

Monday 10 August 2026, 6.00 p.m. at The Volunteer Rooms, Irvine

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Macaulay	
DECISION REQUIRED					6.25 – 7.15 pm
2.	Community Investment Fund The Locality Partnership to consider one expression of interest application and 2 full applications made to the Community Investment Fund. Expression of Interest - The Social Garage Project Full Application - Dreghorn Bowling Club - Irvine Tennis Club	Pg 3 Pg 5 Pg 12	Enclosed	Elaine Baxter	LP to consider applications made to the Community Investment Fund.
3.	Community Representative Discussion Discussion regarding applications made at June LP meeting.		Verbal	Elaine Baxter	LP to discuss applications made at June LP meeting
AOCB					
4.	AOCB		Verbal	Cllr Macaulay	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.

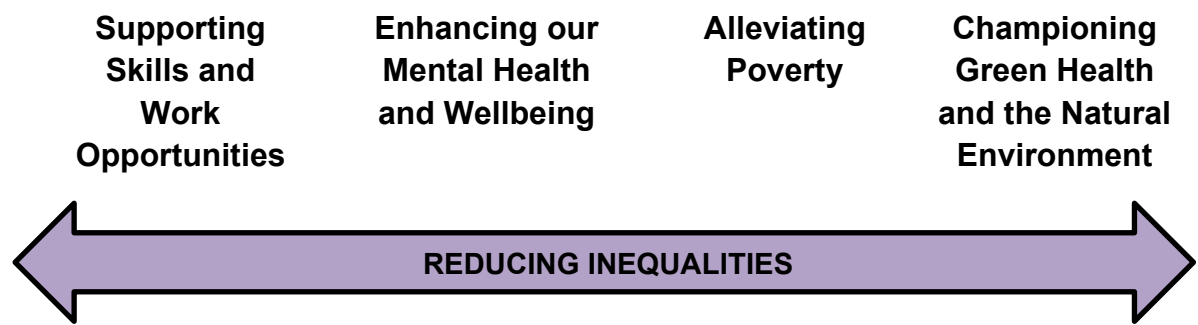
Distribution List

Elected Members	Community Representative
Councillor Shaun Macaulay (Chair)	Marjory Dickie
Councillor Marie Burns	Chris Pless, Irvine Community Council
Councillor Robert Foster	Donna Fitzpatrick
Councillor Scott Gallacher	David Phillips
Councillor Christina Larsen	Sally MacIntyre
Councillor Nairn Angus-McDonald	Irene McIlwain
Councillor Matthew McLean	Annie Small (Vice Chair)
Councillor Louise McLaughlan	Greg Sutherland
Councillor Chloe Robertson	Ian Wallace
Councillor Angela Stephen	

CPP/Council Representatives

Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer
Lindsey Murphy, Senior Lead Officer
Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer
Michael Cowan, Police Scotland
Barbara Conner, TSI
Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer
Paul Timmons, Scottish Fire & Rescue

Irvine Locality Partnership Priorities



Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

Organisation name	The Social Garage Project
Brief details of organisation	The Social Garage Project is a welcoming community hub dedicated to supporting mental health, physical wellbeing, and individuals experiencing financial hardship. We provide a safe, inclusive space where people can work on their vehicles, either independently or alongside others, fostering both practical skills and peer support. Our experienced volunteer mechanics generously give their time to offer guidance with car maintenance and repairs, helping individuals build confidence, reduce costs, and stay connected. As a not-for-profit organisation, our focus is on strengthening community, promoting wellbeing, and creating opportunities for people to support one another. Working alongside partner organisations, we provide monthly information sessions covering various topics such as mental health, addiction and financial advice. We also deliver courses on car maintenance to members of the community free of charge.
Locality	Irvine
Amount requested	£100,000.00
Brief overview of proposal	We are currently operating within a six-month lease at a premises in Irvine; however, the associated costs are not sustainable in the long term. To effectively deliver our services and expand our impact, we require access to premises that are both fit for purpose and of sufficient size to accommodate the range of activities we plan to offer. We aim to work collaboratively with local secondary schools, community organisations, and Ayrshire College to create meaningful intergenerational learning opportunities that benefit the wider community. To support this work, we require funding to secure appropriate premises and cover all associated operational costs, including utilities and maintenance. In addition, we need to purchase essential garage tools and related equipment to facilitate practical learning and vehicle maintenance activities. Further requirements include public liability insurance, IT equipment to support training delivery and administrative functions, and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure the health and safety of all participants. Looking ahead, we aim to develop employability opportunities that will support the sustainable operation of the garage. This would include establishing regular opening days, staffed by a qualified mechanic who can provide supervision, guidance, and support to individuals accessing the service. This approach will enable a structured drop-in facility while ensuring a safe, supportive environment for all participants working within the garage.
Timescale	This is a ongoing project with no time limit.

Contact details	Dex Miller
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Forms should be returned to your Locality Co-ordinator by post or email.

For more information see the guidance form here: <http://www.northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2018/06/community-investment-fund-guidance-notes-17-12-17.pdf> or contact the Community Planning Team on info@northayrshire.community

Community Investment Fund Application Form: Irvine Locality

The CIF will support proposals and projects that:

- Connect with:
 - The North Ayrshire Fair for All Inequalities Strategy;
 - the Community Planning Partnership and Locality priorities; and
 - North Ayrshire Council's 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?

- 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, 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 Co-ordinator, by email if possible:

Elaine Baxter
Irvine Locality Coordinator
Economy and Communities
Community Development Team
Redburn Community Centre
Dickson Drive
Irvine
KA12 9EW

Email: ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01294 313593
Mob: 07814418453

Support and information will be available for groups who are not successful. For more information see the guidance form here: <http://www.northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2018/06/community-investment-fund-guidance-notes-17-12-17.pdf>

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Community Investment Fund

1. Details of your organisation

Name of Organisation: Dreghorn Bowling Club

Postal Address for Correspondence: 88 Main Street

Dreghorn

Ka11 4AA

Name of Contact Person: Jim McHarg

Position in Organisation: Past President / Property Manager

Contact Telephone Number :

E mail address

1. Brief description of your organisation

Please include -

[a] Legal status, e.g. voluntary organisation, public/private limited by shares or guarantee;

[b] How long has organisation been in existence?

[c] Aims & objectives;

[d] General activities or services provided;

Dreghorn Bowling Club has been operating as volunteer-led, non-profit community organisation at the heart of Dreghorn since 1875 (151 years). Dreghorn Bowling Club is seeking £40,000 towards a £75,000–£80,000 project to expand and modernise its toilet facilities, creating a new ladies' toilet, a fully accessible toilet and a larger gents' toilet. This investment will double our current toilet capacity and remove barriers that currently prevent some people with disabilities or mobility challenges from fully accessing the club. The improved facilities will enable us to increase participation and expand our year-round community programmes. Alongside our existing work with the local primary school, we will be able to welcome more school pupils, youth groups and community organisations to take part in carpet bowling during the winter and lawn bowling during the summer. We also plan to increase opportunities for young people through expanded coaching sessions and new partnerships with local secondary schools. This project supports the ambition of creating a **fairer community for all** by ensuring local people can access inclusive, affordable opportunities to be active, socialise and improve their wellbeing. The new accessible toilet will allow people with disabilities and mobility challenges to participate with dignity and independence, while free coaching opportunities will help children and young people, particularly those from lower-income families, develop skills, confidence and social connections.

- Improved and fully accessible facilities.
- Increased participation in lawn and carpet bowling.
- Greater engagement from schools, youth groups and community organisations.
- Increased uptake of free coaching opportunities for young people.
- Improved inclusion for people with disabilities and mobility challenges.
- Increased volunteering, community involvement and social connection.

The project will strengthen Dreghorn Bowling Club's role as a safe, welcoming and inclusive community hub that promotes health, wellbeing and equality of opportunity for local people of all ages. Funding applications are also being submitted to the National Lottery Community Fund and Sport Scotland to secure the remaining project costs.

3. Title and summary of proposal

Tell us a bit 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 and indicate any partners that are involved.

Please include -

[a] *What outcomes your organisation wishes to achieve;*

[b] *Is this a new service / project?*

[c] *Does a new organisation need to be set up?*

Dreghorn Bowling Club is seeking **£40,000 towards a £75,000–£80,000 project** to expand and modernise its toilet facilities, creating a new ladies' toilet, a fully accessible toilet and a larger gents' toilet. This investment will double our current toilet capacity and remove barriers that currently prevent people with disabilities or mobility challenges from fully accessing the club and its activities.

The improved facilities will enable us to increase participation and expand our year-round community programmes. Alongside our existing work with the local primary school, we will be able to welcome more school pupils, youth groups and community organisations to take part in carpet bowling during the winter and lawn bowling during the summer. We also plan to increase opportunities for young people through expanded coaching sessions and new partnerships with local secondary schools.

2 (a) Through this project, we aim to:

- Improve accessibility and ensure all members of the community can participate with dignity and independence.
- Increase participation in lawn bowling, carpet bowling and community activities.
- Expand opportunities for children and young people to access free coaching and physical activity.
- Improve physical and mental wellbeing through increased social interaction and active lifestyles.
- Reduce barriers to participation for people with disabilities, mobility challenges and those experiencing financial hardship.
- Strengthen community connections, volunteering and local engagement.
- Support a fairer community by providing affordable, inclusive opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds.

2 (b) No. This project will build upon and enhance the activities and services already delivered by Dreghorn Bowling Club. The club currently provides bowling, coaching and community activities for local residents, schools and community groups. The proposed improvements will increase capacity, improve accessibility and enable more people to benefit from existing and expanded programmes.

2 © No. Dreghorn Bowling Club is an established, constituted non-profit community organisation and will be responsible for managing and delivering the project. No new organisation is required.

- Improved and fully accessible toilet facilities.
- Increased participation in sport and physical activity.
- Greater engagement from schools, youth groups and community organisations.
- Increased uptake of free coaching opportunities for children and young people.
- Improved inclusion for people with disabilities and mobility challenges.
- Increased volunteering, community involvement and social connection.

The project will strengthen Dreghorn Bowling Club's role as a safe, welcoming and inclusive community hub that promotes wellbeing, reduces inequalities and creates opportunities for local people to participate, connect and thrive. Funding applications are also being submitted to the National Lottery Community Fund and Sport Scotland to secure the remaining project costs.

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

Please include -

[a] How you will approach reducing inequality

[b] How this proposal fits with Irvine's priorities of:

- 1. Supporting Skills and work opportunities*
- 2. Enhancing our mental health and wellbeing*
- 3. Alleviating poverty*
- 4. Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment*

This project will strengthen Dregghorn Bowling Club as an accessible, inclusive and affordable community asset, increasing opportunities for local residents to participate in sport, social activities and community life. By improving and expanding the club's toilet facilities, including the provision of a fully accessible toilet, we will remove barriers that currently prevent some people from taking part and enable more local groups, schools and organisations to use the facility throughout the year.

The project will allow us to expand our existing programmes with schools, young people and community groups, creating more opportunities for people of all ages to connect, learn new skills, improve their wellbeing and participate in positive community activities.

2. (a) The project has a strong focus on inclusion and fairness. Improved accessibility will ensure that people with disabilities, mobility challenges and long-term health conditions can participate with dignity and independence. By increasing capacity and improving facilities, we will be able to welcome a wider range of users and reduce barriers to participation.

(B) The club already provides free coaching opportunities for children and young people, and these improvements will allow us to expand this offer. This is particularly important for families experiencing financial hardship, as it provides access to free, local activities that support physical health, social connection and personal development without adding financial pressure. By ensuring everyone can access and benefit from the club's activities regardless of age, income, ability or background, the project will contribute to a fairer and more inclusive community.

B1. Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities The project will create greater opportunities for young people to develop transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership, commitment and confidence through coaching and volunteering opportunities. We will continue to work with local schools and aim to expand engagement with secondary school pupils and youth groups, helping young people build skills that support future education, training and employment pathways.

B2. Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing Participation in sport and community activities has a positive impact on both physical and mental wellbeing. The club provides a welcoming environment where people can stay active, build friendships and reduce social isolation. Expanding access to the facility will enable more people to benefit from these opportunities, helping improve confidence, resilience and overall wellbeing.

B3. Alleviating Poverty The club offers affordable, and often free, opportunities for recreation, learning and social connection within the local community. Expanding our facilities will increase access to these opportunities for children, young people and families, particularly those on lower incomes. By providing free local activities, we help reduce the financial barriers that can prevent participation in sport and community life.

B4. Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment Bowling is an outdoor activity that encourages people to spend time in the fresh air, be physically active and connect with their local environment. Improved facilities will enable more residents, schools and community groups to access and enjoy the club's outdoor green space throughout the bowling season. By encouraging greater participation in outdoor recreation, the project supports healthier lifestyles and promotes the benefits of green health within the community.

5. Please give an overview of the engagement that has taken place in relation to the project

Please include the number of people that have been engaged with/ consulted

Community Engagement

Dreghorn Bowling Club is a well-established community organisation that engages a wide range of local residents, schools and community groups throughout the year. The club currently provides opportunities for participation in outdoor lawn bowling, indoor carpet bowling and a variety of social activities including bingo, dances, whist and first aid groups.

The club works closely with the local primary school, delivering six-week coaching programmes for pupils and introducing children to the sport in a fun and supportive environment. We also work in partnership with Active Schools and other organisations to provide opportunities for young people with additional support needs, care-experienced young people, young people experiencing mental health challenges and New Scots groups.

Each year, the club engages with approximately:

- **80–100 bowling club members** across all age groups.
- **100+ primary school pupils** through school coaching programmes.
- **20–30 young people** through junior coaching sessions held twice weekly during the season.
- **30–50 participants** from additional support needs, care-experienced and community groups.
- **Hundreds of local residents** who attend community activities and social events throughout the year.

Engagement with members, participants and partner organisations has consistently highlighted the need for improved and accessible toilet facilities. Current facilities limit the number and diversity of groups that can comfortably use the club and create barriers for people with disabilities and mobility challenges.

The proposed improvements respond directly to this identified need and will enable the club to increase participation, expand partnerships with schools and youth groups, and ensure that everyone can access activities in a safe, welcoming and dignified environment. The project will benefit existing users while creating opportunities to engage many more residents, helping to strengthen community connections, improve wellbeing and support a fairer and more inclusive Irvine locality.

6. Please tell us how the project will be managed

Please include -

[a] How the finances will be managed

[b] Does the proposed project contribute to volunteering or employment opportunities in Irvine?

Please include the number of volunteering opportunities and employment opportunities

[c] If there are any staff requirements, please outline your HR plans

[d] Is there evidence of partnership working in relation to the project within Irvine locality?

Project Management Dreghorn Bowling Club will be responsible for the overall management and delivery of the project through its elected Management Committee, which has experience overseeing the club's operations, finances and maintenance projects. The committee will work closely with appointed contractors, funding partners and relevant statutory bodies to ensure the project is delivered on time, within budget and in line with all regulatory requirements.

[a] How the Finances Will Be Managed The club has a dedicated Treasurer who is responsible for overseeing all financial matters and reporting to the Management Committee. All grant funding will be held within the club's bank account and managed in accordance with the club's financial procedures.

Expenditure will be monitored and approved by the Management Committee, with contractor quotations obtained and reviewed to ensure best value. Detailed financial records, invoices and receipts will be maintained throughout the project, and all funders' monitoring and reporting requirements will be met. Regular budget reviews will be undertaken to ensure effective financial management and accountability.

[b] Contribution to Volunteering and Employment Opportunities The project will support and expand volunteering opportunities within the Irvine locality. Improved facilities will enable the club to increase participation and deliver additional coaching and community activities, creating more opportunities for local people to become involved as volunteers. We anticipate the project will support: **5-10 volunteer opportunities** through coaching, event support, committee roles, maintenance and community engagement activities. Increased volunteering opportunities for young people seeking experience, skills development and community involvement. The project itself is not expected to create any permanent employment posts. However, local contractors and tradespeople will be engaged during the construction phase, providing short-term employment and economic benefits within the local area.

[c] Staff Requirements and HR Plans No additional staff will be required as a result of this project. The club is volunteer-led and has the capacity and governance arrangements in place to manage the project through its existing committee structure. Should any future staffing requirements arise as a result of expanded activities, appropriate recruitment, induction, safeguarding and employment procedures would be followed in line with current legislation and good practice.

[d] Evidence of Partnership Working Within Irvine Locality Dreghorn Bowling Club has an established track record of partnership working within the Irvine locality and works with a range of schools, community organisations and public sector partners. Current partnerships include:

- **Local Primary School**, through six-week coaching programmes for pupils.
- **Active Schools**, supporting participation opportunities for children and young people.
- Community groups supporting **young people with additional support needs, care-experienced young people, young people experiencing mental health challenges** and **New Scots communities**.
- Local community organisations that utilise the club's facilities for social and recreational activities.

The proposed improvements have been identified through ongoing engagement with members, users and partner organisations, who have highlighted the need for increased capacity and accessible facilities. The project will strengthen existing partnerships and create opportunities to develop new relationships with local secondary schools, youth organisations and community groups, enabling more people across Irvine locality to access the club and benefit from its activities. Through effective governance, sound financial management, strong partnership working and volunteer involvement, the project will deliver a sustainable improvement to a valued community asset, increasing opportunities for participation, inclusion and wellbeing across the Irvine locality.

7. Amount of funding being requested

Please supply details of the amount 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:	£40,000
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Please include detail on -

[a] Breakdown of costs if available;

[b] Recent quotations where appropriate

Please see attached breakdown of costs & quotes

8. Monitoring and evaluation process

Please include detail on –

[a] What monitoring and evaluation processes are planned/ in place

Dreghorn Bowling Club has proportionate monitoring and evaluation arrangements in place to ensure the project is delivered successfully and achieves the intended outcomes for the local community.

[a] Planned Monitoring and Evaluation Processes

The Management Committee will oversee ongoing monitoring of the project from commencement through to completion. Progress will be reviewed regularly against agreed milestones, timescales and budgets to ensure the project remains on track.

The club will monitor and evaluate the impact of the project through:

- **Project delivery monitoring**, including tracking construction progress, expenditure against budget and achievement of agreed outputs.
- **Participation monitoring**, recording the number of club members, coaching participants, school pupils, volunteers and community groups using the facility before and after the improvements.
- **Accessibility monitoring**, measuring increased participation from people with disabilities, mobility challenges and groups previously unable to fully access the facilities.
- **User feedback**, gathered through surveys, informal discussions, testimonials and feedback from partner organisations, schools, members and community groups.
- **Volunteer monitoring**, tracking the number of volunteers involved and the opportunities created through expanded activities.
- **Partnership engagement monitoring**, recording the number of schools, youth groups and community organisations accessing the club and participating in programmes.

Success will be measured against the following indicators:

- Completion of the toilet upgrade project within budget and agreed timescales.
- Increased capacity and improved accessibility of facilities.
- Increased participation in lawn bowling, carpet bowling and community activities.
- Increased numbers of children and young people accessing free coaching opportunities.
- Increased use of the facility by schools, youth groups and community organisations.
- Increased participation by people with disabilities and mobility challenges.
- Growth in volunteering and wider community involvement.

The findings will be reviewed by the Management Committee and shared with funders through progress reports and end-of-project evaluations. This information will help the club demonstrate impact, identify areas for improvement and support the long-term sustainability and development of services for the local community.

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](#).
- 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?

- 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'.
- Initial interest in a CIF application should be via an expression of interest form. 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 (attached), which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.
- The proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval.
- Forms should be returned to your Locality Officer, by email if possible:

Elaine Baxter
Locality Officer - Irvine
North Ayrshire Council
Connected Communities
Redburn Youth Centre
Dickson Drive
Irvine
KA12 9EW

Email: ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01294 313593
Mob: 07814418453

1. Details of your organisation

Name of Organisation

Irvine Tennis Community

Postal Address for Correspondence

15 Somerville Way, Irvine, KA11 2EQ

Name of Contact Person Chris McKenna

Position in Organisation Trustee/Chair of

Committee Telephone Number

Email Address

Total amount of funding requested:	£80,000
Match funding (if any):	

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.

Irvine Tennis Community is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and registered charity (SC051186), established in 2021 to increase participation in tennis and create a welcoming, inclusive and accessible community sports facility for the people of Irvine and the surrounding area.

Our vision is to remove barriers to participation by providing affordable opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to enjoy tennis for recreation, health, social connection and competition. We believe everyone should have the opportunity to participate in sport regardless of age, income or experience.

Since our formation, Irvine Tennis Community has successfully led the regeneration of a previously neglected tennis facility into a modern community sports venue.

Through partnership working and external investment, we have delivered new drainage infrastructure, resurfaced courts, floodlighting and free public pickleball courts, transforming an underused site into an active community asset.

The charity is managed by a Board of six volunteer Trustees with experience across business, finance, human resources, marketing, project management and community sport. Trustees are supported by an expanding team of volunteers who



deliver coaching support, events, maintenance and community engagement activities.

We work closely with Tennis Scotland, the Lawn Tennis Association, Tennis Ayrshire, Active Schools, local schools and community organisations to provide opportunities for children, young people, families, older adults and community groups to participate in tennis.

In addition to regular social tennis sessions and coaching programmes, we are committed to reducing inequalities by offering free community sessions, beginner programmes, equipment loan opportunities and honorary memberships for those who may otherwise face financial barriers to participation.

Our long-term objective is to create a sustainable community tennis hub that promotes physical activity, improves mental wellbeing, develops volunteering opportunities and strengthens community connections while providing a high-quality sporting facility that local people can enjoy for generations to come.

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.

Title

Completing Irvine Community Tennis Hub – Community Clubhouse and Accessible Facilities

Summary of Proposal

Irvine Tennis Community is seeking £80,000 from the Community Investment Fund to construct a community clubhouse and accessible toilet facilities at our regenerated tennis courts in Irvine.

Over the last five years, with support from North Ayrshire Council, sportscotland and other funding partners, we have successfully transformed a previously unused and deteriorating facility into a modern community sports venue with new drainage infrastructure, floodlighting, high-quality synthetic courts and two free-to-use public pickleball courts.

The proposed clubhouse represents the final phase of this regeneration project and will unlock the full potential of the facility as an inclusive community hub.

The building will provide:

- Accessible toilet facilities for all users.
- A warm and safe indoor community space.
- Shelter during adverse weather conditions.
- A social hub that reduces isolation and strengthens community connections.
- A base for coaching, volunteering, schools programmes and community events.

The project will be delivered at Irvine Tennis Community's centrally located courts, providing easy access by foot, public transport and car for residents across Irvine and the surrounding area.

The clubhouse will directly benefit a wide range of users including:

- Children and young people participating in coaching and holiday activities.
- Local schools and Active Schools programmes.
- Families accessing affordable physical activity.
- Older adults participating in social and walking tennis.
- People returning to activity following illness or recovery programmes.
- Community groups seeking inclusive recreational opportunities.

- Volunteers and coaches delivering programmes and events.

The absence of accessible toilets and indoor facilities is currently the single biggest barrier preventing the site from operating as a fully inclusive community sports hub. It also limits our ability to attract a full-time coach, host competitions, deliver school partnerships, run holiday camps and provide year-round community programmes. The completed clubhouse will enable Irvine Tennis Community to significantly expand participation, increase volunteering opportunities and strengthen partnerships with Tennis Scotland, the Lawn Tennis Association, Tennis Ayrshire, Active Schools, local schools and community organisations.

The project builds on a proven track record of successful delivery and represents excellent value for money by completing a community asset that has already benefited from substantial previous investment. The funding will create a sustainable facility that promotes health, wellbeing, social inclusion and lifelong participation in sport for the people of Irvine for many years to come.

The clubhouse will be designed to be fully accessible and available for wider community use beyond tennis, providing a flexible meeting and social space that supports local groups, volunteers and community activities.

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](#)

The proposed clubhouse will transform Irvine Tennis Community from an excellent outdoor sports facility into a fully inclusive community hub that supports health, wellbeing, skills development and social inclusion for residents across Irvine.

Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities

The clubhouse will provide a permanent base for coaching, volunteering and community engagement activities. It will enable us to expand our volunteer programme, providing opportunities for local people to develop leadership skills, gain experience in sports administration and event management, and progress towards Lawn Tennis Association coaching qualifications.

The facility will also allow us to attract and retain qualified coaches who can deliver regular programmes for children, adults, schools and community groups, creating additional self-employment and coaching opportunities within Irvine.

Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing

Regular participation in physical activity is proven to improve physical health, confidence, resilience and mental wellbeing. The clubhouse will provide a welcoming and safe social space where people can meet before and after activities, reducing social isolation and strengthening community connections.

The project will enable us to expand programmes including junior coaching, walking tennis, beginner sessions, family tennis, social tennis and community events, ensuring opportunities exist for people of all ages and abilities to stay active and connected throughout the year.

Accessible toilet facilities and indoor shelter will remove significant barriers for older adults, young children, people with disabilities and those with medical conditions, making participation genuinely inclusive.

Alleviating Poverty and Reducing Inequality

Irvine Tennis Community is committed to ensuring that financial circumstances do not prevent participation in sport.

The completed facility will support free community sessions, beginner programmes, honorary memberships and equipment loan schemes, allowing individuals and families to participate without the significant costs often associated with tennis.

Located within easy walking distance of the town centre and accessible by public transport, the facility provides affordable opportunities for physical activity close to where people live, reducing transport and financial barriers while encouraging lifelong participation in sport.

Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment

The project has already regenerated a previously neglected site into a vibrant community asset that encourages outdoor recreation and active lifestyles.

By creating a welcoming community hub, we will encourage more people to walk, cycle and use public transport to access regular physical activity in an attractive green space, supporting healthier lifestyles while making positive use of existing community infrastructure rather than developing new land.

Community Outcomes

The completed clubhouse will enable Irvine Tennis Community to strengthen existing partnerships with Tennis Scotland, the Lawn Tennis Association, Tennis Ayrshire, Active Schools, local schools and community organisations to deliver an expanded programme of activities.

Our long-term outcomes are to:

- Increase participation in tennis across all age groups.
- Improve physical and mental wellbeing through regular activity.
- Reduce barriers to participation for people experiencing financial disadvantage or additional support needs.
- Increase volunteering and skills development opportunities.
- Strengthen community connections through inclusive social activities.
- Create a sustainable, community-owned facility that local residents can be proud of and enjoy for generations to come.

By completing the final phase of this regeneration project, the Community Investment Fund will help maximise the impact of previous investment and secure a lasting community asset that contributes directly to North Ayrshire's priorities of building stronger communities, preventing inequality and improving health and wellbeing.

5. 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.

The proposed clubhouse is the final phase of a community-led regeneration project that has been shaped by extensive engagement with local residents, elected members, sporting organisations and community partners since Irvine Tennis Community was established in 2021.

From the outset, the vision has been to restore a neglected public facility and create an inclusive community sports hub that is accessible to everyone.

As part of the initial consultation process, an online community survey was undertaken with 81 respondents, including 67 residents from Irvine and a further 14 from neighbouring Ayrshire communities.

The consultation demonstrated overwhelming public support:

- **100% (81/81)** supported the creation of Irvine Tennis Community.
- **99% (80/81)** supported community ownership and management of the facility.

The consultation also generated a significant number of offers of practical support, including volunteers willing to assist with coaching, maintenance, fundraising, event organisation, school engagement and promotion of the facility within the local community. This early support helped establish the strong volunteer culture that continues to underpin the organisation today.

Engagement has continued throughout the regeneration project rather than being a one-off exercise. Irvine Tennis Community works closely with:

- Tennis Scotland
- The Lawn Tennis Association
- Tennis Ayrshire
- Active Schools
- Local primary schools
- Local community organisations
- Recovery and wellbeing groups
- Families and local residents

These partnerships have already resulted in schools using the facility, junior coaching programmes, social tennis sessions, ladies' and men's tennis evenings and activities for community groups including Harbour Ayrshire Recovery Group, Vineburgh Kids Summer Care and Fit Ayrshire Dads.

Feedback from participants and partners has consistently identified the absence of accessible toilets and indoor facilities as the main barrier to expanding participation and delivering year-round programmes.

The proposed clubhouse is therefore a direct response to community need. It will enable the club to increase school engagement, introduce additional inclusive programmes, expand volunteering opportunities, host community events and provide

a welcoming social space that benefits the wider Irvine community as well as tennis participants.

The project has been developed with the community, is supported by the community and will continue to be managed for the benefit of the community.

6. 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 Irvine? Please include the number of volunteering opportunities and employment opportunities
- If there are any staff requirements, please outline your HR plans

Irvine Tennis Community has a strong governance structure and a proven track record of successfully delivering complex community projects and managing significant external investment.

The charity is governed by a Board of six volunteer Trustees with expertise across finance, business management, human resources, marketing, project management and community sport. The Board meets regularly to oversee strategic direction, financial management, risk, safeguarding and organisational performance.

Financial Management

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that all income and expenditure is properly authorised, recorded and monitored. Robust financial controls are in place, including:

- Regular budget monitoring and financial reporting.
- Independent examination of annual accounts.
- Transparent procurement and quotation processes.
- Maintenance of appropriate reserves and cashflow planning.
- Compliance with charity governance requirements and funder reporting obligations.

The organisation has already successfully managed approximately **£350,000 of grant investment** to regenerate the tennis facility, delivering each phase of the project and demonstrating our ability to manage significant public funding responsibly and effectively.

Project Delivery

The clubhouse project will continue to be managed by our appointed architect, **Eric McMillan**, who has successfully overseen the wider regeneration programme from design through to delivery. Trustees will monitor progress against agreed budgets,

timelines and project milestones, ensuring appropriate governance throughout construction.

Volunteering and Community Participation

Volunteers are at the heart of Irvine Tennis Community and are fundamental to the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

Completion of the clubhouse will enable us to expand opportunities for local people to become involved in:

- Tennis coaching and assistant coaching
- Event organisation and delivery
- Facility management and maintenance
- Community outreach and promotion
- Committee and governance roles
- Fundraising and partnership development

We will continue to support volunteers through induction, safeguarding procedures, PVG checks where appropriate and access to Lawn Tennis Association training and coaching qualifications, helping local people develop transferable skills, confidence and employment opportunities.

Employment and Coaching Opportunities

While the organisation is currently managed entirely by volunteers, the completed clubhouse will make the facility significantly more attractive to qualified self-employed tennis coaches, enabling the expansion of junior coaching, adult programmes, school partnerships and holiday activities.

This increased activity will create additional coaching opportunities while supporting the long-term financial sustainability of the club.

Partnership Working

Irvine Tennis Community has established strong relationships with Tennis Scotland, the Lawn Tennis Association, Tennis Ayrshire, Active Schools, local schools and a wide range of community organisations.

These partnerships have already delivered regular men's, ladies' and junior tennis sessions alongside activities for local schools and community groups including Harbour Ayrshire Recovery Group, Vineburgh Kids Summer Care and Fit Ayrshire Dads.

The clubhouse will strengthen these partnerships further by providing an accessible indoor base for meetings, coaching, community programmes and year-round activities, ensuring the facility continues to grow as a sustainable, community-owned asset that benefits residents across Irvine.

7. 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 (£) £80 000

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

This is the final phase of a £430,000 community regeneration project.

Irvine Tennis Community is requesting **£80,000** from the Community Investment Fund to deliver the final phase of the regeneration of Irvine Tennis Community Tennis Hub through the construction of a community clubhouse with accessible toilet facilities.

Over the last five years, the charity has successfully secured and managed approximately **£350,000 of external funding** from a range of partners to transform a previously unused facility into a modern community sports venue.

Previous investment has funded:

- **Phase 1:** Site preparation, drainage improvements and construction of LTA-standard tarmac courts.
- **Phase 2:** Installation of floodlighting to enable year-round community use.
- **Phase 3:** Installation of high-quality synthetic grass playing surfaces.

The proposed clubhouse represents the final stage of this regeneration programme and will maximise the social value of all previous investment by enabling year-round coaching, school programmes, competitions, volunteering opportunities and inclusive community activities.

Project Costs

Item	Cost
Clubhouse construction	£55,000
Groundworks, drainage and utility connections	£20,000
Architect and professional fees	£3,000
Furniture and internal fit-out	£2,000
Total Project Cost	£80,000

Competitive quotations have been obtained from several contractors to ensure best value and demonstrate a robust procurement process.

The project will be delivered under the supervision of architect Eric McMillan, who has successfully managed the wider regeneration project from design through completion.

The Community Investment Fund investment will unlock the full potential of a community asset that has already benefited from significant external funding and thousands of volunteer hours.

The completed clubhouse will create a sustainable facility capable of generating ongoing income through memberships, coaching programmes, competitions, community events and fundraising activities, ensuring that the building can be maintained without requiring ongoing revenue support from North Ayrshire Council. This investment represents excellent value for money, completing a community-led regeneration project that will provide lasting health, wellbeing and social benefits for the people of Irvine for many years to come.

8. Monitoring and evaluation process

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

Irvine Tennis Community is committed to measuring the impact of this investment and using the information gathered to continually improve our services and ensure the facility meets the needs of the local community.

Monitoring and evaluation will be overseen by the Board of Trustees and reported regularly to members, partners and funders.

Participation and Community Reach

We will record and monitor:

- Total club membership and annual growth.
- Attendance at coaching programmes, social tennis sessions and community events.
- Participation in free community and beginner sessions.
- School engagement and pupil participation through Active Schools and education partnerships.
- Usage by local community organisations and partner groups.

Equality and Inclusion

To ensure we are successfully reducing barriers to participation, we will monitor:

- Age profile of participants.
- Gender balance across programmes.
- Participation from people living in areas of deprivation.
- Uptake of honorary memberships and free sessions.
- Participation by people with additional support needs and older adults where appropriate.

This information will help us identify underrepresented groups and adapt our programmes to ensure the facility remains accessible and inclusive.

Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

Annual participant surveys will gather feedback on:

- Improvements in physical activity levels.
- Mental wellbeing and confidence.
- Social connections and reduced isolation.
- Satisfaction with the facility and activities provided.
- Suggestions for new programmes and community initiatives.

The clubhouse will also provide a welcoming social environment that encourages community interaction beyond participation in tennis.

Volunteering and Skills Development

We will monitor:

- Number of active volunteers.
- Volunteer hours contributed.
- Volunteer retention rates.
- Number of people accessing training and Lawn Tennis Association coaching qualifications.
- Progression of volunteers into leadership or coaching roles.

These measures will demonstrate the project's contribution to skills development, employability and community capacity building.

Partnership Working

We will record and review engagement with:

- Tennis Scotland.
- Lawn Tennis Association.
- Tennis Ayrshire.
- Active Schools.
- Local schools.
- Community organisations and wellbeing groups.

The number and range of partnership activities delivered each year will be used as a measure of the clubhouse's wider community impact.

Continuous Improvement

The information collected will be reviewed regularly by the Trustees to identify emerging needs, evaluate programme effectiveness and inform future planning. Success will be measured not only by increased participation in tennis but by the creation of a sustainable, inclusive and community-owned hub that improves health, wellbeing, volunteering opportunities and social connection across Irvine.

We will provide regular monitoring information and outcome reports to North Ayrshire Council and other funding partners, demonstrating the long-term value created through this investment and ensuring accountability for the public funding received.

Why This Project Matters

Timeline

2021

- Irvine Tennis Community established
- Old Red blaes courts maintenance work and regeneration of existing facility to a playable standard begins.
- Regular coaching and general play established.

2022-23

- Fundraising and investment begins to establish new modern facility

2024

- Site regeneration begins
- Drainage and resurfacing completed
- Floodlights installed
- Synthetic courts and public pickleball courts opened

2026

- Community Investment Fund request to complete the Community Tennis Hub

Key facts

- Registered Scottish Charity
- Approximately £350,000 external funding secured
- Volunteer-led organisation
- Strong partnerships with Tennis Scotland, LTA and Active Schools
- Free community programmes
- Inclusive and accessible ethos
- £80,000 completes a £430,000 regeneration project