

MARCH 2025

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS

## North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



### Welcome to the first Community Benefits Newsletter of 2025!

This quarter we're celebrating the wide reaching support from contractors in North Ayrshire, from donations to job readiness prep and everything in between!

Last year was our busiest yet with support being delivered from the Wish List, with 48 wishes being fulfilled by a range of businesses we work with; if you were one of them, thank you!

As ever, If you can help any of the projects on the back page, get in touch with Karen on [khayburn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:khayburn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk), and let us know how your community benefits delivery is going!

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# Community Benefits News and Thanks

We had a busy end to 2024, with several wishes being delivered in December, for which we'd like to thank everyone who helped make them happen!

- Skip donation from **Lowmac Alloys** to **Freedom Fighters**, a trauma-informed mental health and addiction recovery charity, who are clearing space at their current site.
- Donation of £200 from **Go-Wright** to **Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Association** to support The Wee School Pantry, a community food larder that supports people with dignified access to affordable food
- Donation of £100 from **Whitewall Marketing** to The Ayrshire Community Trust's **Kindness Krew** project, which was providing lonely and isolated people with support over the Christmas period.



**KINDNESS KREW**  
*Piecing the community together*

**whitewall**

**Go-Wright Ltd**

We also wanted to pass on the thanks of several groups who have benefitted from a donation of laptops from Re-Tek this year, who we began piloting donations of refurbished Council laptops with in 2023. This year, they've donated 9 laptops to community projects across North Ayrshire, enabling the creation of plans, presentations, admin support and office tasks. The groups supported are **Largs Community Council**, **Ardrossan Winton Rovers CIC**, **Three Towns Community Shed**, **Friends of Lochshore Park** and the **25 Group Royal Observer Corps Association**, who manage the Skelmorlie Secret Bunker.

Frank Alexander, Museum Curator from the Secret Bunker, asked us to pass along the following message to Re-Tek: "So thanks again for a very successful wish which will be of great use to us at our museum for presentations to our tour visitors. Could you please convey my thanks to the donor company, it was a wonderful gesture and very much appreciated."

**re-tek**





# Community Benefits News and Thanks

**RJ McLeod**, currently on site at Ardrossan Campus, have been supporting young people interested in potential careers in construction to gain their CSCS cards, enabling them to take up valuable practical work experience opportunities in the sector. 7 young people from **Ardrossan Academy** and 3 from **Garnock Campus** have completed their course this year with support from staff at the business. There was a 100% pass rate and the award ceremony will be happening soon!



**Morgan Sindall**, the next contractor at Ardrossan Campus, have also been engaging with school pupils around the work they'll be undertaking as part of the school build. 38 pupils at **Irvine Royal Academy (below)** took part in a presentation about the construction industry and routes and pathways into the sector. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.



## Could you grant a wish on Arran?

The largest island in the Firth of Clyde, Arran is often described as 'Scotland in miniature' due to its range of stunning landscapes. Since the Community Benefits Wish List launched in October 2021 however, only 1 wish has been delivered for a community group on Arran, and we're looking for your help to change this in 2025!

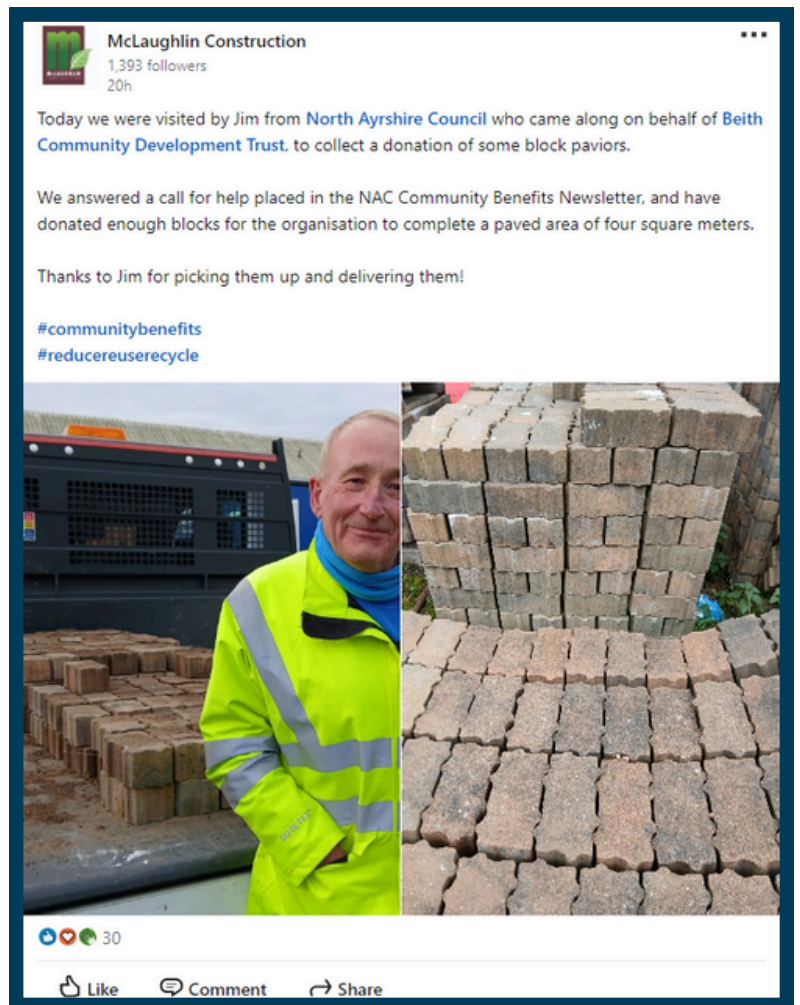
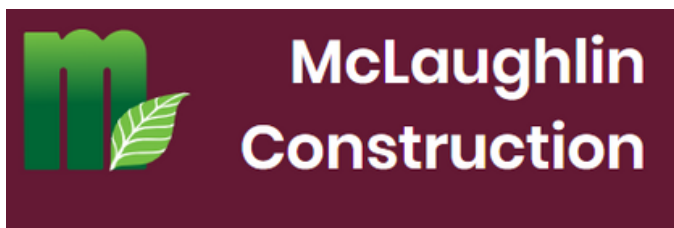
**Corrie and Sannox Village Committee, Lochranza Centre CIC, Isle of Arran Heritage Museum** and **Lamlash Improvements Association** are all community-managed projects looking to improve life on the island for people living in its small villages. A range of support, from skilled design advice to financial donations are needed, and we would welcome any offers of support, and how this can be accommodated given the island setting. Find out more at <https://northayrshire.community/community-empowerment/community-benefits-wishlist/?locality=arran> and get in touch!



# Community Benefits News and Thanks

A big thank you to **McLaughlin Construction** who kindly donated some block pavers to **Beith Community Development Trust** following the call out for support in the last issue of the newsletter!

Pictured (right) is Jim from North Ayrshire Council who jumped in to help support the delivery of the slabs to the Trust, enabling them to install a smooth surface on their site to ease the movement of tables, chairs and other goods into their main hall event space.



## Selection Box Donations

For the fifth consecutive year, James Frew has proudly supported the Stevenston Christmas Lights Committee by donating 500 selection boxes to bring joy to children and families during the annual Christmas lights switch-on event.

The switch-on, is a highlight of the town's festive calendar, it gathers the community to celebrate the season with sparkling lights, music, and plenty of cheer. The contribution from James Frew ensures that every child who attends receives a selection box from Santa, adding a little magic to the occasion.

Managing Director Roddy Frew said: "Our team at James Frew take great pride in

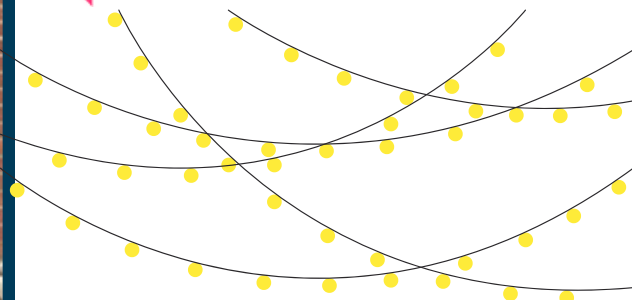
supporting the local community. The Stevenston Christmas lights switch-on is such a special event for the families of Stevenston, and we're thrilled to play a part in creating festive memories for families in the area."

Local councillor and committee member John Sweeney said: "We couldn't make this event as magical without the help of organisations like James Frew. Their generosity ensures the children leave with big smiles, making all the hard work worthwhile, and we consider ourselves lucky that this is now 5 years running of James Frew's kind donation."



**James Frew**, local property solutions company, kindly stepped in to support **Stevenston's Christmas Lights** event last year, providing 500 selection boxes to make sure all the children attending left with a festive treat.

*Image courtesy of James Frew's Community Benefits Newsletter.*



# Spotlight On: Ashleigh Building



**Ashleigh Building** are currently working in Irvine, building over 200 new homes for social rent on the site of the former Ayrshire Central Maternity Unit, which had previously lain vacant for over 15 years. The site is the largest new build development the Council has ever commissioned, and will provide a range of homes, including wheelchair accessible and amenity housing.

The contractor has begun to deliver a range of projects in the local authority linked to its work on the site, providing direct support to communities through donations, work experience and links to employability programmes.

## **Community Support: Irvine Christmas Lights Switch On**

Irvine Community Council are tasked with organising the town's Christmas lights display each year, something that is becoming increasingly challenging with the rising costs of services and a reduction in the financial support available from North Ayrshire Council. Ashleigh were approached by the group in the run up to the festive season, and the company were able to donate over £3,000 towards the cost of the lights, enabling the Community Council to bring some festive cheer to the town centre and brightening up a difficult time of year for many people.

## **Employability Partnerships.**

Ashleigh have also been working with local partners in North Ayrshire, including CEIS and the Council's Equal Supported Employment programme. At CEIS' recent Construction Sector Based Work Academy, Ashleigh were able to bring their experience as a large building contractor in to the sessions and bring to life the discussions with the participants. Business Services Officer Martine Brown at CEIS said that Ashleigh "agreed to support 2 or 3 2-week work placements. CEIS and Ashleigh worked closely to determine what projects were underway in the local area and would suit the type of work the candidates wanted experience in." Working together with a local partner who has the networks in place to support people into work is a significant strength of Ashleigh's approach, which can also be seen in their recent information session with Equal Supported Employment.

Nikki Skelding from Ashleigh met with young people interested in a career within the construction industry as part of a Modern Apprenticeship information event, helping to answer questions about what it's like to be a Modern Apprentice within the sector, and the benefits of this approach - learning and earning! - over more traditional routes into work. Nikki and the team at Equal plan to work together over the course of the contract and we're looking forward to seeing other young people get involved in similar opportunities in the future!



**Have you got some good news stories to share?**

**Get in touch at [communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) and we could feature you next!**



# Your Next Move Employability Event



**YOUR  
NEXT MOVE**  
Working North Ayrshire



A big thank you to all the contractors who came along to our Your Next Move employability event in partnership with DYW at Ayrshire College this month! It was a really busy day with lots of people finding out about the brilliant opportunities available in a range of sectors with great local employers.



# Community Benefits Wish List: Putting your skills to good use

While many requests for community benefits support are quite a simple fix - a donation of materials or money that can be arranged remotely - we also have some wishes that are looking for a different support, and some input of specialist time and skills to help the group achieve their ambitions.

Please send any offers of help to:

**[communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

and we'll put you in touch from there.



- **Bypass Art** are the culture and heritage arm of Dalry Community Development Hub, and are looking for a structural engineer who can give them some advice as part of a project they currently have in the planning stages
- **Corrie and Sannox Village Committee** are planning their upcoming maintenance schedule for their village hall and are looking for someone who can undertake a building survey to inform the prioritisation of their plans
- **West Kilbride Civic Society** are looking for support and advice around publicising their activities, engaging with new audiences and attracting younger members, particularly through digital media.
- **West Kilbride Community Initiative** are looking for some hands on practical support to paint some walls and railings and install some shelving and cupboard doors
- **Impact Arts** have a small back garden at their premises in Irvine which is underused and under-loved. They're looking for some volunteer time to help create an outdoor seating area for summer.
- **Lochranza Centre CIC** are looking for some design support to update their website, increase its user-friendliness and keep it simple to maintain. They currently manage it on their own but would like some support to redesign it along more accessible and engaging principles.
- **Irvine Community Sports Club** are looking to cost a funding package to replace the roof on their centre. The club have faced significant barriers to obtaining quotes and professional assistance to cost the project as well as advice on the best material to choose for the flat roof - if you have a quantity surveyor or other relevant specialist on your team, please reach out!
- **Beith Trust** are looking for interior design input for their Air BnB units at Geilsland to freshen them up, and make them attractive, welcoming and functional for the community to use
- **Cornerstone Community Care** are looking for some help to pressure wash and re-sand their garden area to freshen it up for their clients
- **Cumbræ Forum** are looking for a small ramp to be installed at their charity shop to help improve accessibility for wheelchair users