

FEBRUARY 2026

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



Welcome to the February 2026 Community Benefits Newsletter!

We're back with a bumper edition of our newsletter celebrating all things community benefits this time round after we had to postpone October's issue due to some IT changes at our side.

While Christmas feels like a mere memory, the support that our community groups received from you over the festive season was exceptional, and we have a special feature to say 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, and let us know how your community benefits delivery is going!

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Community Benefits News and Thanks

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



Graham + Sibbald sent a surveyor over to Arran to support **Corrie and Sannox Village Hall** with a building survey, which identified and prioritised repair work for the committee. The hall hosts a range of community events and activities, along with The Wee Bookshop, and provides a central meeting point for Corrie and Sannox villages. If you'd like to support the hall, they are keen to speak to any businesses who could donate towards their upcoming renovation plans.

St Peter's Children's Centre Flying Start Toddler Group were recently thrilled to take a donation of £2,000 from Lee (left) and Will (right; pictured with Josephine, the toddler group Manager) from **HSL Compliance**. The donation enables the group to continue providing a healthy snack to both parents and children, the cost of which has nearly doubled in recent times.



Gaeltec Utilities have been busy organising donations to a range of community projects over the last couple of weeks. **Irvine Events Committee** funded a festive afternoon tea for older people; and **Springside Community Association's** Hallowe'en Fright Night will spooked children in the village thanks to their support.



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As part of their work on the Ardrossan Campus build, **Morgan Sindall** have been supporting community projects in a variety of ways through the SCAPE Community Legacy social value workstream. This has included repainting at **SALT's** pirate playpark in Saltcoats, with a representative from SALT contacting us to say "the work was completed at the Playpark and we are really pleased with it. Thank you so much for allowing for us to apply for the work to be done...Fantastic friendly service from both companies.

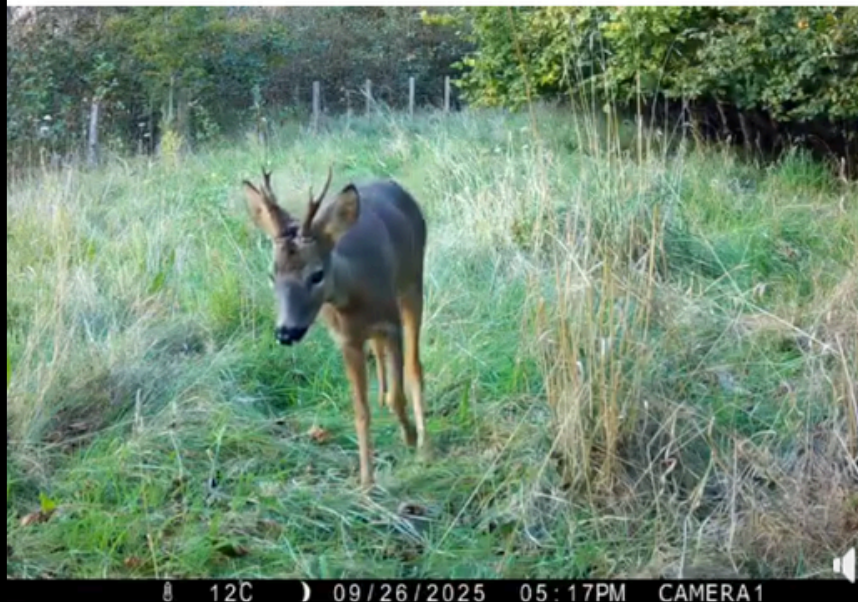


SCAPE also invited older people from North Ayrshire's Engagement Hubs to a community lunch in Kilmarnock for a lovely day out with plenty of good food, entertainment, a raffle and even a spot of bingo.



**MORGAN
SINDALL
GROUP**

Deers and fox recorded in the Park. Thanks to AVMI Kinly UK Ltd for donating the camera traps.



AVMI Kinly UK have also been busy donating a range of items to projects across North Ayrshire, including some camera traps to **Friends of Lochshore Park**, who have been capturing some fantastic high quality images of the wildlife in their patch! The business also donated the group a printer to help them manage their marketing materials for upcoming events, along with another printer to **Balance and Bliss CIC**, a holistic therapy social enterprise in Kilwinning.



Winter Wishes 2025: We asked, you delivered!

ACL Hire: 2 weeks of van hire for CEIS

AMP Clean Energy: donation of PPE for CEIS Future Trades

Arco: Experts in Safety: donation of PPE for CEIS Future Trades

Bell Group: supermarket voucher donated to Ardrossan Christmas Decorations Committee, donation of selection boxes for Irvine Events Committee

Carruthers: financial donations to Ardrossan Christmas Decorations Committee, Saltcoats Christmas Carnival, Stevenston Christmas Lights Committee

CDM: donation to cover costs of First Aiders for Saltcoats Christmas Carnival

City Building LLP: financial donation to Marymass Festival Committee

Colas: financial donation to Ardrossan Youth Association

Dumbreck Decorators: selection boxes for Irvine Events Committee

Hamilton Tarmac: financial donations to: Ardrossan Christmas Decorations Committee, Saltcoats Christmas Carnival, Irvine Events Committee, Choose Kilwinning

James Wylie and Son Ltd: donation of PPE for CEIS Future Trades

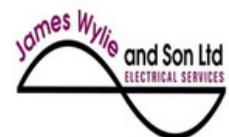
Morgan Sindall: donation of 12 laptops to CEIS

NICEIC: gas and electrical safety checks for West Coast Furniture Bank

Re-Tek: 1 laptop donated to 25 Group Royal Observer Association; 15 laptops donated to Irvine Community Sports Club; 2 laptops donated to NODA; 3 laptops donated to Three Towns Community Shed

Sovereign Group Ltd: donation of PPE for CEIS Future Trades

YPO: fridge freezer donated to West Coast Furniture Bank; fridge freezer donated to Irvine Community Sports Club; shelving donated to Choose Kilwinning



Spotlight on: CEIS Future Trades Academy

CEIS, North Ayrshire Council's employability partner, have been developing and delivering the Future Trades programme, which aims to address local skills shortages in the construction industry and boost employment opportunities for young people.

The six-week Future Trades initiative was created to introduce young people to the construction industry. It offers practical trade experience, relevant qualifications and tailored support, including confidence building, with the aim of supporting young people to be prepared for the workplace.

Two groups have already completed the training, and a third cohort is currently ongoing. So far:

- 24 young people have successfully taken part
- Each of them benefitted from hands-on experience in trades including bricklaying, plastering, plumbing, joinery and painting & decorating
- All 24 attained their Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) for those just starting out in construction, with benefits including access to building sites and a chance to find out about available opportunities and
- Everyone received continued one-to-one support on finding work, apprenticeships or additional training
- Several participants have had job interviews, work placements and employment opportunities with local employers.

Contributions and support from local businesses play a vital role in the success of programmes like Future Trades, and also aligns with the Council's Community Wealth Building (CWB) economic model.

The Future Trades Programme supports the CWB pillar of fair employment, with a commitment to "encourage the creation of fair and meaningful jobs with progression opportunities to unlock the potential of our residents."



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Participant John Paul White said: “This is genuinely the first time I have felt confident about my skills and ready to start a job.

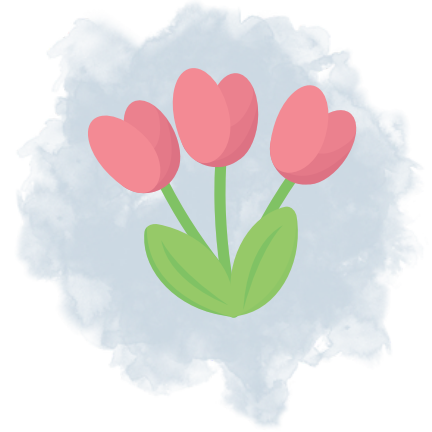
“I couldn’t have made it to this point without all the support and encouragement I have received as well as the practical training.”

New partners are needed to support the third cohort by supplying materials, tools and PPE, and also offering site visits, work experience, employment or apprenticeship opportunities. If you can help more young people take their first step into work through your support of the programme while also fulfilling your community benefits commitments, email communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Community Benefits Wish List: Fresh Wishes For Spring

Thanks to your generosity over winter, we've delivered a stack of existing wishes which has made way for a host of new groups and projects to come through! Have a look at some brand new wishes for 2026 and drop us a line at communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk if you think you can help, either in full or as a contribution towards a bigger target.



- **Towerlands Bowling Club** are looking for donations towards the cost of maintaining their green, such as an iron.
- **ACES Woodwynd's** garden has been badly damaged over the winter and they're looking for donations of compost, plants and money to begin to repair and restart their beds
- **Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Community Association** are looking for volunteers to help with the interior repainting of the community centre as there are a number of rooms that need a refresh for the year ahead
- **1st and 6th Ayrshire Irvine Scouts** have also been badly impacted by storm damage and are looking for some advice and support from plumbers and boiler service specialists to help them assess the damage. They're also grateful for any donations of ceiling boards, roof insulation or ceiling lights
- **Dalry Community Development Hub** are fundraising for large gazebos they can use to host outdoor events throughout the year and any donations towards these (as they can cost £2,500-£3,500!) would be most appreciated
- **Bypass Art** are looking for professional support to undertake a feasibility study for their 'Bessie on the Bypass' project, which looks to install an art piece on the way into Dalry commemorating Bessie Dunlop, a local woman executed for witchcraft in the 16th century. The input of an architect and a structural engineer are the skills they are looking for initially.
- **Place Woodland Group Kilbirnie** are looking for donations of stone and gravel (20 tonnes of each) or financial donations to support ongoing maintenance of the volunteer-managed woodland, which builds skills and improves mental health and wellbeing.
- **Barrmill Jolly Beggars Club** are looking to organise a Robert W Service verse-speaking competition for local children, and any donations towards the costs of the competition (around £1,000) would be welcomed
- **Dalry Community Sports Club** are creating new allotments in the town and are looking for support to create a new hardcore car park with 11 spaces (9 spaces + 2 disabled spaces) and a turning circle.
- **Playtime Early Years Dalry** are looking for 4 iPads to support the modernisation of their systems, improving data protection and developing digital communication channels for parents.