



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Three Towns Locality Partnership

**Wednesday 5 March 2025, 6.00 p.m. in the Castle Craigs Lounge,
Ardrossan Civic Centre**

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Kerr	
2.	Action Note Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
3.	CIF Project Update – Ardrossan Scouts The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the impact of CIF Funding.	-	Verbal	Sandra Bale	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.
4.	Sustainability Chit Chat Update The Locality Partnership to receive an update on engagement from recent chit chat and network event.		Verbal	Katherine Dickens	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.
5.	Save Ardrossan Harbour Group The Locality Partnership to receive an update on the work of the Group.	-	Verbal	Frances Gilmour	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.
DECISION REQUIRED					6.50– 7.25 pm
6.	Community Investment Fund The Locality Partnership are asked to consider one application. Expression of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ardrossan Bowling Club Saltcoats Vics Full Application	Pg 9 Pg 13	Enclosed	Denise Fraser	LP to consider CIF Applications

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3T Growers 	Pg 19			
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					7.25 – 7.55 pm
7.	Education and Youth Overview The Locality Partnership will receive updates linking in with the Locality Priorities from Cluster Head Teacher and Active Schools.	-	Verbal	Head Teachers Active Schools	Receive update, discuss and consider learning and partnership opportunities.
8.	Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships Officers to discuss with the Locality Partnership the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by SFRS and Police Scotland in the Three Towns.	-	Verbal	David Cameron David Murray	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
9.	KA Leisure The Locality Partnership will receive an update of work undertaken in the Three Towns Locality.	-	Verbal	Susan Kelly	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.
10.	Locality Update The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of the Three Towns Team during the last quarter.	Pg 27	Enclosed	Denise Fraser	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
AOCB					7.55 – 8.00 pm
11.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Locality Planning 			Cllr Kerr Angela Morrell	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
Date of next Meeting: 4 June 2025 at 6pm in the Ardrossan Civic Centre.					

Distribution List

Elected Members

Councillor Amanda Kerr (**Chair**)
Councillor Stewart Ferguson
Councillor Anthony Gurney
Councillor Cameron Inglis
Councillor Jean McClung
Councillor Jim Montgomerie
Councillor Davina McTiernan
Councillor John Sweeney

Community Representatives

Pat Breen
Jean Frew
Julia Gray (**Vice Chair**)
Craig Mochan
Scott Mould
Glenn Turner
Ian Winton (Stevenston CC)

CPP and Council Representatives

Angela Morrell, Lead Officer
Susan Manson, Third Sector Interface
Stuart Dougan, Police Scotland
Barrie McCutcheon, Scottish Fire and Rescue

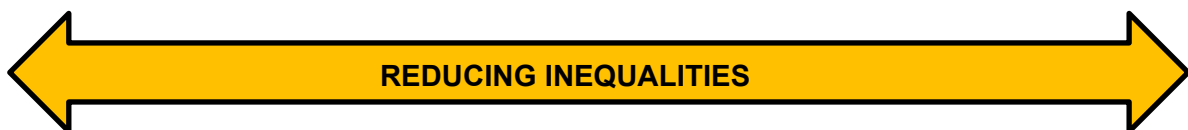
Three Town Locality Partnership Priorities

**Promoting the
local economy
and tourism**

**Regenerating
community
facilities**

**Increasing
civic pride and
community
engagement**

**Improving
Community
Wellbeing**



Meeting:	Three Towns Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	4 December 2024; Ardrossan Civic Centre at 6:00pm
Present:	Councillor Amanda Kerr (Chair) Julia Gray, Community Representative (Chair) Councillor Cameron Inglis Councillor Anthony Gurney Councillor Jean McClung Councillor Stewart Ferguson Angela Morrell, Lead Officer, NAC Denise Fraser, Locality Officer Jordan Stewart, Active Schools Christopher Hays, Active Schools Councillor John Sweeney Inspector David Cameron, Police Scotland Jacqui Greenlees, Senior Manager, NAC Rosemary Ramsay, Funding Officer, NAC
Also in Attendance	Gordon Cowan, Three Towns Growers D Anderson, Three Towns Growers G McNeil, Three Towns Growers J Gribben, Three Town Growers
Apologies:	Susan Kelly, KA Leisure Councillor Davina McTiernan Councillor Jim Montgomerie Pat Breen, Community Representative Jean Frew, Community Representative Glenn Turner, Community Representative Craig Mochan, Community Representative David Murray, Station Manager (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) Ian Winton, Stevenston Community Council Chair Scott Mould, Community Representative

ACTIONS		
No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed those present to the Three Towns Locality Partnership meeting, introductions were made and apologies for absence were noted. <u>Declarations of Interest</u> <u>None</u>	Noted Noted

<p>2.</p>	<p>Action Note from meeting in September 2024</p> <p>The action note from the meeting held on 5 September 2024 was submitted for approval as a correct record with the following updates provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point 7- CIF process: D Fraser and Morrell met with Freedom Fighters and explained the reason for the CIF application not being taken forward. Further support was offered. • Point 8 – Winton Rovers application has been approved at Cabinet. The Chair read out a message from Pat Breen thanking the Partnership. • Point 6- The draft plan was circulated but no additions have been made. <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Community Investment Fund</p> <p>The Locality Partnership were asked to consider one Expression of Interest application from the Three Towns Growers.</p> <p>D Fraser introduced the group to the Partnership and reminded the Partnership that the remaining CIF Balance was £223,589 with £100,000 ringfenced towards the Hayocks Swing park.</p> <p>Gordon Cowan presented the EOI on behalf of the Three Towns Growers who were applying for funding for their Community and Education Hub which they hope to be operational by March 2025.</p> <p>There is a current shortfall of £40,000 to get the project off the ground and complete required works to improve access, building works for example the kitchen and decoration of the inside and outside of the premises brought up to standard to allow public access to the building.</p> <p>Supporting information was circulated including the floorplan. The space will be let and there will also be income generation from this. Community comprised of 155 members and 50 plots and the group run a large amount of public events for example potato day, Halloween and Yuletide. Want to support people to benefit from the outdoors in an urban setting.</p> <p>The project includes plans for training and qualifications provided out of the centre. The Group have linked in with local chit chats and want to encourage local people to grow their own fruit and vegetables.</p> <p>The £40,000 funding would allow the group to hit the ground running and the full project would be ready to go by September 2025.</p> <p>Partnership discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions were asked about whether the building will be an eyesore. The group confirmed that the building would not be an eyesore. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group agreed that the work of the Three Towns Growers has been very positive to date. • Highlighted that the soft landscaping was included in the application to ensure the work is completed at a faster pace than if the group were to attempt it themselves. • It was highlighted by Partnership members that the amount of £40,000 requested was reasonable in terms of the works required to be done. • Timescales were highlighted- would the CIF timeline be suitable for building works timetable? The group highlighted that they have enough funds to start the work before the full application is considered. • ACTION- The Partnership agreed the EOI should go to full application. <p>The group also circulated a QR code for a survey regarding the project and left the meeting at this point.</p>	<p>A Morrell/D Fraser</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Grants – Elderly Grants and Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund</p> <p>The Locality Partnership were asked to consider grant reports:</p> <p>A Morrell reminded the Partnership that groups have been given up to March 2025 to settle the bill for events.</p> <p>A Morrell gave the Partnership an overview of the Community Benefit Fund purpose and guidance and presented each funding report for decision.</p> <p>Questions raised about whether groups could apply again next year for Christmas Lights- groups can apply under exceptional circumstances i.e. the short notice of funds removed so unlikely will see this again. It was also highlighted that Community Benefit Funds are not council funding and only administered and decided by the Locality Partnership. The groups are already being supported by Funding Officer to source other funding sources for Christmas lights next year.</p> <p>Community Benefit Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardrossan Christmas Decorations- Approved • Stevenston Christmas Lights Fund Committee - Approved • 5 Senses Cookbook- Issues highlighted about sustainability and future impact on the community. The decision went to vote. The were split and the Chair decided to award the grant. • Freedom Fighters - The Partnership discussed the sustainability of the project and engagement with other groups and services which has not changed since the group presented their EOI. On this basis the application was denied. 	<p>R Ramsay</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Education and Youth Overview</p> <p>The Locality Partnership received updates from the Active Schools as follows:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A handout was shared with the Partnership which linked the work of the Active Schools Team with the Locality priorities. • Exploring partnerships around golf with Third Sector Organisations locally. 	Noted
6.	<p>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Inspector David Cameron, on various work being undertaken by Police Scotland, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New area commander in post, Chief Supt Suzanne Chow • All posts in Three Towns Locality Policing Team have now been filled. • Quad bikes have been out this week in rural areas and carrying out safety talks. • Work experience taking place in schools again, would like to include Arran schools in this. • Promoting PSYV across Three Towns and trying to recruit new leader for this also. • Operation Moonbeam has concluded and Elected Members were thanked for their information across the period. J Gray highlighted the positive partnership work with the Police during their bonfire night event. • Outlined the work taking place across schools regarding knife crime, cyber bullying, drug and substance misuse and road safety. • Rural Pathway with Three Towns Community Shed in Ardrossan. • Works continuing with Children Houses and missing person's protocol. 	
7.	<p>Auchenharvie Leisure Engagement Plan Survey</p> <p>The Locality Partnership received an update on engagement from A Morrell:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks were given to all who helped promote the survey. • Range of methodologies used including social media and a focus group totalling 517 responses. • Top votes included café space, mental health area and an event space. • Will meet with KA Leisure and Wellbeing Alliance to finalise the report which will be brought back to the Locality Partnership in due course. • A working group will also be formed. <p>Noted.</p>	
8.	KA Leisure	

	<p>An email providing the Locality Partnership with an update on the work of KA Leisure within the Three Towns Locality was shared prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Locality Update The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of the Three Towns Locality Team during the last quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Towns Locality Report and Council wide report were included in the papers, • Working with Christmas lights groups to support funding sourcing this year. Will work with groups to ensure they have alternative funding sources in 2025. • Participatory Budgeting update- Three Towns Locality PB saw 47 applications with 34 groups awarded with 1673 votes cast • Youth PB saw over 2,000 votes cast by young people. • Chit Chat took place 6 November which was well attended. Had a community group spotlight with Jean Frew speaking about climate adaptation. • Some vandalism and fire raising at Hayocks, met with local partners and Elected Members around a solution. A diversionary youth work programme will start in January themed around cyber resilience. <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<p>CLD Strategic Plan Launch Receive update on plans for the launch of the new CLD Strategic Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Morrell highlighted statutory obligation to produce a 3-year CLD Strategic Plan. This was presented at Cabinet on 29 October and published on 5 November. • Links to CWB and supporting and developing staff. • Tackling inequalities and the need to target resources also feature. • Reporting on the plan has been streamlined and will be reported through the Locality Partnership and CPP Board. <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>No other business was discussed.</p>	

The meeting ended at 7.07pm



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

Please see notes on reverse before completing this form.

Organisation name	<i>The Ardrossan Bowling Club</i>
Brief details of organisation	<p>For over 180 years, Ardrossan Bowling Club has played a major part in the local community and more so since COVID. We welcome all as members irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity and currently have over 70 male members, 32 female members and 25 social members varying from 10 to 90 years old.</p> <p>Over the years we have had Scottish International Players representing our club.</p> <p>The club is efficiently managed by a committee of 9 members, consisting of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and 5 ordinary members.</p> <p>All full members have equal rights within the club including voting rights.</p>
Locality	Three Towns
Amount Requested	£30,000
Timescale	October/November 2025
Brief Overview of Proposal	<p>Ardrossan Bowling Club require a new clubhouse roof. The roof has been inspected and found to be crumbling and beyond repair. Hence our expression of interest in funding for this project. Our proposal of £30,000 would cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Replacement of tiled roof on main building.Replacement of flat roof.Replacement of soffitsReplacement of gutters and downpipes

Over the years we have engaged with the public through the various activities listed and most of all through our annual Try Bowls Day which is a successful way of introducing people to Bowling. Anyone can come along and try a game of bowls with our qualified coaches at no cost. If they then wish to join, they can enjoy our introductory fee and can borrow bowls and shoes at no cost.

COVID was a wakeup call to all, and we are finding people want to be in the open air. By being welcoming to all and being inexpensive we hope to encourage people to join our club and be fitter both mentally and physically. Our committee are constantly looking at ways to improve our facilities for the benefit of our members and guests.

As a club we are aware of NAC Locality Partnership priorities and constantly work hard to meet these.

Community wellbeing is important to our club and out with bowling we have gardens surrounding the clubhouse which are cared for by members as well as a small vegetable plot which enhances the physical and mental wellbeing of those involved.

Social activities include monthly Bingo evenings, Cabarets, Quiz and Race nights and an annual fete. These are open to all in the community.

The function suite is available for weddings, engagement parties, birthday parties, funerals, christenings and fund-raising events at no cost for the organisers.

We host a weekly slimming club and last winter we offered a Tuesday afternoon Warm Hub where members and their guests could pop in for a warm bowl of soup and a sandwich while enjoying some company in a warm friendly environment.

Thanks to donations two years ago we were able to purchase a Defibrillator for the club and the use of this and resuscitation training was delivered by NHS Ayrshire & Arran within our clubhouse.

Our Bar is manned by local gents and ladies. Using local companies for requirements is of major importance to us. Some of which we use on a regular

	<p>basis are GT Groundcare, Coast to Coast Coaches, The Whitlees Centre and Home and Hardware. The Unionist Club of Ardrossan use our greens throughout the season free of charge.</p> <p>In terms of Bowling the Three Towns Clubs play on our greens each year as well as clubs from further afield bringing income to the community.</p> <p>We also have annual open competitions on behalf of our nominated charity, The Ayrshire Hospice, and over the last few years we have raised over £18,000 for them.</p>
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Timescale	8-10 weeks
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Contact Details	David Morrison
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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.



Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

Organisation name	Saltcoats Victoria Football Club
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Brief details of organisation	<p>Saltcoats Victoria FC are a semi professional Football Club currently playing in the 4th Division of the West of Scotland Football League. Our Club is 135 years old, having been established in 1889. In our early history the Club ground was located at Miller Road in Saltcoats but as the town population grew the Vics moved to our current location at Campbell Park.</p> <p>The Club's proudest moment was our victory against St Anthony's in the Scottish Junior Cup Final on 30th May 1925 – and therefore we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of this historic achievement in May 2025.</p> <p>Unfortunately, our Clubs more recent history, and particularly the last 20 years from around 2005 onwards, has been more problematic with the Club struggling to survive. The 2023/24 season was our most difficult season to date with the Club at a real crossroads. We had difficulty retaining committee members, 5 managers had come and gone, and income was non – existent. However, the severity of these circumstances seemed to re-ignite interest in the club with a number of local residents coming forward to establish a new Committee and take positive steps to revive our fortunes.</p> <p>We now have a new 11-member Voluntary Committee consisting of Robert Latta and Peter Kean (co-chairs), Gary Montgomerie (Treasurer), Peter McBlane (Secretary), Danielle Gibb, Colin Lundy, Benny Burns, Derek Fry, Kate McBlane, Mick Deegan, Kate Deegan. They are supported by 3 more volunteers – John Foster, Paul Johnstone and Mark Pettigrew.</p> <p>The work undertaken by the new Committee has enabled us to triple our income and sponsorship and begin the process of upgrading our facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint and repair ground/ terracing / dressing rooms, cafe and managers office. • Build and Open Big J's which is a purpose-built social space to welcome visiting teams, officials and supporters. • Provide and maintain Porta loos. • Provide new strips, tracksuits, bags, training kit for the team. • Pay for training facilities 2 x nights per week. • Meet the minimum standard needed to comply with the requirements of the West of Scotland Football League.
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Locality	The Three Towns Locality
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Amount Requested	£50,428
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Timescale	Summer 2025
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Brief Overview of Proposal	<p>Development Plan</p> <p>The Club want to build on the momentum we've created recently and have set ourselves ambitious but, we believe, realistic aspirations to develop the facilities at Campbell Park over the next 5 years. To do this we are planning a 4-phase approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 - Changing Room Upgrade – Secure new changing modular units which include changing for 2 teams, modern showering facilities and officials changing room. • Phase 2 - Enclosure Improvement – Upgrade existing covered terracing area to provide adequate shelter and protection from the elements for spectators. • Phase 3 – Introduction of Floodlighting – Installation of 6-8 New Floodlighting Pylons to enable greater use of Campbell Park facilities in the winter months and evenings. • Phase 4 - Astroturf (Five Aside) Pitch - Installation of a 5 aside Synthetic Surface within the footprint of the ground but adjacent to the main pitch. This will enable significant community use of the facilities including youth and girls' teams as well as public hire. <p>We estimate that the overall cost of these 4 Phases is likely to be in the region of £300,000. To help facilitate this process the club intend to seek charitable status to enable greater potential to secure further grant funding.</p> <p>We currently have a long lease on the facilities at Campbell Park which expires in 2050. However to help secure a sustainable future the Club are also actively continuing discussions with North Ayrshire Council regarding the full acquisition of the site at Campbell Park from North Ayrshire Council through the Asset Transfer process.</p> <p>We have had preliminary meetings with the TACT Team and KA Leisure during November / December 2024. KA are very supportive of our transfer aspirations. We have the appropriate paperwork now and will be working with our TACT support staff to complete as soon as possible. The whole process is likely to take approx.16 months.</p> <p>This application is for funding support to assist with Phase 1 – Changing Room Upgrade.</p> <p>Phase 1 Costs + Specification</p> <p>Despite recent improvements we have been able to make, elements of Campbell Park are still in a state of general disrepair. Our existing changing room containers were provided by funding from Irvine Bay in 2010/11 after vandals set fire to the stand which was later deemed unsafe and had to be taken down due to fire damage. They are very small by modern standards and unable to accommodate the increased squad sizes in the modern game. They do not have suitable showering facilities for youth and women's teams. They are in a dilapidated condition with holes in the walls, leaking roof and significant wear and tear such as rust and mould.</p> <p>We have sought specification and costs from a trusted supplier (MAC Containers) as follows:</p>
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- Purpose built bespoke unit 48' x 12' providing space for two changing rooms with 4 shower cubicles in each and a dedicated toilet facility plus space for officials changing, showers and toilet facilities. Layout plans are shown in Appendix 1.
- The estimated cost we have been quoted is **£54,495** with **£4195** delivery excluding VAT. The club are not registered to reclaim VAT and therefore the total cost is expected to be **£70,428**.
- These new modular facilities would provide a modern layout which complies with the requirements for Women's and Youth Football particularly in relation to cubicle showering facilities.

Funding Package

We have already started a fundraising campaign online which has to date secured upwards of £3000 and we aim to achieve £10,000 by the summer of 2025. We also intend to submit an Awards For All Application for a further £10,000 from the National Lottery. This Application to the North Ayrshire Council Community Investment Fund seeks a contribution for the remaining balance of £50,428. The club will source in kind support from local contractors to connect the new units to power and water supplies.

Community Benefits

If we're successful in securing funding for our Phase 1 upgrade, we believe it will bring a wide range of benefits to the local community.

Regenerating Community Facilities

Upgrading our changing rooms will allow us to meet modern standards for accessibility and inclusivity, opening the doors of Campbell Park to youth teams, girls' teams, and more. We're keen to encourage local schools and youth teams to make use of the pitch for matches and significant events like cup finals and festivals. This will help us move closer to our goal of becoming the vibrant community hub we aspire to be.

Not only will the upgrade breathe new life into our ground, but it will also enhance the club's image within the community and beyond. Improved facilities will also make us more appealing to future sponsors and grant funders.

Improving Community Wellbeing

We recognise that there are significant health inequalities in Saltcoats. Campbell Park is almost entirely surrounded by SIMD 1 and 2 Data zones. It immediately borders Saltcoats Central, a Data zone ranked 23rd worst out of 6976 in Scotland. 41% of Three Towns residents live in the worst 15% of Scotland's Data zones, whilst the Female Life Expectancy Rate in the Three Towns is the worst amongst North Ayrshire's 6 locality areas at just 79. Against this background we are keen to create opportunities for people to improve their health and wellbeing.

Right now, our facilities act as a barrier rather than an invitation. They're not welcoming, especially to people outside the club. We need to change that. Our vision includes launching our own girls' and women's teams and forming partnerships with local youth teams on an affiliate basis. New, modern changing rooms will be pivotal to making this a reality.

We understand the transformative power of sport. Regular participation improves cardiovascular health and helps reduce obesity. Team sports help promote resilience, confidence and a sense of achievement—key ingredients for good mental health and wellbeing.

	<p>Better access to quality facilities will encourage people to stay active throughout their lives, starting from grassroots football. We're also eager to collaborate with local health services, schools, and third-sector organisations to deliver health-related initiatives, using the club as a resource they can tap into.</p> <p>Increasing Civic Pride and Community Engagement</p> <p>Securing this major investment—especially as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Scottish Junior Cup victory—would be a landmark moment for Saltcoats Vics. It's not just about football; it's about re-establishing the club as a central part of community life. We aim to create more events like the Open Day we held back in July of 2024 to introduce the club back into the community and officially open the new social space that the club had built ourselves. This event involved free entry to the ground, meet the players, food and refreshments, joining in with a training session, games, bouncy castles and handing out Season Tickets to all U16s who attended. This gives the local youths access to semi-professional games for free every second weekend at Campbell Park.</p> <p>New facilities will open up more opportunities for people to get involved, whether through coaching, event management, facility maintenance, marketing, or promotion. We want the club to a place where people come together, contribute, and feel proud to be part of something bigger.</p> <p>Off the pitch we were gifted a hospitality suite from Kilwinning Rangers. The committee and supporters worked tirelessly over the pre-season and Big Js was ready to welcome supporters, players and sponsors to a pre and post-match social space.</p> <p>On the pitch, we're determined to grow and compete at the highest level within the West of Scotland Football League. To achieve that, we need to meet licensing standards—and these new changing facilities are a key part of making that happen.</p> <p>Promoting the Local Economy and Tourism</p> <p>By meeting inclusive standards, we'll be able to host a variety of events—e.g. primary and secondary school matches, amateur cup finals, sports days, gala days, youth tournaments, and charity matches. These events will draw participants and spectators from across Ayrshire and beyond, boosting footfall in the town and encouraging spending in local shops, cafes, and businesses. This will also raise the profile of the town, hopefully encouraging visitors to return in the future.</p> <p>We're also keen to explore opportunities with Parkdean Resorts, who operate Sandylands Caravan Park right next to Campbell Park. There's real potential to offer recreational space for their visitors, creating a strong link between the club and local tourism.</p>
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<p>Contact Details</p>	<p>Robert Latta Co- Chair Saltcoats Victoria FC</p>
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The Community Investment Fund (CIF) will support proposals and projects that:

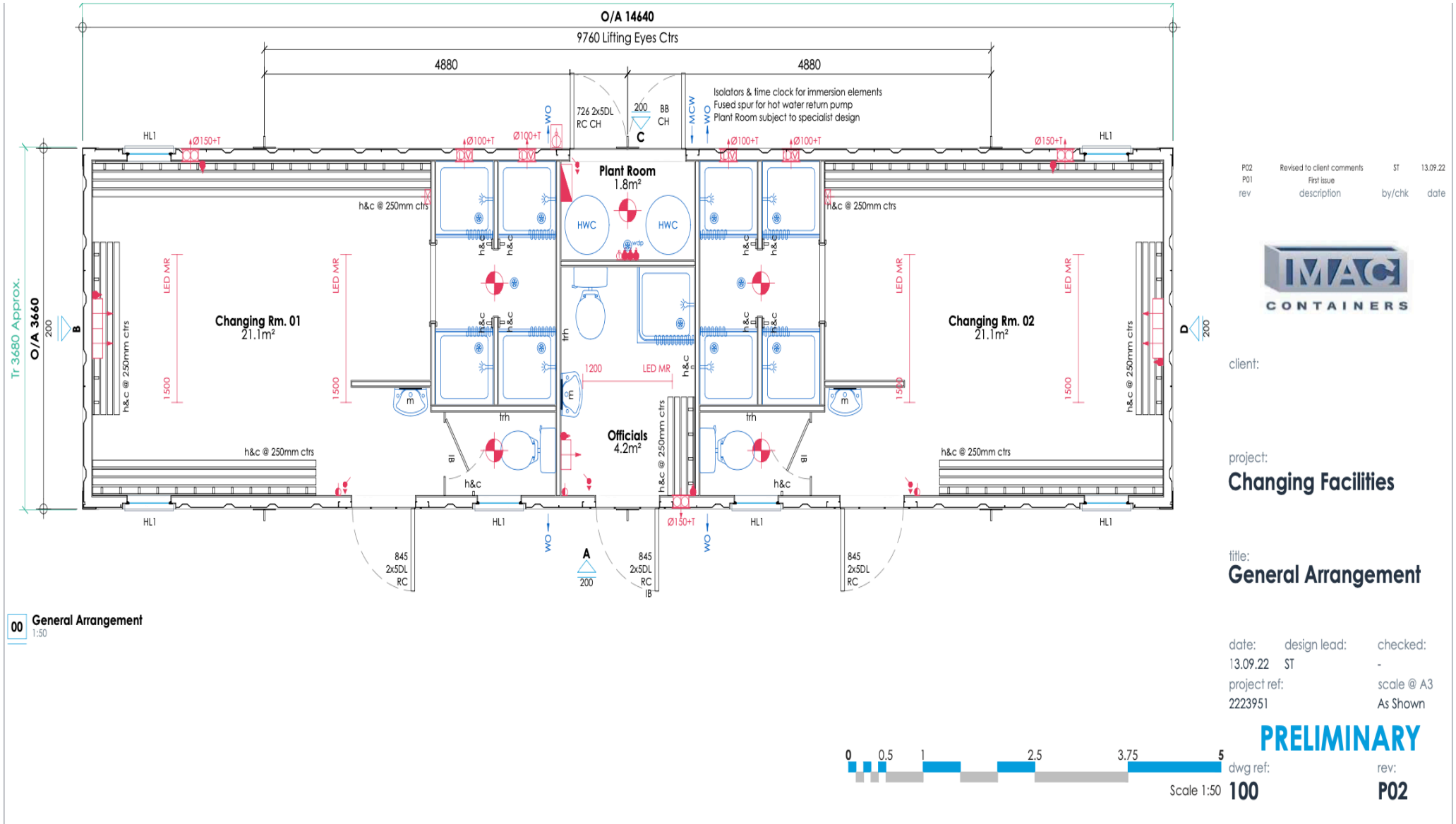
- Connect with:
 - The North Ayrshire [Fair for All Inequalities Strategy](#);
 - the [Community Planning Partnership](#) (CPP) and [Locality priorities](#); and
 - North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) values, priorities and business [objectives](#).
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing 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.

Appendix 1 - Saltcoats Victoria FC – North Ayrshire Community Investment Fund EOI

Layout of Proposed New Changing Unit





The CIF will support proposals and projects that:

- Connect with:
 - the [Community Planning Partnership](#) (CPP) and [Locality priorities](#); and
 - North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) values, priorities and business [objectives](#).
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- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
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- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

When to apply and how?

- LPs should continue to engage with their communities, and stimulate interest in the CIF. The Locality Partnership will then strategically assess the applications, make links and look at the funding 'in the round'.
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form (attached), which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.
- The finalised proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval.
- Forms should be returned to your Locality Officer, by email if possible:

Denise Fraser
Locality Officer (Three Towns)
Community Development Team
St John's Primary School
Morrison Avenue
Stevenston
KA20 4HH

Email: denisefraser@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Mob: 07770 825129

For more information see the guidance form here: <https://northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/community-investment-fund-guidance-notes-17-12-17.pdf>



1. Details of your organisation

Name of Organisation

Three Towns Growers (3TG)

Postal Address for Correspondence

Name of Contact Person Gordon Cowan

Position in Organisation Development Worker

Telephone Number

Email Address

Total amount of funding requested:	£49,420
Match funding (if any):	£30,000

2. Brief description of your organisation

Please include its legal status, aims and objectives, activities or services provided and how long it has been in existence.

Three Towns Growers (3TG) are an OSCAR registered charity. 3TG provide growing spaces, be it cultivation of fruit & vegetables, social interaction and community involvement. Nurturing people to live a healthier and more sustainable lifestyles.

The charitable board of 3TG manage a Community Allotment at Elmpark in Ardrossan. The allotment has been in existence for 11 years. There is currently 50 plots and 24 indoor and outdoor raised beds. The membership currently stands at 165. The key word in the allotment title is 'Community'. The growers board along with volunteers organise and deliver community events throughout the year. In the previous 12 months the events have had a footfall of over 6000 adults and children. We also undertake group-based programmes onsite for schools, youth groups and older people. We offer volunteering opportunities and experiences in growing and horticulture.



Other ongoing activities include a community outdoor kitchen, establishing protected areas on site for the conservation of wildlife. Introducing bee keeping and looking at ways to use plot surplus, fruit and veg for the community as well as having dedicated areas to produce community food. As a community project we are working to establish the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables to community larders in the Three Towns.

The Growers partnership with several statutory and third sector organisations to deliver activity on site and externally. These include NA schools, Health and Social Care Partnership, Community Learning and Development, Community Brokerage, The North Ayrshire Foodbank and more.

Over the next 3 years the 3TG Board are working to increase community interaction and activity in the Three Towns.

3. Title and summary of proposal

Tell us about your idea. Please describe in as much detail as possible, what the funding will be used for.

Please include:

- where it will be held / delivered
- who is your target audience
- who will benefit from it and how
- any partners that are involved.

The board are currently working to build and establish a Community and Education Hub at Elm Park Allotment. This will have a direct benefit for plot and raised bed holders and the 3TG membership and importantly provide a base to deliver increased community involvement and community work. Costs for this build have increased post lock down. The build will be on the site as designated in their lease agreement therefore accessible for allotment users and importantly it will be within walking distance from No11 bus stops and a railway station. The communities of the Three Towns are the target audience. The 3TG have also through activities and public events, reached out to and involved communities and individuals out with the Three Towns.

4. What difference will this project make within the locality and to local services and programmes?

Please include:

- The outcomes you aim to achieve
- How you will approach reducing inequality
- How this proposal fits with the Locality Partnership priorities of 1. Promoting the Local Economy and Tourism 2. Regenerating Community Facilities 3. Increasing Civic Pride and Community Engagement, Improving Community Wellbeing.

The build will be part of promoting **the local economy and tourism**, i.e. the hub being a part of a farmers' market, the Grower's public events held throughout the year would be enhanced by the build. Looking at 'joining' up all the Three Towns Community Hubs through cycle ways and walker and wheeler routes.

As a new build and community facility, it will be part of **Regenerating community facilities**, in the area. With a focus on community growing and horticulture.

The build will not be just about allotment users and members it will look 'outside the fence' to **Increase civic pride and community engagement** by providing a place for community members to come together and take an interest in local ecology, becoming climate aware, and growers of food wherever they are. Volunteering for your community will be emphasised with a number of satellite projects across the Three towns.

It will be a facility that will be used actively seek to **Improving community wellbeing**, by hosting events and activities that promotes positive mental health and wellness.

What engagement has taken place in relation to the project?

Please include the number of people who have been engaged with or consulted as well as the range of people.

Consultation has been ongoing, within the communities of the Three Towns and wider, about how the building could be used. People who have taken part in this include New Scots, people with physical impairment, children and teens. There has been a digital and paper-based survey undertaken, and this is ongoing. There is currently 320 persons who have provided feedback on how the centre could be used.

A summary of the consultation around how the Community and education hub can be found at the end of this document.

5. How will the project be managed?

Please include:

- How the finances will be managed
- Does the proposed project contribute to volunteering or employment opportunities in Three Towns? Please include the number of volunteering opportunities and employment opportunities
- If there are any staff requirements, please outline your HR plans

The project will be managed by the Board of the Three Towns Growers, with day-to-day operation of the building being part of their development workers responsibilities.

Financial again will be the responsibility of the 3TG board, who operate within the guidance of OSCAR.

The building will be an active hub for volunteering on site and out in the community. There are volunteering opportunities in development now. Work experience is also being looked at. Giving an opportunity for community members to take part in a community café, a produce shop and other activities.

There are currently no staff requirements for the building, other than the Development Worker. However, as the facility develops this may become a consideration by the Board.

6. Amount of funding being requested

Please supply details of funding being requested and any other funding you have had over the past 5 years, both financially and “in kind”.

Amount of funding requested (£) **£49,290**

Please give a breakdown of cost and recent quotations where appropriate.

Item	Cost	Quotation Supplied (Y/N)
Decking area including steps	£8625	Yes
Ramp & handrails	£4,000	Yes
Protective barrier at decking	£5750	Yes
Gravel strip round perimeter	£1,200	Yes
Slabbed path	£3,500	Yes
Timber pergola.	£2,500	Yes
Disabled parking bays inc kerbing	£8,000	Yes
Open textured asphalt surfacing to road	£7,500	Yes
Total cost inc.VAT	£49,290	

Please give a breakdown of details of match funding (if any)

Funder	Amount	Funding Secured (Y/N)
National Lottery - Build	£383,000	Yes
Three Towns Growers	£30,000	Yes
CIF - Development Worker	£100,000	Yes

Click or tap here to enter text.



7. Monitoring and evaluation process

Please include detail on the monitoring and evaluation processes planned or in place.

The board of the three Towns Growers will use and maintain a Performance Information and Evaluative System linking in recording footfall, user surveys Gathering feedback from users and participants, establishing and finding what is working and not, from this seek to improve delivery. Ensuring that the Community and Education Hub delivers in the best way for the community that it will serve. Outcomes that will be surveyed for will include the following.

The 3TG will assess the impact of the project on the following

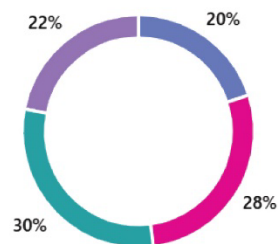
- Increasing educational and environmental awareness
- Increasing locally grown produce
- Increased partnership working
- Tackling poverty and reducing inequalities

THREE TOWNS BUILD SURVEY



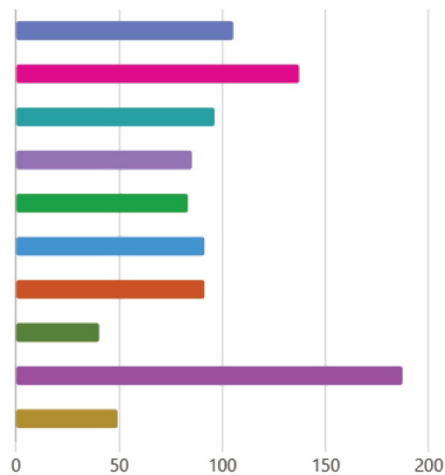
1. Which town do you live in?

● Stevenston	63
● Saltcoats	88
● Ardrossan	95
● Other	69



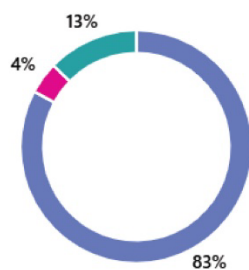
2. What do you think the 3 Towns Growers Community Hub could be used for? You can select more than one or all.

● A meeting place	105
● Education and Training in horticulture and growing...	137
● An eco learning space	96
● It can be hired by community groups &...	85
● Family & social activities	83
● A farmers market	91
● A community café	91
● A green gym	40
● All of the above	187
● Other	49



3. Would you use the facility?

● Yes	261
● No	14
● Maybe	40



THREE TOWNS LOCALITY PROGRESS REPORT Q4 MARCH 2025



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Bhoireann nan Tìrean

Contents

Locality Priorities

P 1 & 2

Three Towns KPI Stats

P 3

**How are we meeting Local
Priorities?**

P 4-19

Contact Details

P 20



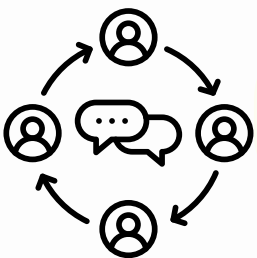
Economy & Tourism



Community Regeneration



Improving Community Wellbeing



Civic Pride & Community Engagement

Three Towns Locality KPi Stats

3

286 adults engaged in CLD activity this quarter

48 adults with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes in CLD activity.

68 children (under 12) engaged in CLD activity this quarter

164 children and young people with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes in CLD activity

81 young people (12 and over) engaged in CLD activity

31 community groups receiving capacity building support through CLD activity this quarter

There have been 114 volunteering opportunities participated in within CLD this quarter

1143 adults and young people reached and engaged with through one off promotional events /drop ins/community events/engagements.

Community Benefit Highlights

-Connect modular have provided a range of community benefits over the last few months to both community groups and local schools. The Three Towns Community Shed took delivery of a range of good quality wood which will be used to upskill their members in their workshop space and build confidence on woodworking equipment.

-Bell Group – donated new games and toys to Hayocks Parents and Toddlers group

-Lowmac – kindly provided skip hire for the Ardrossan and Largs Sea Cadets to clear out old external storage cabins and the team from RJ McLeod were also down at the site to help clear the ground and get it prepped as the group are in the early stages of an ambitious refresh of their premises.

-Landcare Solutions Ltd and SSUK – have donated books for the Saltcoats Christmas Carnival’s Santa’s Grotto and covered first aid costs for the event.



Saltcoats Christmas Carnival donation



Three Towns Community Shed

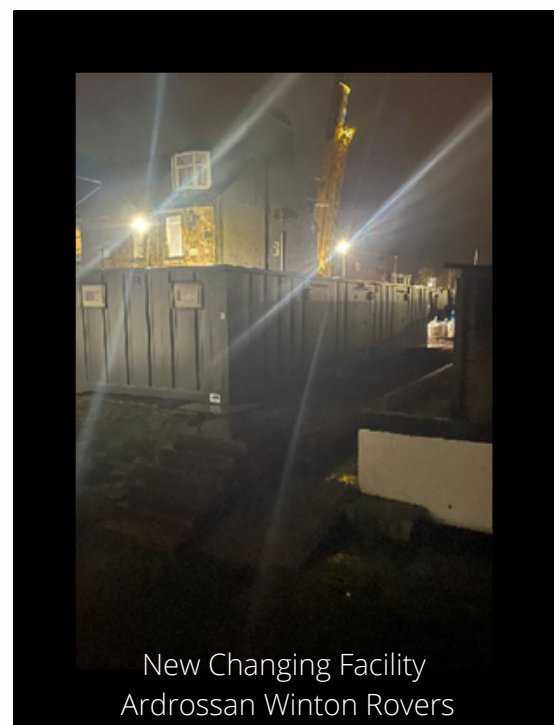
-RJ McLeod

o**Fair work** – RJ MacLeod who are currently supporting the development of Ardrossan Campus have taken on three joinery apprentices at the site in Ardrossan

-**Community support** – Ardrossan Winton Rovers Support from RJ McLeod to deliver the equivalent of 10 wishes for Ardrossan Winton Rovers, estimated to worth around £50,000:

- Drainage
- Site clearance
- Groundworks
- Levelling for changing unit
- Traffic management and signage
- Road permit help/drawing submission
- Disposal
- Help with craneage
- Footpath works/access ramp
- Shower outfall from unit

Donation of 4 laptops to Ardrossan Winton Rovers from Re-Tek



New Changing Facility
Ardrossan Winton Rovers

- **Ripple Effect Saltcoats are forging ahead with their Community Asset Transfer to reinstate the toilet facilities and aspirations for Melbourne Park Saltcoats**
- **Doon the Beach are getting ready for the Scottish Curling Championships at Auchenharvie, which has seen many volunteers sign up to help at the event and they have been asked to provide their mobile coffee cart to serve tea/coffee and cake to those attending.**
- **Three Towns Growers held their annual potato day in February this was a great success, with visitors attending from far and wide.**
- **Three Towns Team have supported community groups to lever in external funding, including:**
 - Winton Rovers
 - Sea Cadets
 - Cronies of Stevenson
 - Argyle Community Association
 - Stevenston Christmas Lights
 - Friends of Stevenston



- **Chit Chat feedback for this priority:**

Following on from the last chit chat session, we asked if there were any actions that the people attending would like to take forward or any of the priorities they felt that they were contributing to. There were lengthy discussions on each of the points:

- More public signage to local businesses.
- Heritage/coastal walks routes, linking up between the new hubs and community cafes.
- More accessible parking at the beach locations and shoreline points.
- Promoting local business.
- The removal of the Arran ferry service, business are going to suffer on the island as well as the 3 towns as there won't be the same footfall.
- How do we encourage island visitors to stop off in the 3 towns?



We are currently supporting groups in the Three towns towards reaching their ambitions for community ownership. These include:

- **Whitlees Community Centre**
- **Ardrossan Indoor Bowling Club**
- **Hayocks Swing Park**
- **Campbell Park, Saltcoats**
- **Glasgow St, Ardrossan (Public Toilets)**
- **Melbourne Toilets and Public Park, Melbourne Terrace, Saltcoats**



St Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Church
Currently Supporting the Acting Minister and Church Member to access funds to modify the building to make it accessible to all users old and new. The building is currently not fit for purpose due to its inaccessible access points and toilets which is creating barriers for people who have disabilities or lifelong conditions and require walking aids or wheelchairs to access the building and their place of worship.

The two leading members are also looking to access funds to modernise the community room, which used to be utilised pre covid but has since sat empty. The group would like to create a sense of community again and invite individuals and groups to use the space, however, feel the barriers mentioned need to be resolved first.

Stevenston Community Council

- The group are taking on responsibility for distributing the Sorbie windfarm community benefit monies. The group are looking to form a subcommittee which will comprise of some Stevenston Community Council members and other community representatives. CLD Worker will reach out to community contacts to gauge interest on their behalf
- CLD Worker supported funding application to the National Lottery for the sum of £10,000. The group were successful in this bid and will use the money to upgrade local adopt a spot site's the group holds including new bedding plants. The money will also secure a storage unit which will be housed on the property of a local business.

- **Chit Chat feedback for this priority:**

Following on from the last chit chat session, we asked if there were any actions that the people attending would like to take forward or any of the priorities they felt that they were contributing to. There were lengthy discussions on each of the points:

- Private derelict buildings- owners need to be held accountable.
- Need to accommodate more tourers/campervan – it was discussed that maybe the old St Peters school site could be looked at for this.
- STEM workers – 3 towns community shed have been approached by schools but never comes to anything, not sure if its Risk & Health and Safety concern, group is willing to accommodate
- Family projects
- Working with schools, imbedding into curriculum - CLD team are now working in schools. Some community projects are interested in working with the schools.
- Accessibility at station some getting on and coming off the train, stairs not suitable at Saltcoats station for people in wheelchairs, is a lift an option.
- 3TG - partnership with Argyle CC to clear shed area at Argyle Garden area; Producing food and vegetables for the larders; Edible flowers; Dementia cafe - raised beds.



New Scots

As part of our quarterly catch-up with ESOL/New Scots volunteers, we held a get-together on 28th January, bringing together around five volunteers from across North Ayrshire. These gatherings are designed to support volunteers in their group or one-to-one delivery, as well as to attract new volunteers who will be supporting learners in the Three Towns. Volunteers have said that these catch-ups make them feel less isolated and more supported in their roles. They were able to discuss any issues they faced, share best practices, and request resources to improve ESOL service delivery. Ultimately, these sessions help strengthen community engagement for both volunteers and learners



Friends of North Ayrshire Group

This ASN group meet weekly, focused on lifelong learning outcomes. 1 hour of literacy support is delivered covering reading & writing skills, followed by soft skilled activities to help develop social and practical skills.

One member of the group would like more responsibilities during the sessions and has been adopted as a volunteer. They are being supported to provide alternative learning options such as introducing math work as well as music sessions whereby the individual brings in his bass guitar and shows people how to play it. This has been received well and has allowed for the group to progress and has encouraged others to become more independent within and out with the group.

- **Criminal Justice Collaboration**

Partnership working with Criminal Justice's Desistance Officer Alistair has created two new learning opportunities in the Three Towns for individuals who have been through the justice system and are looking for learning opportunities to help them get integrated back into society and avoid social isolation and loneliness.

The two groups mentioned are well underway and have been running successfully for 5 weeks now. The Midweek Meals group which takes place on Wednesdays at Ardrossan Youth Centre has been a great success, with 5 individuals participating in learning how to cook meals from scratch. This is also an opportunity to engage in further groups and access support through conversations with CLD Staff. NAC Employability worker is also present during the group and can run the REHIS programme with all participants enabling them to access further job opportunities with their certificate.

The digital literacies class running from Stevenston Library has been a slow burner due to the nature of the participants. This is still an opportunity for people to access and will be until the locality team perhaps approach with a different opportunity

- **Argyle Digital Drop In**

Weekly Digital Support Drop-in group being held within Argyle Community Centre. This drop-in support group is delivered weekly by a NAC tutor. There are 8 regular participants who are all receiving support with their digital devices and how to access important information online.

This is a well utilised group which has resulted in the sessions being extended by one hour due to its high demand.

Adult Learning

- **Toastie Tuesday**

Numeracy support provided at this weekly group which runs from the Church of Nazarene. This piece of work is a continuation from our former multiply worker. Two learners are actively receiving support to improve their numeracy skills. One participant has already received their SVQ level 4 and is working towards their level 5. The three towns' teams are working on a 4 weekly rota to offer support to the existing learners with the hope of attracting new ones also. This is a new piece of work, but learners have engaged well with us and hopefully through conversations with other attendees we can relay the support available within and out with the group.

- **Gaelic**

Suas Leis a' Ghàidhlig group are also holding a games day on Wednesday 26th of February in Argyle centre for week for 2 hours for Seachdain na Gàidhlig week, using Gaelic scrabble, who's who plus other games. This will help the learners in using their Gaelic language they have learned.

- **Multiply**

Learners working towards accreditation have completed level 1,2,3 measurement, and level 3 Money handling and data. Completed work being submitted to college week beginning 24th Feb.

3 sessions run out of the Argyle centre leading up to Christmas for parents and carers focusing on budgeting and planning.

Financial literacy and budgeting cooking session have been running in the Argyle centre in partnership with Link-up. These sessions run as part of a 6 week programme with a new group of learners each programme.

Numeracy sessions have been delivered to the Barnardo's group that is based within the TACT office. The numeracy skills are part of the core skills that the young people do as part of the programme.

- **Supporting the Fairer Food Network**

The Fairer Food Network met on teams on 2 Dec and Dawn Hogg from Stevenston North Association gave an overview of AI training that she had been on and how it could help associations and larders.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be in person and we would have a longer time to look at long term sustainability, and financial models. The next meeting is Mon 10 March at Saltcoats Town Hall from 9.45am – 1pm

- **Stevenston North Association and The Tap End Larder**

They have been successful in securing a further years funding for the Anti Poverty post. The association are considering moving from a larder to a community meal model. The larders numbers are relatively low and they are currently scoping out whether a weekly meal would be a better option.

- **Three Towns Growers**

Are in the process of establishing an outreach project across the 3 Towns. Each town will have 2 sites each containing 6 raised beds. The produce from the sites will be distributed to the larders within the 3 Towns

- **Argyle community Association**

The association and link up have completed a funding application in which they were successful. This will go towards the larder, continuation of groups and supporting people in the community who are struggling financially.



Mental Health and Wellbeing – School provision

Bounce Back Your Resilience P6/7s (Hayocks PS, Winton PS, Glencairn PS, Caledonia Primary)

This programme is 6, 1-hour sessions, it is delivered by Bee You Ambassadors/workers who are a group of young people which have completed a Mental Health First Aid qualification or Your Resilience programme. Ideally the programme will be delivered to a group of P6/P7 generally no more than 30 young people with the idea of these young people becoming Bee You Ambassadors for the primary school, how you wished to continue this within the school would be up to the school and we can help support the young people moving forward in their new roles.



Duke of Edinburgh group

We have 5 young people doing their silver award. At this point, they are almost completed their portfolio work and are scheduled to do their trial expedition and expedition in April and May 2025. We have another 3 young people that haven't been attending but have archived their accounts which will allow them to return and carry on .

- **Chit Chat feedback for this priority:**

Following on from the last chit chat session, we asked if there were any actions that the people attending would like to take forward or any of the priorities they felt that they were contributing to. There were lengthy discussions on each of the points:

- NHS triage phone number
- No mental health coordination to the public or between organisations – community mapping on North Ayrshire Council website
- Look at the model at the Fullerton for doctors appointments.
- Volunteer transport buddy to take people to appointments etc.
- Lack of networking for mental health groups.

Ways that groups felt they were contributing:

- Creating wellbeing Centre – Scottish Centre for Personal Safety have been working on this and are hoping to open April 25
- Veterans breakfast
- Open door policy at 3TGrowers
- Community open days at ACDT and Doon the Beach
- Community Allotments
- Food and financial dignity through the Foodbank
- Socialisation through Mobile Cinema

Three Towns Joint Community Association Meeting

A meeting took place in February where representatives of all Three Towns Community Associations were in attendance. Good practice, shared learning and opportunities to share resources and key dates for events happening in each area were discussed. Meetings will take place on a quarterly basis.

Engaging New Groups : The Cronies

The Cronies have been meeting informally for over 50 years in the Three Towns. Originally a nickname for a group of friends, they've since grown to a membership of over 40, with members ranging from 17 to 92, who meet weekly to combat loneliness and social isolation.

The group had never engaged with North Ayrshire Council's Community Learning and Development Team or applied for any funding, but were approached by Whitlees Community Association to be their 'plus one' for the Three Towns Locality PB Launch Event in autumn 2024.

Every organisation attending was encouraged to bring another group with them who hadn't applied for PB before to try and reach as wide an applicant group as possible, particularly grassroots organisations. At the launch event, they got chatting to Graham Hunter, who was able to support them to apply for PB funding, followed by Graham facilitating an in-person vote at one of their regular meetings to ensure they were able to fully participate. The group were successful in securing £1000 which will enable them to cover their costs to meet at the café at Whitlees for 10 weeks during the winter and providing their members with hot drinks, sandwiches and soup.

In addition, they now have the support of a CLD member of staff who has worked with them to establish a constitution and bank account and apply for other funding. A representative from The Cronies attended the group's first ever Locality Chit Chat in February 2025, meaning they are now connected to other local groups and involved in shaping the work in their locality.

- **Partnership work with Ardrossan Academy**

Following meetings with the school, Ardrossan Academy have now applied to become a delivery centre for the delivery of the professional development award in youth work. This has also been added to S5-S6 pupils curriculum choices and we will start delivering in June 2025.

We will also be delivering an intervention programme for disengaged S3 pupils. This is starting in February.

- **Partnership work with Auchendarvie Academy**

Following meetings with the school, Auchendarvie Academy have now applied to become a delivery centre for the delivery of the professional development award in youth work. This has also been added to S5-S6 pupils curriculum choices and we will start delivering in June 2025.

We are delivering an intervention programme at the academy, this is going well with 5 pupils

- **Discovery Award Group**

Supporting the group to meet their goals in terms of accessing services, volunteering opportunities, award materials and organising their journey of discovery trips.

The group were unsuccessful in obtaining £1000 from the most recent round of PB.

However, fundraising opportunities have been pursued and the group have raised £700 from hosting a coffee morning and by creating and selling seasonal gifts which they sold at the pop-up shop in Saltcoats and Stevenston Christmas Lights Event.

The group is working towards strengthening ties with other award groups. The Ukrainian awards group will be accompanying the Three Towns on their monthly trip being held on Thursday 20th Feb to the National Museum of Scotland. They also have in the pipeline a daffodil tea which they will invite groups into, to extend those networking opportunities.

Although the group finished early December and did not resume until the 2nd week in January, they have already agreed on their 6-month event calendar and have very positive plans already.

Hayocks - HTARA

HAYOCKS YOUTH CAFE

STARTING ON 6 FEBRUARY 2025
EVERY THURSDAY 6-8PM AT HAYOCKS COMMUNITY HALL

Hayocks Community Hall
Hyslop Rd
Stevenston
KA20 4HS

The Hayocks community have been facing much youth disorder spanning back to spring 2024 such as fire raising, vandalism, violence as well as use of vapes, drugs and alcohol.

Growing concerns emerged working closer with the Hayocks Tenants and Residents Association (HTARA) as the youths targeted the play park behind the community hall setting fire to the shoot.

HTARA have recently been awarded CIF funding to develop and upgrade the play park and have growing fears about possible targeted vandalism in the area and park.

This led to a meeting with the Three Towns Locality team, Elected Officials and the local Police. Plans were discussed to implement a youth diversionary project headed up by the locality team to provide activities that would provide a positive experience as well as using detached youth work to engage with the potential young people engaging in youth disorder.

The project will work in two stages, the first stage will include collaboration between the Three Towns Locality team and the Cyber Project Delivery Officer.

From 6-8pm on Thursday nights the focus will run from outside of the community hall in the car park using the mobile youth centre to run retro gaming, cyber explorer challenges, snacks and drinks.

We will aim to have ka leisure on board to host their mobile football pitch and run detached youth work to go to where the young people are hanging out and engage.

Stage 1 we will aim to provide activity and build relationships with all young people and potential young people involved in youth disorder and use this time to ask them what they would like to have running at the community hall.

We will then aim to fund stage 2 in partnership with Stevenston North Community Association and HTARA which will be a longer-term project with activities young people identified they wanted to run in their community.

Update: Group started early February with 20 participants showing up. Activities included free football with KA Leisure, Detached Youth Work activities, as well as gaming and free Wifi. We are delivering a cyber explorers programme alongside this, the project is three weeks in, we are in early stages of delivery and encouraging independent learning with support each Thursday evening. 9 young people have logged in, created safe passwords and started the first challenge. Cyber Explorers is a digital connectivity program created for 11-14-year-olds. Launched by the UK government in February 2022, its goal is to help young people develop essential skills for future careers in cyber security. The program consists of various challenges and missions, and upon completion, participants earn an accredited SQA award at SCQF Levels 4 and 5. Topics such as building a business, online safety, influencers, climate change, and encryption are explored through these challenges, teaching young people foundational digital skills for potential careers and interests in computing.

UNCRC and Youth Voice

Within Three Towns we have 4 MSYPs that represent Cunninghame North and South Constituency – Emma Burns (Irvine Royal), Freya Fitzsimmons (St Matthews), Emma Henderson (Arran High) and Rhyan Gorrie (Garnock Campus). Individually Emma Burns is launching a North Ayrshire wide on mental health and wellbeing for North Ayrshire, Freya is working with facilities to look at school-based recycling within playgrounds and canteen areas, Emma Henderson is looking at equitable access to public transport for ASN young people and Rhyan Gorrie is focussing on promotion of foodbanks and larder and encouraging young people to volunteer across these provisions.

Executive Youth Council (Exec)

The exec has 12 active members from across North Ayrshire including 3 from Three Towns area. This overarching youth voice structure represents the views of our young people across schools and communities. Currently the group are working in partnership with Education to design and launch a Pupil Council Toolkit that will give schools tools and resources to support pupil voice structures. The group have recently held their AGM where the board were elected in with Freya Fitzsimmons as Chairperson and Rhyan Gorrie as Vice Chairperson. The group have recently led out Joint Youth Forum that brings all of our youth voice groups together from each locality to work on common aims and receive training. February session included an introduction into MHWB pilot of financial literacy and wellbeing, working on the pupil council toolkit and creating poems and literature to support the LGBT work we do locally. Young people also had the opportunity to update us on what UNCRC means to them living in North Ayrshire which will create a comms media plan for the future.

Older People's Conference

North Ayrshire Council's annual Older People's Conference was a resounding success as residents gathered at Saltcoats Town Hall.

The event is jointly planned and hosted by the Council's Community Learning and Development team in partnership with older people across the six localities to encourage as many people as possible to have a voice.

The conference is a key part of the Council's Participation Strategy and this year's themes were:

- ensuring older people's voices are heard, actioned and respected
- helping shape the work of the council
- the impact of climate change and
- ensuring no one is left behind.

Locality group discussions were held on a range of matters, attendees had lunch, there were conversations around what has worked well over the past year and there was a talk on climate change.

The Council's Older People's Voice Participation Strategy – made up the Older People's Voice Network, Executive Older People's Council and the Conference – is in place to help support older people. It provides ways for elderly communities to raise issues and ensure they feel heard when it comes to the planning and delivery of Council policies and services. Organisations that were represented at Saltcoats Town include Irvine Seniors' Forum, North Ayrshire Discovery Awards Group, Age Well in West Kilbride, Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Age Concern, Kilwinning u3a and Watt Gardens Residents Group in Dalry.



- **Christmas lights groups**

All groups were invited to meet at Cunninghame house at the end of January. Billy Borthwick facilitated the discussions with the groups who were in attendance. They had an opportunity to ask questions and Kilwinning shared their experience of using an outside contractor. Billy shared a rough estimate with the groups for the year ahead and encouraged the groups to get a few quotes in order for them to make an informed decision, he suggested this be in May/June time, which again would keep costs down for groups if they know ahead of time what they are going to need.

The Christmas lights groups have been invited to Saltcoats town hall on 25th March, where groups will receive information on funding options; event requirements and provide shared learning. This meeting will be attended by Connected Communities staff from each locality; Lindsay Robbins and Rosemary Ramsay.

- **Locality Chit Chat.**

This year's chit chat dates have already been agreed to ensure relevant notice is being served to community members, as we appreciate how busy they are.

The format of the chit chats will be more focused moving forward as we work towards using the chit chats as a platform to influence the work the community is doing and how we respond as a team. Furthermore, this will then filter into the work our partners are carrying out and how we can marry-up support and projects and create more cohesion on the delivery of our community-based priorities. From collating and actioning this work, we will use this to inform the locality partnership and continue to update the action plan set by the team.

We have introduced community spotlights to our meetings, to offer a platform to individuals and groups to share their great work and dedication to the community. So far we have had the pleasure of hearing from Jean Frew (Friends of Stevenston) and Alan Bell (Centre for Personal Safety).

- **Chit Chat feedback for this priority:**

Following on from the last chit chat session, we asked if there were any actions that the people attending would like to take forward or any of the priorities they felt that they were contributing to. There were lengthy discussions on each of the points:

- Inclusivity to all Community
- Legion Communication decreasing social isolation, lack of support, how can we support
- Sea Salt streets developments having pride in where you live, litter everywhere, how can we support keeping our areas cleaner
- Volunteer development, how can we help support and recruit volunteers
- Greenspaces need to be maintained
- Remove barriers to groups advertising free Community events. E.g. Arran highland games are unable to put signs up on a NAC fence

For further information contact:

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