

JUNE 2025

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



## Welcome to the June 2025 Community Benefits Newsletter!

It's officially summer and we've got another packed edition of the newsletter for you to work your way through, hopefully with a helping of sunshine. We've got some fantastic work experience examples in this edition and a fantastic example of a local business taking apprenticeships to the next level. We hope the newsletter brings you a bit of good news and look forward to hearing what you've been up to ahead of the next one.

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!

### WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE?

**Community Benefits News and Thanks**

**School work experience feature**

**Spotlight on: James Frew**

**Community Benefits Wish List:  
Fresh wishes for the summer**



# Community Benefits News and Thanks

Thank you to all the contractors who have reached out in support of community organisations over the last quarter! Here are some of the projects your support has helped.

**Ardrossan Youth Association** have a shiny new sign for their youth hub thanks to a donation from **Stanger**. The current youth committee have been keen to replace the sign on the building since they took over and are really pleased with the new sign.



**Stanger**

Children across **Irvine** benefitted from donations of Easter eggs this April from **Lowmac Recycling Ltd** and **George Carruthers & Sons Ltd**, who donated both eggs and funding to purchase them.



**TACT** would once again like to extend a big thank you to the NAC contractors who helped sponsor this year's Volunteer Awards night. Thanks to donations from **McTear Contracts, Bell Group, George Carruthers & Sons Ltd** and **Ashleigh Scotland**, £1050 was put towards goodie bags for the nominees and winners of the awards.



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**Re-Tek** have supported another group to up their digital capacity, this time donating a laptop to the **Ayrshire Long COVID Chat Group**, who meet regularly at Ardrossan Library. The laptop will enable the group to show videos, run presentations and better manage their admin and they have asked for a big thank you to be passed along on their behalf.

**re-tek**



**West Kilbride Civic Centre** will have even more lovely planters this year thanks to a £100 donation towards plants from **George Carruthers & Sons Ltd**. The village has beautiful seasonal floral displays every year.

**Ameresco** were able to support **West Coast Furniture Bank** to complete a review of the lease for their new premises in Ardrossan. This is a great example of a community benefit able to be provided to a group because of connections within the business, and the networks that staff can pull in support from, and the Furniture Bank staff and volunteers are most appreciative of the quick turnaround on the request.



**AMERESCO**



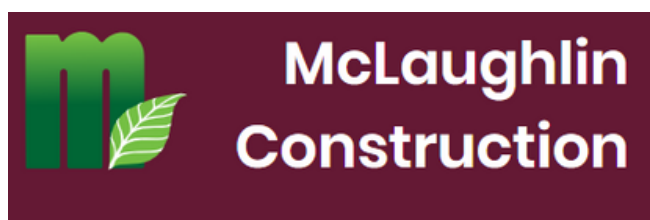
# School work experience

**McLaughlin Construction**, currently on site in Irvine at the King's Arms and the Great Harbour Project, have recently hosted two young people for work experience. Mason and Skye are both in S3 at Irvine Royal, with keen to secure an electrical apprenticeship and Skye interested in a career in either architecture or interior design. During their week they were led through the tendering process by Bid Manager Niall Wright, were set detailed quantifying tasks by the company's Quantity Surveyors, worked with the Admin team on plant returns and quotations and were set a research task to look into the history of the area around the Magnum leisure centre site.

In addition, they undertook a design exercise originally developed for delivery in local schools, where they were encouraged to be as imaginative as they could and set out their vision for a new playpark, with extra kudos for the funkiest idea. After presenting their own designs they were given the task of judging entries from children at Dalry Primary school, after a recent STEAM session held there. To round out that exercise, the pair then joined Construction Manager Alan Burton for a tour of the Irvine Coastal Hub site, to see a real playpark under construction. This was followed by a further site visit later in the week, augmented with another to see the more developed residential project underway at the Former King's Arms on the High Street.



Niall reflected on the importance of hosting work experience placements not only for young people, but also for the business itself, as “explaining what we do and how we work, especially to young people who may have limited previous insight, brings a real opportunity for reflection and appreciation of the talent and achievements in our company.” Mason and Skye both found their experience really valuable, with Mason saying: ““My work experience was really enjoyable due to the fun staff and also work. I would recommend trying work experience to everyone, especially if you get the opportunity to go to McLaughlin Construction”



# School work experience

Over in the Three Towns, Ardrossan Academy pupil Oscar has just completed work experience with **jmarchitects** as part of the Ardrossan Campus build. Hopeful of a future in architecture, the experience has been invaluable for the S6 pupil: "I was quite apprehensive, unsure of what to expect on my first day up at their office. However, once I arrived and was introduced to everyone, my nerves were quickly quelled. Soon after, I was assigned my own workstation with full access to the same IT programmes, equipment and materials used by the staff members at the office... Each day I had regular one-to-ones with members of staff for guidance, assessment and appraisal for my progress going through each stage of the design process. My time spent at their office has fully reaffirmed my aspirations to continue this line of work as my future. I could not be more thankful to both my school for arranging this work position for me and also JM Architects for granting me this opportunity to attend their premises in Glasgow, working and learning alongside their team."



jmarchitects

A bit closer to home, Kilwinning Academy Pupil Elizabeth has just completed a week of work experience with **Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce** through NAC's partnership with DYW.

Elizabeth said "I've been at one week placement with Ayrshire Chamber. I had experience in areas such as marketing and membership networking. I've been to a Tourism and Travel event with one of the members of the Chamber...there I practiced my communication skills and got educated on how our government looks at an issue of tourism in Scotland. Also, I've learnt how to schedule social media posts and how to manage websites of the business. It was a week full of experience, and I had a chance to look at the business from **the inside. Thank you!**"



**DYW** | Developing the Young Workforce



# Community Benefits News and Thanks

Community benefits champions **RJ McLeod** have now finished up on site at Ardrossan Campus, and have sent over the following update as part of their community benefits reporting.

We've been working this last quarter with the secondary schools, Ardrossan, St Matthew's and Garnock Community Campus. The young people - 7 from Ardrossan and 3 from Garnock Valley - spent the day with our Training Manager followed by an 8 hour Safety Awareness Course, then we set them up with study resources for the CSCS Card touchscreen test.

Tim Dreyer (STEM Co-ordinator at NAC), supported an S6 pupil from Greenwood Academy, Kiera, to join us on site and at our Glasgow head office for work experience. Kiera had also attended the civils morning walk and talk held at Eglinton earlier in our community benefits delivery plan.

As part of our exit from Ardrossan we've revisited the primary schools who invited us in to their assemblies over the last year; Winton, Dykesmains, Stanley, St Peter's, St Anthony's, Caledonia and Mayfield. The children have also been invited to take part in an environmental poster competition linked to the site decontamination works in Ardrossan to encourage local people and the new campus students to look after the local area once the new school is open.

Are you doing a range of community engagement activities as part of your community benefits delivery? Make sure we know about it! Get in touch with us by emailing [communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) and we could feature you in the next issue!



### Primary Schools Environmental Poster Competition

## Litter!

***Litter dropped anywhere is bad for the environment. Litter doesn't just disappear! It is blown by the wind into our forests, rivers and the sea!***

Litter dropped in Ayrshire may even become part of the North Atlantic Rubbish Patch! It is an island made of rubbish; it's hundreds of miles wide!

Rubbish dropped on site is bad for wildlife such as otters, birds, red squirrels and pine martens.

Rubbish that makes it to the sea is dangerous to marine animals such as dolphins, whales and sharks. Birds can also be harmed as they can eat the rubbish or get tangled up.

**So what can we do?**  
We can **stop dropping rubbish** and instead place our rubbish in the recycling bins and litter bins. This means it shouldn't end up in our forests, rivers and oceans.

**Can you design a poster that Andy, our Project Manager, can display on his site to stop people dropping litter?**

We will choose 5 posters to receive a box of K'nex and the winning poster will be printed and used on site.

Type: Digital or Paper

**Closing Date Extended to: 7th May 2021**

Email your poster to [cmckitrick@rjmcleod.co.uk](mailto:cmckitrick@rjmcleod.co.uk) (or hand it into the school office and we will collect it from there).



Photo by D. Nicholson



Photo From National Geographic







# Spotlight On: James Frew



James Frew are a North Ayrshire property solutions company based in Stevenston. They have been an NAC contractor for several years, and are particularly strong on delivering a range of community benefits.

In the last year, five apprentices (of whom three were North Ayrshire young people) were enrolled in the James Frew Academy to begin their training in plumbing. The Academy also hosts an award programme for current apprentices each year to recognise the achievements of the young people taking part.



This offers a real sense of tangible achievement and something to aim for, building the confidence of the young people and helping them to feel part of the wider business. The apprentices are encouraged to take part in a range of internal and external events, including Glasgow Business Fives football, and Beat the Boss plumbing events where the apprentices go head to head with the Managing Director in a range of speed plumbing activities. All of this helps to build the team and encourage young people to bring their full selves to their jobs, and is part of the positive working environment that James Frew aims to create for its staff. As a Real Living Wage employer, the business is focused on supporting its employees financially, and the apprentices also have access to a money management course run by Christians Against Poverty, focusing on practical budgeting, saving and debt management.

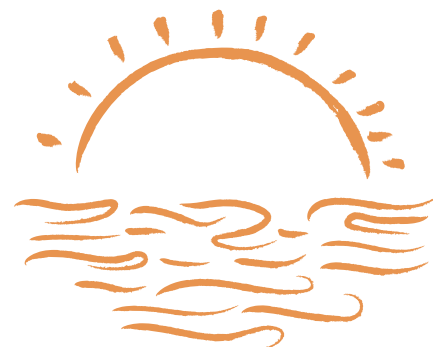
Alongside the fantastic apprenticeship programme, the business is also a regular contributor to other types of community benefit support. During Your World of Work Week, staff went out to speak to Dalry Primary pupils about their jobs and the opportunities available in a business like James Frew. The business is also a familiar face at local jobs Fairs, including the Your Move careers events at Ayrshire College.



If you're taking community benefits to the next level, let us celebrate you! Get in touch with us at [communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

# Community Benefits Wish List: Fresh wishes for the summer

We're coming into the summer and while out of offices may be clicking on soon, it's prime time for our community organisations who will be busy delivering a range of projects across North Ayrshire. If you've got the know how or resources to help them get the job done, drop us a line at **communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk** and we'll put you in touch.



- **Largs Viking Festival** is one of the biggest Viking festivals in the world, and takes place every **MONTH**. This year, the organisers are looking for help to set up and dismantle 240 crowd barriers to enable a jousting event to take place - can you spare some time to help?
- **Arran Dogs** are a registered charity providing a safe space for people on the island to exercise their pets. They're looking for a donation of grass reinforcement mesh to help make things easier for people with mobility issues, enabling them to park closer to the field.
- **Saltcoats Victoria Football Club** are looking for some help to prepare a base at their site for future portacabins, or donations of materials such as sheeting or cladding for terracing.
- **Garnock Valley Allotment Association** are on the lookout for skilled voluntary support to erect new fencing on their site in Kilbirnie
- **Mums The Word** are a new group for mums in Irvine, focusing on mental health and community for new parents. They are open to any financial donations to help their group plan ahead, bringing in specialist instructors to run sessions on wellbeing.
- **Baby Bundles with Beith Trust** are looking for donations of items that cannot be provided pre-loved, such as weaning equipment, baby toiletries, wipes and underwear for children out of nappies. These items are regularly requested in their baby bundles, which go out to families who may otherwise struggle to afford them
- **Irvine Sea Cadets** are looking for help **by September** to remove an old 40ft x 12ft portacabin from their site. The cabin has no electricity or water connection, but they need a boost of people power to get the space cleared.
- **Lochranza Centre CIC** would be keen to chat to anyone with website design skills to help re-design their website and update it to make it easier to engage with for the public, and simpler to manage for the committee.
- **Stevenston Christmas Lights Fund** are planning ahead and on the look out for financial donations towards their 2025 lights campaign, including supporting the cost of road closures; stage and entertainment hire and the cost of free food provision for families on the night.