

MARCH 2024

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



Welcome to the first 2024 issue of the North Ayrshire Community Benefits Newsletter!

It's been a great start to the year with us getting lots of social media updates from contractors and communities shouting about the impact of community benefits in North Ayrshire. In this issue we're spreading that good news, taking a look at some of the work that you have been doing with local schools and employability programmes.

If you're doing something that belongs in the newsletter, get in touch with Community Benefits Officer Karen Hayburn on khayburn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk and pencil yourself in for the spring edition!

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

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Community Benefits News and Thanks



A big thank you from **The Farm Basket** Food Larder in Towerlands for the support they've received from **Lowmac Alloys**, who dropped off a donation of supplies for their customers, with some Christmas treats sprinkled in for good measure.



Our Wish List has had a makeover!

The next time you log on to the Community Benefits Wish List you'll notice that we've had a little facelift!

As part of broader upgrades to the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Website, the Wish List has had a spruce too, and should now be even clearer and easier to find what you're looking for.

You can filter the list by the part of North Ayrshire you're potentially working in, or search for specific key words to help find the right project for your support.

Head over to <https://northayrshire.community/community-empowerment/community-benefits-wishlist/> to take a look!

Largs Colts 2016s
@Largs_Colts2016

Just in time for 🎄, thank you @wmunrorehab for the generous kit bag donation for our #LargsColts2016 team! Support from businesses like @wmunrorehab makes a huge, heartwarming impact on our young players & helps spread extra big smiles too. @largsnews let's share their 🎅 spirit!

Largs Colts 2016s Football Club posted this thank you on their X feed, recognising **W Munro Rehab** for their donation of brand new kit bags to the children, worth over £400!



Garnock Valley Helping Hands have also been in touch to thank **Clark Contracts** for the delivery of brand new breastfeeding equipment from their Amazon wish list, which will go to local families in need of equipment for their new arrivals.



Community Benefits News and Thanks

In December, Findel visited Pennyburn Primary School in Kilwinning, whose breakfast club they have been sponsoring in partnership with the Greggs Foundation. Their support means that all 198 pupils can access a health, nutritious breakfast each day. Findel said: "The impact the funding has already had on so many children and their families is heartwarming. Parents can drop off their children from 8:15 am, at breakfast club which opens up opportunities for employment and facilitating further education at colleges or universities."



FINDEL



Pennyburn Primary School

8 December 2023 · 🌐

We are so lucky to have our amazing breakfast club! We can't thank Findel and Greggs enough for their support 🙌



North Ayrshire Tandem Cycling are a relatively new group set up to get vision impaired cyclists out on the road, paired up with a sighted pilot. Emtec Building Services were keen to support a group local to their work on Kilwinning Academy's gym, and a cycling group was the perfect match! Andrew, Chair of North Ayrshire Tandem Cycling, sent us the following message: "First of all, can I say a massive big thank you, from all our members at North Ayrshire Tandem Cycling, for your very kind donation of £250 from Emtec Property Services...We can now purchase badly needed spares for our Tandems. Thank you so much, very much appreciated."

George Carruthers & Sons Ltd supported Stanley Primary School and Irvine Youth Forum Legacy Centre with a donation of £100 each towards their fundraising efforts.



RJ McLeod donated £200 to the Organic Growers of Fairlie, enabling them to purchase the outdoor paint required for their raised beds, preparing them for a productive growing season ahead!

Work experience and employability roundup

We've had some great news stories over the last quarter about work experience and employability successes across North Ayrshire, demonstrating the support that Council contractors are offering to a range of age groups in the region. If you have employability or work experience commitments in your contract with us and aren't sure where to start, get in touch! We can work with you to find the right fit for your business and our residents.

At Barnett Court in Saltcoats, Brooke has just finished a 2 week work experience placement on site with James Frew's joiners. Brooke completed a 'Women Into Construction' course run by CEIS and was recommended to James Frew, and following her work placement hopes to secure a place on a carpentry and joinery course.



We had special visitors to our assembly this morning - RJ McLeod Contractors - who came to talk to us about their company and their work. They are currently working in Largs rebuilding the sea wall! 🌊



RJ McLeod have been out and about in local primary schools, giving talks at assemblies at Largs Primary School and Skelmorlie Primary School to share the work they are doing on the seawall in Largs, site safety and civil engineering jobs.

The team have also been out to West Kilbride Primary School's STEAM Week, working with the P6 classes on renewable energy, wind farm construction and coastal protection works in addition to chatting all things civil engineering.

Staying in the North Coast, the work on Millport's flood defences is now well underway, and a joint school outreach session was run at St Mary's Primary School in Largs by Mackley Van Oord, Turner and Townsend and Royal HaskoningDHV to introduce pupils to the work happening at the other end of the ferry route.


StMarysLargs
 @StMarysLargs
 Follow

Mrs T's & Mrs McD's classes welcomed @RHDHV_NL @turnertownsend @jtmackley who delivered a workshop on the Millport Coastal Flood Protection Scheme. Tks to them & @AyrshireChamber for facilitating this excellent opportunity #worldofwork #RRSA #28 @AliAllan_PLL @NAC_Education



Work experience and employability roundup

Clark Contracts supported a pupil from Irvine Royal Academy to undertake a one week work placement at the Annickbank Innovation Campus in Irvine. The business has also been out and about at several employability events across North Ayrshire secondary schools, providing interview skills and careers information for pupils preparing for the world of work



Atkins Réalis provided work shadowing for 2 Ardrossan Academy pupils as part of their work on the Ardrossan Campus project, working with a Quantity Surveyor and the Project Manager for a week. The pupils also had a chance to visit projects in Glasgow and Fife, broadening their understanding of the business and projects



Systra Ltd hosted a pupil from Irvine Royal Academy at their Glasgow office for one week as part of their work on the B714 upgrade on traffic management.



Redpath Construction are currently refurbishing sheltered housing at Cheviot Court in Irvine, and have offered a range of employability opportunities to local people. A 2 week work placement was arranged for Jamie Beattie (pictured), who has had a fantastic time on site and has been given a “glowing report” by the site Foreman. Jamie is about to return to Ayr College to undertake a plumbing course as part of his ambitions to become a heating engineer, and Redpath have agreed to discuss potential apprenticeship opportunities with their subcontractors that may be suitable for Jamie to consider. Jamie enjoyed his placement so much that he asked to stay on for a few more weeks, which has been supported by CEIS and Redpath: a fantastic result for a keen young man!

From August-December 2023, RJ McLeod ran a CSCS Card scheme at Auchenharvie Academy, preparing the participants to undertake NPORS training ahead of the NPORS Safety Awareness Course - the first step to working on a UK construction site. Study skills support was also provided to set the young people up for success in their future endeavours.



Spotlight On: Robertson Group

Robertson Group are currently onsite at the new Montgomerie Park Primary School in Irvine, which will be home to over 300 pupils across 12 classrooms, and be the first Passivhaus school in North Ayrshire, with an expected 60-80% reduction in energy use compared to a standard school building.

The team at Robertson's have been working hard to not only get the building work underway, but also to deliver a range of high quality, impactful community benefits initiatives as part of their contract. A key focus has been on employability, with Kelly Harkness, Social Impact Manager at Robertson's, keen to offer as many opportunities to local people as possible while boots are on the ground at the site.

Kelly has worked in close partnership with several local organisations to promote careers in construction, particularly to women. A Women Into Construction course was delivered with CEIS Ayrshire, with 5 local women getting the opportunity to participate in a range of activities designed to build skills and provide meaningful work experience for a potential career in construction. This included completing a range of accredited modules such as Manual Handling and Asbestos Awareness; an extended site visit; a Q&A session with Robertson's staff; mock interviews; and all participants received their CSCS cards, providing them with the Health and Safety qualification required for site work.

At the end of the course, two participants secured related placements; one with James Frew, and the other with Robertson's bricklaying subcontractor on the site itself. Another participant was offered a job during the course due to begin in early 2024.

Kelly has also proactively engaged with local schools, attending employability and careers events to promote the range of opportunities available in construction.



Participants on the Women Into Construction course visit the site



The Design Manager for the project spoke with pupils at Kilwinning Academy about what it means to work in a job they may not have considered before; and pupils at Auchendarvie Academy got the chance to speak with Robertson's staff at their recent careers event. Kelly plans to hold further events aimed at women interested in construction over the remainder of the contact, including over International Women's Day.

Kilwinning Academy pupils hear from Robertson's Design Manager

Community Benefits Wishlist: New in wishes

Last year, North Ayrshire Council's contractors delivered **40** wishes for groups spanning all six of North Ayrshire's localities. Thank you again to everyone who has donated materials, time, finance, equipment and volunteers to our local community!

Below are some of the new wishes that are looking for your support: get 2024 off to a great start and get in touch with us at communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk to make a match!

- **West Coast Furniture Bank** are urgently seeking support to repair the roof of their building, which stores furniture stock to support people in extremely vulnerable living situations. The work needed includes tarring, plasterboarding and the creation of internal partitions. If you can support this in any way - donations of people, materials or funding - then please let us know!
- **Ardeer Thistle Girls Under 14s:** donations of kit (or funding towards kit) for their 22 players, including strips, rain jackets and equipment
- **Ayrshire Independent Living Network Dementia Befriending Service:** donations of food for their new Dementia Wellbeing Café in Irvine - tea, coffee, butter, soft drinks, disposable tableware and cleaning supplies
- **Irvine Youth Legacy Centre:** looking for a vacuum cleaner for their centre - new or good quality second hand!
- **Ardeer Bowling Club:** looking for some design or architectural planning support to redesign their toilets with the aim of making them accessible ahead of funding applications.
- **Royal British Legion Scotland (Saltcoats, Ardrossan and Stevenston Branch):** the group would like to start a new band in the area and are looking for support to gather instruments together.
- **Ayrshire Coastal Path:** are looking for donations of funding or sponsorship to create an artwork marking the end of the Ayrshire Coastal Path in Skelmorlie
- **Kilwinning Rangers Under 7s and 8s:** looking for donations of equipment for the football team, such as bibs and cones
- **63rd Ayrshire Scout Group Kilbirnie:** the Scout Hall is in need of significant repair, and the group are looking for any support with donations of materials (or money towards the cost of buying them). The priorities are the roof, sides and front of the hall and new fire doors - further detail of specifics can be provided if you think you can help!
- **Skelmorlie Community Garden:** look after the planters and paving outside Skelmorlie Library, and are looking for help to level and repair the paving (donations of materials and help), and for donations of 3 large planters for patio fruit trees for the community to enjoy as they pass the library.
- **Stevenston North Association:** are looking for donations of paint in neutral colours, additional shelving for their food larder and new tables and chairs for their community café to freshen up a well-used space

