mats (free of any cost). Children have been learning to speak Japanese within lessons (within the context of Judo). All children have excelled in the fundamental principles of judo: respect, courtesy, honesty, modesty, self-control, courage and honour. Children have expressed how much they have enjoyed the classes and work is now underway to extend this to development of a Judo Scotland affiliated club based in the Garnock Valley. All lessons, gradings, kit, insurances are provided free by the charity, which enables attendance given the families are on low income. There was a celebratory event with Olympian and Commonwealth Gold champion Sarah Adlington and Chief Executive of Judo Scotland Judith McCleary, to award certificates and to see a demonstration of skills by the children and young people. Family members attended and welcomed their children's achievements.

Salvation Army - Community cooking classes started in partnership with Radio City Association. These have been well received and something they are hoping to secure more funding for. Their community meals continue to be popular and numbers are increasing over the Tues, Wed, Thurs evenings. The Wednesday night social club remains popular and is open to anyone within the area. They are about to begin recruiting for volunteers for the hub at George Steven Centre, with roles including gardening, driving and activity support. Adverts will be published in due course.

Activities for young people – A programme of activities and groups for young people in the Garnock Valley will soon commence for the autumn session. Delivered by the Locality CLD Team, this includes a S1 post transition group in Beith (in partnership with Beith Community Association), The Garnock Valley Youth forum, partnership group with KA Leisure, Parklives, and after school transition groups.

Garnock Valley LP Pg 67



Facilities and amenities



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Update

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New Scots Summer Holiday Art Club - A local artist was invited to run a 4-week art class for 10–17-year-olds in the Garnock Valley. Using a local community centre as a base, this class was based on a group of young people within the Garnock Valley, who showed an interest in art. A variety of mediums/styles were used including pen and line drawing, colour mixing/shading, working with acrylics and watercolours, willow weaving and keyring/badge making. The young people gave good feedback and the artist was very adaptive to their needs and interests. The possibility of an on-going weekly art session has been discussed, which will develop skills during term time. Two of the young people are studying art in school and would welcome support in developing their portfolios for both standard and higher grades. Expression through these arts is enhancing mental well-being, improving skills, developing friendships and confidence and continuing to develop their English-speaking skills.

Highlights

Parklives – Dalry Community Sports Club, in partnership with KA Leisure and the Garnock Valley Locality Team, continue to run the Parklives project at the sports pavilion at Dalry Public Park every Friday. Children and young people can enjoy a number of fun activities, and all that attend can have some refreshments and something to eat – all free of charge.

Radio City Association – RCA are supporting the Garnock Valley residents to prepare for winter. An event highlighting support available will be taking place on Friday 29th September at Beith Community Centre.

Garnock Valley Allotments - The Garnock Valley Allotment Association have donated potatoes, turnips, cucumber, lettuce, carrots, parsley and onions to The Wee School Pantry, enabling the fresh produce to go to help families and also reduce any waste.

Multiply Project - The Multiply Team have used the summer period to promote and increase the visibility of the project. Their summer outreach programme has included attendance at Take Time on The Road in Irvine, Largs, Three Towns, Kilwinning, Garnock Valley and Springside. At these events, their staff have interacted with around 1500 residents of North Ayrshire. They have had interest in the service from several potential learners and following these events, they have had a further 6 learners signed up through self-referral for numeracy/literacy support.

Dalry Community Sports Club Summer Camps - A free summer sports camp was provided in partnership with North Ayrshire Active Schools, using DCSC Sports Pavilion in Dalry Public Park. It took place between 18-20 August, with 50 participants attending over the 3 days. This provided children and families with outdoor games and various sports and a light lunch was provided for the participants at the end of each session. Dalry Community Sports Club also worked in partnership to offer a free summer sport's funday for children and families in the gym hall in Dalry Primary School on 9th and 10th August, with 30 participants over the 2 days, giving all children an opportunity to try various sports & activities. A few community information representatives were attending to offer families information on energy savings and help and also health and safety information.



Work and the
local community



North Ayrshire
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DCSC have been so encouraged by the attendance and participation in these events that they plan to organise more, including doing pop up days, using the sports pavilion at Dalry Public Park. Here, they aim to bring back the basics in fun games and activities with the introduction of old school sports games including tug of war, egg & spoon race, sack race, 3 leg races, rounders, dodge ball, mini assault course, kids' archery, short tennis and basketball.

Dalry By-Pass Art – During July of this year, their Town Heritage books based on the large heritage board at Dalry Cross was published and made available in local shops. The books were well received locally and copies were requested and sent to Canada, USA and Australia. In August, their community recital of John Hodgart's Hilltap Toon became available on YouTube. If you are interested, please search for Dalry Bypass Art to view. Finally, planning is now underway for the mural at the Old Men's Shelter next to Merksworth Park, Dalry.

Brass Band Concert - The Barrmill Jolly Beggars are once again hosting a brass band concert in Geilsland Hall, Beith. This will take place on Sunday 1 October at 2pm. They are delighted to welcome back the Irvine and Dreghorn Band, currently the Scottish champions. They will be joined by a group of young people from Beith Theatre Group. Tickets are £7 from Cllr Donald L Reid. Refreshments provided at the interval. A warm friendly welcome awaits.

Christmas Concert - Barrmill JBBC will also welcome Garnock Valley Concert Band and the joint choirs of Beith Primary and Gateside Primary to a concert in Geilsland Hall, Beith on Sunday 10 December. As you might expect, this is a Christmas themed concert. Tickets are £7 and refreshments will be provided at the interval. Tickets £7 from Cllr Donald L Reid.

Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs - Barrmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club hosted the quarterly meeting of the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs on Thursday 10 August 2023 in Beith. 26 Delegates from Burns Clubs across Ayrshire attended. After a productive meeting, they all enjoyed first class hospitality from the Jolly Beggars.

Community benefit wish list – Over the last quarter, two wishes were delivered in the Garnock Valley. This provided office furniture for Radio City Association and PPE for Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue. If you would like to request a community benefit wish, please contact Christina for more detail.

Next steps

The combined locality partnership working group will next meet on Wednesday 4th October at 7pm. Anyone with an interest is welcome to attend and get involved. Please contact Christina for further information.

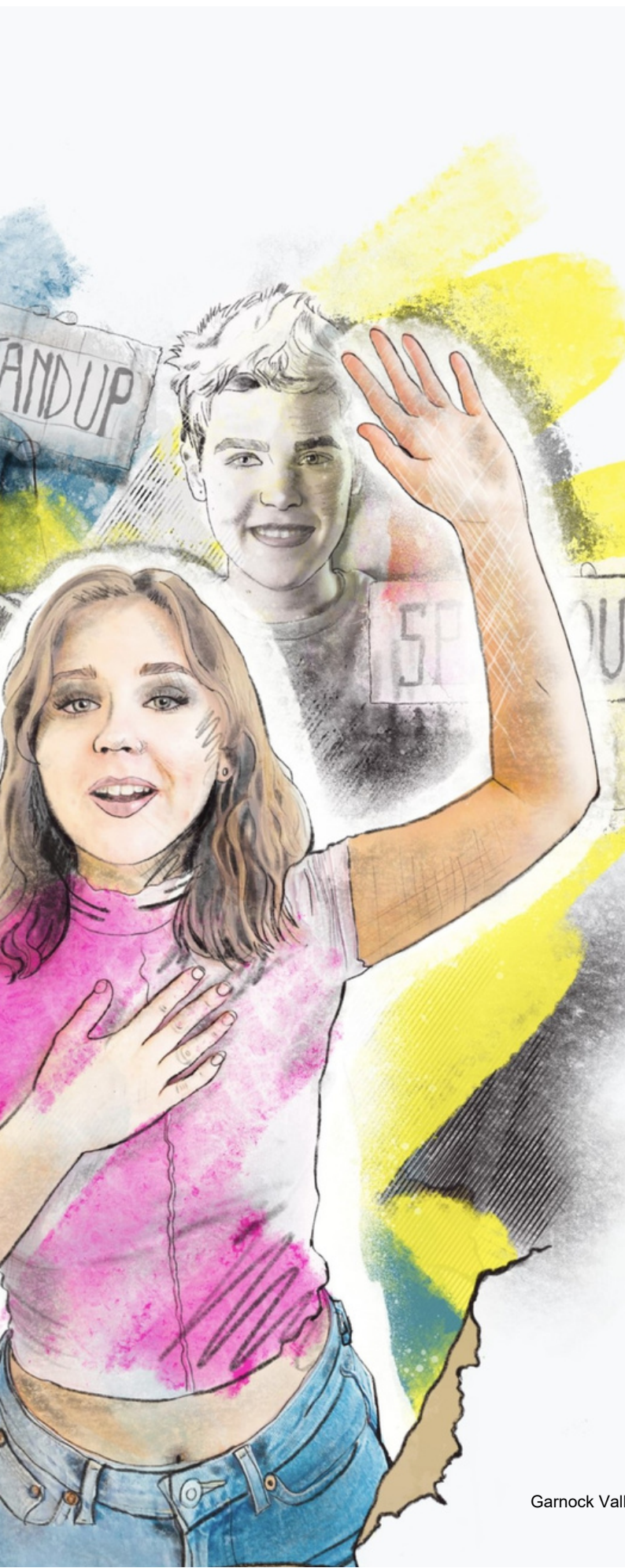
For further information contact:
Christina Pieraccini - Locality Officer
cpieraccini@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



**NORTH AYRSHIRE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES
NORTH AYRSHIRE WIDE YOUTH WORK**

QUARTERLY UPDATE

AUGUST 2023 - DONNA ANDERSON
DANDERSON@NORTH-AYRSHIRE.GOV.UK
Garnock Valley LP Pg 70



THIS QUARTERLY REPORT FOCUSSES ON THE YOUTH WORK PRIORITIES OUTLINED IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN THAT TIES INTO NORTH AYRSHIRE LOCALITY PRIORITIES.

Youth Work is an educational practice contributing to young people's learning and development. Youth work engages with young people within their communities; it acknowledges the wider networks of peers, community and culture; it supports the young person to realise their potential and to address life's challenges critically and creatively and it takes account of all strands of diversity.

North Ayrshire key priorities:

- Positive Destinations for 16-19 year olds
- Attainment and Wider Achievement
- Health and Wellbeing
- Young Peoples' Voice and Rights
- Climate Change
- Poverty and Inequality
- Digital Connectivity

Joint Cabinet

From the most recent Joint Cabinet that took place in May with 110 young people discussing 6 key topics the data has been collated and action plan has been created.

Some of the key data that came back from young people were as follows:

Climate Change and Sustainability

Young people engaged in conversations around Climate change with decision makers around 3 key points, this included creating a Climate Change Time Capsule, how the councils Climate Change Steering Group can guide young people to choose low-carbon travel in the future and how we can help to remove barriers to include and implement initiatives or projects for young people in relation to Climate Change.

Some key comments included:

- We want to see more bee-keepers in localities
- Less plastic packaging and paper alternatives (water bottles, mail packaging etc)
- To have more recycling resources in schools to get people to do it more as they only can recycle paper and having different types of bins in school around the play ground for different litter
- I want there to be more cycle paths in the future so people can cycle instead, including more cycle paths. With more schools having more bike maintenance areas and classes within schools
- More education around waste and more facilities
- Have how to grow your own food projects
- More frequent bus services so people are not using cars and taxi's as often
- Have bike pick up stations like Glasgow so people can rent bikes

UNCRC

Engaging with pupils on UNCRC we focussed on young peoples rights as protected by UNCRC, and how we as gatekeepers to these rights can help protect and uphold them on their behalf when they are not able to do this for themselves.

Young people fed back:

- Some young people feel there is stigma surrounding expressing concerns for their rights
- More education on what UNCRC rights are for adults to learn if young person approaches to express concerns including social media campaigns and presentations
- Action group for young people which the council consult and creating childrens rights ambassadors.
- More events to share the views of young people such as Joint Cabinet.



Opportunities and activities for young people

We asked young people what they wanted to see in North Ayrshire and their local communities to make North Ayrshire the best place to grow up in, wither this is things to do socially, groups to be involved in, how they can get involved in volunteering and what we need to do to help and support young people here in North Ayrshire.

Young people responded:

- More info and recruitment on youth forums
- Transport for going to clubs and activities and wider bus service particularly in Arran
- We don't know enough about charities or volunteering opportunities, the council should play a role in accessing volunteering opportunities - they could do more to support young people access third sector orgs.
- A website or App for young people locally
- Give incentive to join and volunteer like awards and achievements.
- More tasters for young people to see what they want to do for work

Inequalities

When thinking about various inequalities we asked young people what a community means to them, this could be the area they live, their school community or a community of interest like a local team or interest that they are involved in. Focussing on racism, sectarianism and bullying.

Responses included:

- It should be more in schools and in the curriculum with school staff calling out challenging behaviours
- Talking about people experiences of inequalities to show the impact it can have
- Education the elder generations, to help them understand the racism isn't excepted anymore
- Learn how to report hate comments about racism as a hate crime
- Having access to information and a safe space about where to seek support for bullying that maybe online based and having antibullying ambassadors within schools
- Having access to anonymous online chat with teachers

Health and Wellbeing

Health in its widest sense including mental health and wellbeing is a big topic for young people, and we created three key questions to put to young people about local support, during the pre consultation the concerns about smoking and vaping came up on a number of occasions and we wanted to get feedback on how we can help and support young people in North Ayrshire.

Young people told us:

- Talk more about the effects of vaping, smoking and alcohol misuse in schools and communities - It is seen as the better smoking but there is lot that people don't know and need educated on
- Stop younger people from buying them stricter ID checks and targeting the shops allowing people underage to buy vapes
- People vaping in toilets in school causing worry to others and creating antisocial behaviour
- People vape because of peer pressure



A full report is available on the feedback from young people and a detailed action plan to create changes and provide feedback for the young people involved.

Members of Scottish Youth Parliament - Recruitment

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) is the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people. Held every two years, the next SYP elections will take place in November 2023

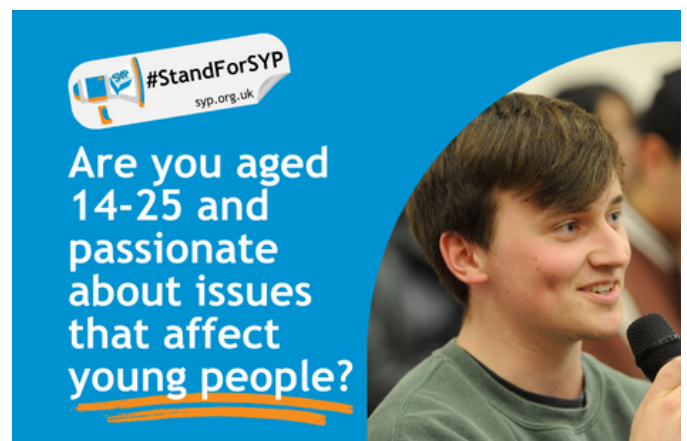
People aged 14-25 can stand for election as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) as one of four MSYPs in North Ayrshire for a 2 year term.

The upcoming elections allows young people to vote for their preferred candidate, giving MSYPs their democratic mandate to represent the views of North Ayrshires young people locally and nationally.

MSYPs have a crucial role to play in Scottish public life, from representing young people across the country to running impactful campaigns. Becoming an MSYP is a life changing experience whilst improving the lives of Scotland's young people, learning new skills, and meeting other inspiring young people. They will become leaders, gain confidence, receive excellent training, and much more.

SYP believes young people's voices matter, and we are committed to ensuring candidates can realise their right to be heard.

Currently we have 12 candidates that are wanting to stand so far, but encourage more young people to register their interest until noon on Friday 8 September 2023 to start their candidate journey supported by the youth work team. If young people want to register as a candidate they can do so here: www.syp.org.uk/elections



Scan the QR Code to register interest

Find out more and register at syp.org.uk/elections

Participatory Budgeting

'PB' is a way for young people to decide how local funds are spent choosing which projects get a share of the allocated money in each locality. A bi-annual source of community funding given directly from North Ayrshire Council to communities in need of a financial boost to realise their ambitions with a sum of £198,377 overall, this year's fund is split into three different categories, running simultaneously – Youth PB, Locality PB and funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – a UK Government funding stream helping to boost pride and prosperity across all localities.

We are welcoming applications from all eligible North Ayrshire youth and adult community organisations and will deal with each application individually and on its own merits. And, we do of course encourage those who have already benefited in previous rounds to come back again this time round with new ideas. Everyone is welcome, we simply want to ensure that no one is left behind.

This years Youth PB Theme are:

- Health & Wellbeing
- Young People's Voice and Rights
- Cost of living
- Green projects

For more information on PB and once groups are ready to apply, they simply complete their application to one of the relevant funding streams (Youth PB, Locality PB or Shared Prosperity Fund) at: <https://northayrshire.communitychoices.scot/> Applications must be submitted with 11th September.

Participatory Budgeting



Ideas are generated about how a budget should be spent



People vote for their priorities



The projects with the most votes gets funded

ParticipatoryBudgeting@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Climate Change Ambassadors



NORTH AYRSHIRE CLIMATE CHANGE AMBASSADORS

Do you care about the environment?

Do you want to learn new skills?

Do you want to make a positive impact?

Join the Climate Change Ambassadors. Meet new people and have fun while you help the local environment, wildlife and your community.

A group of 12 ambassadors continue to work on a range of activities, opportunities, signposting and events around climate change and sustainability.

The group are working to create a Climate Change Time Capsule, along with tree planting. The aim is to include items to look back on in 20 years on to see how much change young people have been able to achieve in relation to green initiatives, climate change and sustainability in North Ayrshire.

The group have consulted with over 200 young people on what should be included in this with feedback telling us their hopes and aspirations for the future including:

- We want to see more electrical cars and have them go down in price so they are accessible and easy to buy
- More education on the changes that they can make by coming into schools
- Increased recycling opportunities
- Access to green travel options including more cycle paths
- Better access to public transport to reduce car travel

The young peoples feedback is reported to the North Ayrshire Council Climate Change Steering Group which helps to shape policies and work surrounding the North Ayrshire Climate Change agenda.

The group are working on their time capsule project, attending local enquiries and are in the process of recruiting new group members.

Youth Work Modern Apprenticeship Programme



The modern apprenticeship programme continues to develop and grow, and we are pleased to announce that we have an additional five youth work apprentices joining the team in August/ September 2023. They will join our existing team of six MA's, where they will build relationships with each other and take up peer education opportunities in relation to their qualification.

Throughout the programme we ensure that MA's are nurtured and encouraged to take on new learning opportunities. Candidates will often find new training courses or discover personal development needs as their knowledge and skills grow.

A recent example of this was one of our MA's who has an interest in conservation had sourced a volunteering opportunity in Ecuador. The role was in animal rehabilitation & rainforest conservation with an organisation called Merazonia and would last for four weeks.

This was an excellent chance for the young person to develop both personally and professionally and we would support the candidate where possible. To support the MA we agreed that part of the time away could be considered as research for their youth work role. The candidate agreed that they would gather photos and maintain a diary so they could create and deliver a presentation to young people about the experience, outlining the application process, the requirements and feedback about the experience in general.



This experience will be used to inform and encourage other young people to consider international volunteering opportunities.

Working with our New Scots

This summer Ukrainian and Syrian young people attended Youthbeatz festival in Dumfries. As well as enjoying the festival it was an opportunity to practice photography skills.



Syrian and Ukrainian young women attended a residential with Arran Outdoor Centre in July where they tried kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, climbing, gorge walking and fire building. Among the staff on the residential was Mariana who had been a member of the swans group. Most of the girls had never been in a river or the sea before but they bravely jumped in.

"I don't want to brag", but the trip was awesome" Liz Mattieo

"We went to Arran trip, we love the trip and the people there are very friendly. We done a lot of amazing activities. The weather was not bad but we wanted to stay more and have more and more fun. I need to tell the people there helping us and doing fun things with us thank you so much"
Lana Hajeh

Over the summer young Ukrainians and local scots have been working on a peer-led film making project. The film is still underway and will be shown at the end of the year. The film story and script was written by the Ukrainian young people. Some Syrian young people joined the group and together they have been acting, filming, editing and learning sound technique.

The Swans football team has welcomed new members from the Syrian and Ukrainian community. They practice every week at Kilwinning sports club and have the benefit of 2 female coaches.

The Multiply Project

As part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) North Ayrshire Council have secured funding to deliver the Multiply Project.

This project aims to boost people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work targeting learners who are 19+ that have not previously attained a level 2 SCQF, level 5 or higher maths qualification.

The Multiply team have used summer 2023 to promote and increase visibility for our project. Our summer outreach programme has included attendance at Take Time on The Road in Irvine, Largs, Three Towns, Kilwinning, Garnock Valley and Springside. At these events our staff have interacted with around 1500 residents of North Ayrshire at our information stall.

We have had interest in the service from several potential learners, who have given feedback to Take Time organisers that Multiply would benefit them in some form. We have a further 6 learners signed up through self-referral for numeracy/literacy support.



As the project is still in its early stages these outreach events have been vital with regard to planning and providing intuitive, meaningful supports to families across North Ayrshire. The initial contact we have made with many young parents/carers under the age of 25 – many of whom have indicated they would access numeracy/literacy support - has led us to designing and planning after school homework clubs and Multiply drop in groups that will run in conjunction with schools. Our partners at CHAP have requested our support in delivering their primary 7/parents' sessions which introduces young people to the world of everyday finance and budgeting.

Most importantly our summer outreach has allowed us to interact with young people in the authority, which will assist with the removal of the barriers and stigma that can be attached to numeracy and literacy.

Cost Of Living - The School Day

The Cost of the School Day work has been focussed and two separate groups. Initially to professionals that work with young people across North Ayrshire and secondly to young people from both primary and secondary across North Ayrshire.



The initial concept came from consultation during Year of the Young People in North Ayrshire where our legacy plan highlighted cost of the school day and child poverty as a key priority for our young people focussing on the following key areas:

- Access to food (during the school day and holidays and weekends)
- The cost of school transport to and from schools and for extracurricular activities
- The costs of school trips and visits
- The costs of school uniforms
- The costs of materials needed for going to school.

As one of the key priorities within our rights-based CLD Strategic Plan, it's especially pertinent in North Ayrshire, with the second-highest concentration of multiple deprivation in Scotland, with greater risk of key groups of young people in North Ayrshire living in poverty. Therefore, the work that we carry out around child poverty is essential. Our method of 'by young people, for young people' is embedded in our work and our Youth Participation Strategy with young people coming on journeys of change with us.

Young people lead on discussions around Child Poverty, shaping policy and practice for North Ayrshire Council and partners, they are involved in all initiatives that have come from the data in a co design, production and delivery model. This work shows visible changes to lowering the cost of the school day for young people and their families.

The work that we carry out is in partnership with our education colleagues, the creation of this joint piece of work allows us to plan, alongside our young people, in delivering events, activities, creating feedback loops and disseminating information to our young people and their parents.

Young people are empowered to speak truth to power, support and challenge officials and decision-makers as duty bearers and to ensure young people voice is respected and acted on in relation to Child Poverty

This work has been ongoing since the start of 2022 and is ongoing as we continue to consult and engage with our young people, which allows us to shape the services and policy changes based on what young people tell us. Young people are involved in any changes to service delivery, new models of engagement and shaping policies for North Ayrshire and its partners. Changes due to the engagement and involvement of young people:

- Non branded uniforms policy has been implemented across all of our schools
- Policy on no gifts for teachers
- Increase in breakfast clubs and swap shops in schools and communities.
- Family learning providing opportunities for extracurricular across schools
- Increase in homework clubs
- Increased uptake and use of the transport for U22 scheme
- Healthy snacks free of charge in all primaries through PEF funding
- Access to digital materials for all pupils
- Holiday meals provisions – over 11,000 young people accessed this over the summer period 2023.
- Joint working across CLD and Education has allowed us to engage more young people and children in activities, opportunities and feedback – the commitment to young peoples active participation around voice and rights is increased across schools.
- Youth led PB process and community PB has a key theme of poverty and inequality to support local groups and initiatives in delivering activities and support for young people around child poverty and cost of living.



Going forward we will continue to engage and consult with young people – with a future conference to link in with learners voice which will take place in November 2023 allowing us to check where we are and where we need to go next to continue to tackle child poverty (we are currently writing our learners voice strategy that will compliment the Participation strategy with education). We will link Child Poverty to learner and youth participation with actions taken forward within the context of learners voice.

Child poverty will continue to feature across all of our platforms from Locality priorities, our CLD Plan, youth work key priorities and youth participation work. Whilst the Pupil Equity Fund will focus on child poverty and mitigate the effects of this for our children, young people and families.

Take Time Families

To establish good understanding of Mental Health and Wellbeing between parent/carers and primary aged children Take Time Families promotes early emotional awareness and resilience.

Linking caregivers and children in a primary aged setting where we work with caregiver and children addressing anxiety, further emotions and resilience, This programme offers parents time for open discussion based activities for themselves before being joined by the child to carry out activities linking into areas that will support healthy mental health and wellbeing for both, the hope is to build positive social, emotional, behaviour, thinking and communication skills within both the caregiver and child to become more resilient in the future with a mutual respect to each other's mental health and wellbeing. Supporting households with tools to develop personalised action plans to gain confidence in managing their family's mental health.

This builds positive social, emotional, behaviour, thinking and communication skills within both the caregiver and child to become more resilient in the future with a mutual respect to each other's mental health and wellbeing. This programme has moved from a school setting to a community setting to increase inclusiveness within targeted localities.



This programme has found success and has a group of core members keen to keep this group consistently running, in the past year we were successful in receiving participatory budget funding and due to this we are able to take the group on a summer trip to a Farm Park and purchase more resources and look at training opportunities for our parents. Before the summer break parents and children have been giving feedback on the journey with the group so far.

We have had some amazing Outcomes in this group. We have a family that attends where the parents are separated, this family come along each week to help themselves communicate better with each other as well as their young person dad travels from Inverness or Glasgow each week to make our group as he has been so happy with the outcomes that he has seen within the family.

Other great outcomes we have had is our families where there is separation anxiety issues from the parents the young people now look forward to the weekly group for the friendships and the activities they might never have tried without our parent/child combined approach to learning and mental health and wellbeing .



"This group takes into account not only my mental health but my daughters, she reacts positively to her surroundings when we are at group." Separated Dad with daughter

"The people Vicki and Sarah bring to group who provide information on First Aid and NAC Multiply were very helpful, useful skills provided to take away from the workshop. Group provides fun art activities/ideas and suggestions to try at home and helps children express their feeling through art. The social aspect of group is great for our kids". Separated Mum with daughter

"My son wasn't happy at school when we first started coming to this group, but now his worry box is empty as he tells me he no longer has any. Coming to this group has given me lots of information and coping strategies to deal with situations. Mum with son and daughter suffering separation anxiety."

Mini Ambassadors Programme – Bounce Back Peer Support Programme

The Mini Ambassador programme surrounding mental health and wellbeing for North Ayrshire Bee You mental health ambassadors to deliver to primary 6/7 school aged young people and becoming mini bee you ambassadors for their primary school.

It ensure clear current reliable information is integrated into hour long workshops that is easily delivered and understood with 'the by young people, for young people' with our secondary Bee You Ambassadors young people to confidently able to deliver the programme.

This programme is 6 1-hour sessions delivered by Bee You Ambassadors who are a group of young people. The programme is delivered to groups of P6/P7 with the idea of these young people becoming Bee You Ambassadors for their primary school, how schools wish to continue this would be up to them, we help support the young people moving forward in their new roles. The topics covered in these sessions include What is Mental Health, Resilience, Social Networks, Friendships, Making Decisions and Self Care.

This programme has been so far successfully delivered to multiple schools across North Ayrshire. The programme allows the ambassadors who are all aged between 16 and 21 the chance to share valuable information with young people aged around 10-12. The programme is designed to support all of the young people involved and their resilience. The Ambassadors all have completed Mental Health First Aid and/or the Mental Health UKs Your Resilience programme so in delivering what they have learned only reaffirms the learning that these young people have already had further increasing their resilience and confidence.



"It made a big change to me, I like knowing that people may come to me for help, I'm not nervous, I'm fine with it now I can help". Age 11

"This programme has opened up conversations within the school about Mental Health and Wellbeing and an exciting opportunity for Castlepark primary to have our own Mental Health Ambassadors. This has been a positive impact on the school and promoting positive wellbeing. The team that delivered the programme were fun, engaging and built fantastic relationships with the Pupils." Miss Burton

LGBTQI+

Young people who attend the group, want to be proactive in their local community, to ensure that all young people are all equal - not only those who are protected by the characteristics but allies of these young people too. Following on from the equality's forum, the young people were invited over to Arran Pride to walk in the parade and hold a stall to support the event.

Working in partnership with Arran Outdoor Education Centre, we were able to give the young people attending respite for the evening and supported some development sessions to help bond the group together. Spending the night in Arran Outdoor Education Centre, we were able to prepare for Arran Pride and work together for some team building activities whilst being supported by staff.



Our teams aim of the day was to make sure we had a welcoming stall that people wanted to spend time at but had the purpose of giving relevant information, support and guidance to those who needed it for themselves or someone important to them and that the young people could fully be themselves and feel supported doing so whilst connect with each other.

Overall the day was a huge success and this was made clear by the numbers on the day, the photos and the feedback. The amount of information and signposting that was made available to the public because of the huge range of partners was incredible and was very well received by all who attended, also the staff had a chance to gather relevant information and learn more about other supports available.

The Equalities Forum brought along 20 young people from across our six localities to have the opportunity to join in the celebrations and spread a message of kindness and acceptance for all LGBTQ+ people across North Ayrshire.

Equalities

The Equalities Forum was established as an inclusion project for 12 – 18 year olds. Young people who attend the group, want to be proactive in their local community, to ensure that all young people are all equal - not only those who are protected by the characteristics but allies of these young people too. To lift and empower each other and raise the voices of young people who may be a part of this group or represent these characteristics.

The project is guided by the young people's needs and wants, in a hope to speak truth to power and empower our young people to make positive change within their communities in a safe and nurturing environment. Meeting by monthly the group have been able to prioritise projects they would like to develop moving forward.

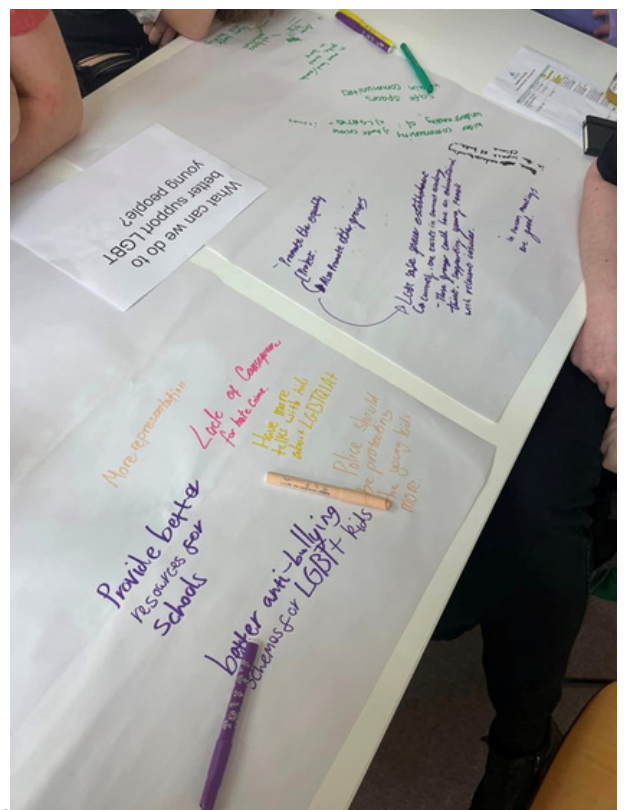
It is part of North Ayrshire's Youth Participation Strategy and supports UNCRC, which ensures that all children's rights are respected, heard and actioned. The project group has been established to support key groups of young people/ protected characteristics :

LGBT+ – a group of local LGBTQ+ members aged 12-18 from Irvine and beyond, looking to make friends in the area

ASN – young people living/studying in North Ayrshire with additional support needs

Young Carers – helping with information, support and advice for carers aged 12 – 18 in partnership with North Ayrshire Carers Centre

"I am really passionate about contributing to 'The Equalities Project' and enjoyed the chance to get involved in the group. By meeting up with other people like me and listening to their experiences via local LGBTQ+ groups, I feel like I have a good knowledge and understanding to speak on their behalf and highlight the types of inequalities we as a community can face. I'm really grateful for North Ayrshire Youth Services who are taking the time to create a safe space where we can hopefully really make a difference not just for the LGBTQ+ Youth and other minority groups, but for all young people. I look forward to seeing what changes we will make together to make North Ayrshire a more inclusive place to grown up in and realise our full potential."



Drama for Wellbeing

Creating a summer programme that used the power of drama therapy to connect young people, allowing them to express themselves whilst addressing issues surrounding Mental Health and Wellbeing.

This group brought young people together to create scripts and express themselves through drama approaching subjects and themes as Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Learning and Friendships, creating a space for young people to use drama as an outlet to address issues affecting our young people. Supported by youth work staff, a drama tutor and a singing coach, this space was about inclusiveness, trying new things and creating lasting messages with our young people.

2 groups were established, one primary and one secondary, resulting in 30 young people completing this 7 week summer programme. With having secured the Harbour Arts Centre as the hosting venue we were lucky enough to have studio and theatre space to give the young people a truly memorable experience.



Focussing on improv games, mini plays and confidence building with the Secondary aged group working on drama delivery and discussed how to bring their experiences in to personalise their showcase. These scripts were based on different issues that may be experienced in primary schools but with the message of a positive ending. The secondary aged group had been tasked with looking at their personal spaces and had started blocking and staging for their own plays.

The hour long showcase started with the juniors running their scripts followed by the song True Colours, after came the seniors who delivered a very memorable play called 'Brainstorm' which was developed from their own experiences, finishing with the song Unwritten. This was performed for parents, caregivers and invited guests such as service heads and elected members from the community.

This programme was very successfully received from parents and young people alike. The feedback from the hard hitting, real and emotional showcase viewing was fantastic and this programme seemed to have a lasting impression on our young people taking part and those who were fortunate enough to view this unique showcase.

Students:

"I think we were given a lot of freedom to decide what we wanted to do and speak about things that are important to us, I felt more confident and enjoyed helping the younger kids learn new things." Age 10

"I loved the drama games and being brought out my comfort zone as I'm very shy." Age 7

"I loved drawing and playing games, acting out our plays and watching other act out their parts, I loved going every week the teachers were all really nice, I can't wait for mum and dad to see our show." Age 9

"I enjoyed getting to work with new people and push my performance skills, it really made me work hard, getting the chance to learn something off by heart." Age 12

"I enjoyed everything, I liked writing my own script and taking part in acting, being part of this programme has impacted me personally to think about myself more." Age 15

"I Loved being part of a show and making new friends, I feel more confident and out my shell." Age 5



Parents:

"My daughter loved coming to drama every Friday and would wake up very excited, this has brought her confidence out more. Very happy and proud to see her shine.

A happy girl every week, I enjoyed listening to her lines and practicing her song. She has grown in confidence. Thank You!"

Take Time on the Road

The take time campaign was started in 2021 this summer we took it to the road. The roadshow was about taking some time for ourselves whether that be spending time with our animals, having fun with your friends or exercising some mindfulness through activities like yoga. Along with other activities and agencies that support community mental health and wellbeing this roadshow has been all about 'taking time' and highlighting positive mental wellbeing. This had also been made free for families to attend, to break down barriers of inclusion, in the hope that the message and learning from the Take Time Campaign can be infused with our communities, creating a lasting legacy within North Ayrshire.



Take Time on the road was designed as a pop-up open day style, tying in with different partners and inviting along agencies that have a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Targeting families across areas of North Ayrshire, hosting 10 events across all 6 localities. These events were led and co-ordinated by the project delivery officers Dionne Griffiths and Vicki Andrew and supported by Connected Communities Locality Teams.

The take time on the roadshow was well received by the communities of North Ayrshire bringing in over 2000 people to engage in various activities that took place during the summer months.

Over 40 partners came along to support these events and the families living in or visiting North Ayrshire! To give local and readily available information on the supports within mental health and wellbeing whether that be for employment, mental health specific, free programmes/ groups to get involved with, oral and general health. Here is what some of these partners had to say about the events.

"My own favourite activity was sketching on the sandy shore, and archery. I congratulate the team on bringing something for everyone each incorporating mindfulness, physical activity, skill development and of course sheer joy - to enhance wellbeing!"

Your Resilience



Your Resilience supports young people's mental health resilience. The education programme is focused on building resilience through life's transitions in 14–20-year-olds, equipping them with the tools and resources to manage their mental health now and in the future.

The programme is delivered in a range of settings, Individually, community groups, schools, or college groups. This programme included pupils from Kilwinning Academy S6 pupils for 3 full days.

Staff delivered 3 workshops a day covering Resilience, Exam Pressure, Friendships/Decision Making, Social Pressures, Managing Studies and Juggling Time. Along with open conversation work through the appropriate workbook for groups age ensuring the group understand the tasks and the tool kits provided to help them manage their own life scenarios and support their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

"I learned about when it comes to Exam time and studying how to deal with stress, it will benefit me when it comes to making decisions in the future and exam time." Female 17

"I learned about what resilience actually is, how to deal with my exam stress and I how I should juggle my time better, the programme was really detailed and helpful." Female 16

"This course made me realise that I shouldn't compare myself to anyone else and not to take social media too seriously, I enjoyed the force field analysis activity I think I will use pro/con lists when making big decisions now." Female 17

"This has impacted me a lot, it has made me realise that everyone feels different things at different times and that people cope with things differently. I find it hard to make decisions so the tools to help with that will help me." Female 16

"It was great to learn more about the group of young people I teach. I have seen them in a different capacity which has strengthened the positive relationship I have with the pupils. As a teacher it would be great to learn more on how to deliver this to pupils in a professional capacity, even if it is just the toolkits." Miss McConnell

**Locality Partnership
The Ayrshire Community Trust Update – September 2023**

<p>Garnock Valley Moving Around (Public Transport, Traffic and Parking) - Work and Local Community - Facilities and Amenities</p>
<p>Irvine Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities - Enhancing our Mental Health & Wellbeing - Alleviating Poverty - Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment</p>
<p>Kilwinning Supporting Skills and Work - Improving our Local Environment - Alleviating Poverty and Promoting Equality of Access to Opportunities - Improving Community Wellbeing</p>
<p>North Coast Improving access to financial services - Increasing social inclusion - Improving mental wellbeing - Supporting skills and work opportunities</p>
<p>Three Towns Promoting the local economy and tourism - Regenerating community facilities - Increasing civic pride and community engagement - Improving community wellbeing</p>

The Ayrshire Community Trust covers the whole of North Ayrshire and we continue to support the Community and Voluntary Sector with a range of services. Below is a list of support / activities undertaken in which are relevant to the Locality Priorities above since the last Locality Meeting:

- www.tact.scot continues to be updated with a range of information.
- We have sent out various information bulletins highlighting useful resources, funding information and general advice.
- TACT social media continues to be used as a platform to promote safety messages from Police Scotland, Funding Information, Benefit Support, Energy Advice and vital local service provision. We would welcome any information from other service providers that we can share.
- TACT Staff have been organising and facilitating quarterly 'networking' Forums for all 3rd Sector groups and organisations that wish to attend. The next online Forum Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday 5th September with the theme of 'decision makers' with speakers from Scottish Parliament, the Third Sector Unit at Scottish Government & OSCR and Tuesday 5th December 2023 with the theme of 'support' and will feature presentations from 3 or 4 organisations that provide support to the third sector. If you are a 3rd Sector organisation and you are interested in attending, please email: info@tact.scot
- Staff continue to maintain regular dialogue with North Ayrshire Council to update on progress and identify additional ways we can work together.
- **TACT Digital** • NAC Heritage Centre – filmed an interview at Saltcoats harbour for a WW2 exhibition.
- Visited Dalgarven Mill Museum to discuss filming a series of videos. Currently editing a video about the Andrew Goldie collection.
- NAC Libraries- filmed a creative crafts session for children with a local artist in Irvine library.
- Scottish Centre for Personal Safety – website redesign. Created a live mockup and sent the link to Alan Bell for review (<http://354.444.myftpupload.com/>).

- PrioritEyes – edited a second draft of the video for review. Just waiting on feedback from Norma.
- Kilwinning Abbey Project – creating information panels
- NA Green Health Partnership – website updates and maintenance..
Find out more about our digital services here: <https://www.tact.scot/digital>
- **INFORM North Ayrshire** – Cost of Living Support. We 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/tact-na/docs/inform_north_ayrshire
- **Positive Steps with Partners** is our Pre-Employability Project funded by Your Next Move Working North Ayrshire. The team are focusing on Personal development activities supporting barrier removal in helping people become more ready for exploring employability options. The team are back in the office full time working back to face-to-face interactions and offering personal development sessions such as STEPS to Excellence, Skills & Strengths, Introduction to Volunteering, Cooking on a Budget. Working in partnership with Penumbra to delivery the Anxiety Matters training and The Massage Barber who facilitates a session in techniques to overcome stress and this session includes a head massage! The project is also involved at the Eglinton Community Garden collaboration with our 'Sow, Grow & Cook Group as well as our Wood Woodwork Group. Ayrshire College provide us with 8week SCQF Level 4 in Health and Wellbeing course enabling our participants to gain an accredited qualification. Our programme motivates individuals to explore volunteering that will support them to gain the practical experience they can transfer into the workplace. The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service also provide our participants who are ready to move into volunteering with a placement within the Community Action Team attending events promoting Fire Safety in the Community. If you have anyone that may be interested in finding out more, please contact Cheryl Newall via: cheryl@tact.scot
- **Employability** - TACT are currently working in partnership with the employability team to allocate 40 Parental Employment Programme (PEP) places across the 3rd sector with a variety of organisations taking up the opportunity. There is also support available through our partners at DWP to interview potential candidates at Saltcoats Jobcentre on Tuesday the 12th of September.
- **North Ayrshire Third Sector Chief Officer Group** – This is open to Senior Staff working with a 3rd Sector Organisation across North Ayrshire. This Group works together to tackle local issues collectively whilst providing great networking opportunities. The next meeting is scheduled to take place via Zoom on 13th September 2pm. If you are interested in getting involved, please email: kaileigh@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. We are also assisting with Charity Registrations, PVG Support, Funding Support and Support with compiling Constitutions. Continuing to support groups in achieving SCIO status and supporting groups with their CAT applications.
- **Community Asset Transfer (CAT)** We are supporting ten community groups/organisations through the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) process. Each organisation is at various stages of the process and we are liaising with and supporting them at each stage. We also provide advice to groups that are considering or want to know more about CAT.
- **Community Wealth Building**, North Ayrshire is the first Community Wealth Building Council in Scotland – this is fantastic news and something very positive for North Ayrshire. As the Third Sector Interface, TACT sits at the Community Wealth Commission. This commission supports the implementation of the CWB Strategy and

will encourage involvement from local businesses, government agencies and local organisations on CWB initiatives.

- **Volunteering** Staff are continuing to update and source a range of Volunteering Opportunities that are currently available. We are still receiving a high number of Volunteer Registrations and don't have enough placements for those interested. If you know of any groups or organisations that could assist with some additional volunteers please contact info@tact.scot
- **Capacity Building Officers** continue to promote Community Benefit opportunities to the 3rd sector, this in the past has included training and opportunities to learn topics such as first aid and tendering skills from successful NAC contractors. We have recently noticed a higher demand from groups for basic first aid training s this can be costly for groups to fund themselves.
- **Organisation of the Month** promotion still going strong. To date we have promoted 29 voluntary organisations. This promotion has been received favourably with the 3rd sector and it gives a chance to highlight and promote them. If you would like to nominate a voluntary organisation to be promoted, please contact Susan Manson on susan@tact.scot
- **Adult Volunteer Recognition Award** – This award was launched in June 2021 and is designed to recognise the hours of commitment that Volunteers give to organisations throughout North Ayrshire. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Ann Wilson on ann@tact.scot
- Supporting our Third Sector Interface partners Arran CVS with the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund for the third year. The 3rd (and probably final) round of this funding is due to kick off in the late autumn. This funding is a great way for smaller grass-roots services to access vital funding to support their communities.
- If any Third Sector Organisations are supporting New Scots living in North Ayrshire and are in need of some small pockets of funds to offer support please get in touch on 01294 443044 or email: info@tact.scot