

OCTOBER 2026

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

North Ayrshire Community Benefit News



Welcome to the October 2026 Community Benefits Newsletter!

Welcome back to another edition of the Community Benefits Newsletter.

As we ease into the colder months, we're looking back on a summer of impact through Council contracts, with some great news stories featured this time round.

If you can help any of the projects on the back page - or have a good story to share - get in touch with Karen on khayburn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk ahead of our next issue!

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Community Benefits News and Thanks

As we do in every issue, we'd like to extend a thank you to all the contractors who have supported community benefits in the last quarter. Your support makes a tangible difference to communities across North Ayrshire, and we've included a thanks from them for you to enjoy.,

Irvine's Marymass Festival is one of the most well-known community celebrations in Scotland, and this year had support from two contractors; **McKellar Construction** and **Clark Contracts**.

McKellar Construction reached out well in advance of the festival to offer a repeat of their staff time to erect heras fencing on behalf of the committee, which was hugely appreciated by the group. Clark Contracts generously covered the cost of portacabin hire to create a Multi-Agency Command Centre for the festival weekend, and the committee have asked to pass along their thanks: "The generous donation of a portacabin from Clark Contracts was instrumental in the successful delivery of the Marymass Festival in Irvine. As a registered charity operating with limited financial resources, this donation made a significant difference, providing a dedicated Multi-agency Command Centre (MACC) that enabled effective communication, coordination and decision-making between all partner agencies. It played a vital role in ensuring the safety and security of the event, while allowing us to make the most of our available funding. The portacabin had a massive positive impact on the overall festival, and we are extremely grateful to Clark Contracts for their generosity and invaluable support."



**clark
contracts**



re-tek



Since we launched the Community Benefits Wish List 5 years ago, **Re-Tek** have donated **97** devices to community projects across North Ayrshire, and we'd like to extend a huge thank you to them for their support over this period.

Their last donation to a community project was 21 laptops and 2 systems to 1195 (Irvine) Squadron Air Training Corps to enable 25 cadets to complete their lessons and exams, giving them access to qualifications. This has been transformational for the group, with their representative saying that "We are absolutely over the moon...I think we still can't quite believe it was so much! Again Thank you so much for all your help it goes such a long way for all the small groups out here."

Community Benefits News and Thanks

CEIS have had a visit from Angela and Ryan from **Wills Bros**, who met with some of the Future Trades participants at their workshop. This was a great opportunity for the Future Trades group to hear from people in the industry about career pathways and what Wills Bros look for during recruitment.



Irvine Events Committee have been well-supported over the last few months as they begin preparations for their Christmas events in the town. This has included a £300 donation from **Woodall Nicholson** and a donation of selection boxes from **Mills Milk** - a big thanks to both contractors for their early festive season support!.



The Bypass Art Group in Dalry have been working on a project to commemorate Bessie Dunlop, a local woman who was tried as a witch in Edinburgh and burnt at the stake in 1576. As part of a wider push for local history to be brought to the fore, they are aiming to create public art to remember Bessie, and by extension, all the people in Scotland who were falsely accused of witchcraft and killed as a result. They have been supported by **Clancy Consulting** to look at feasibility studies and other preparatory work linked to their project, and Clancy have also been able to bring in other specialties to support the group's vision.



Artist's impression of the 'Bessie on the Bypass' memorial

Community Benefits News and Thanks

Kilwinning Community Sports Club have given a big thank you to **Marley Contract Services**, who have stepped in and provided exactly the specialist support the club has been looking for.

Kilwinning Community Sports Club said:

“The Club would like to express its sincere thanks to Marley Contract Services and Archer Dean Electrical Contractors for supplying and installing a new solar panel inverter at our facilities.

With the system now fully operational once again, the Club can continue generating electricity in a sustainable manner while also supporting the long-term financial sustainability of the Club. This investment will help reduce energy costs and contribute to a greener future for our community facility.

This project is a fantastic example of local businesses supporting their community and helping grassroots sport thrive.

We are extremely grateful for their support and the professional service provided throughout.

Thank you, Ryan, Craig and everyone involved at Marley Contract Services and Archer Dean Electrical Contractors.



Pictured: Ryan Gemmell (Marley Contract Services), Craig Archer (Archer Dean Electrical Contractors), Grant Archer and Chris Strain (Club Trustees)

Partnerships for Employability

There have been some brilliant examples of partnership between contractors and local partners in training and learning over the last few months, supported through community benefits channels.

CEIS' partnership with **Ayrshire College** and construction firm **Ashleigh** is helping local people build careers in construction.

Ayrshire College referred graduates to CEIS for support to gain their CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) card, which is needed to work on most construction sites. They also helped each one write a CV and apply for jobs.

Ashleigh opened its doors, offering work placements to the Ayrshire College graduates and to candidates on Future Trades, CEIS' programme that helps people build skills in trades including painting and decorating, plumbing, joinery and more. CEIS are also working with Ashleigh to arrange a visit to their next Future Trades cohort to find out what it is like to work in construction.

So far, 19 out of 21 graduates hold their CSCS card, 10 have moved into jobs, apprenticeships or further study, and 3 have completed work placements, two with Ashleigh and one with Bell Group. These placements make a difference in the local community. They give people the experience and confidence to take their next step into work, help local businesses find and train skilled workers, and open up opportunities for people across North Ayrshire. For many of CEIS' clients, a placement is the first foot in the door, and it can change what comes next for them.

CEIS have said: "A big thank you to Ashleigh for providing placements and giving our clients

the chance to gain experience on site. Your support is helping local people take their first steps into a career in construction."

Could your business offer a work placement?

By offering a placement to a CEIS client, you can give someone local a chance, invest in your community and find new talent for your business. Get in touch to find out more here: khayburn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Ayrshire
College



Spotlight on: Lowmac Alloys



Lowmac Alloys are a waste management business based locally in Irvine, North Ayrshire. For frequent readers of the newsletter, they'll be a familiar name, as they have a strong track record of community benefits delivery across a range of themes.

Since April of this year, Lowmac Alloys have:

- Donated 14 tonnes of soil to a community garden
- Donated IBCs to a youth football team
- Donated their waste and recycling services to an Ayrshire Colour Dash at Eglinton Park
- Sponsored the Ayrshire Vintage Tractor and Machinery Club meet
- Raised £14,100 through their annual charity golf day, split between Ayrshire Cancer Support and local schools
- Hosted a work experience placement
- Held mock interviews
- Supported a charity event at a local primary school

We love celebrating contractors who go the extra mile in each issue of the newsletter, so if you have community benefits delivery that you'd like to see featured, drop us a line at communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk and you might be in the next one!



Community Benefits Wish List: New Wishes

For our final Wish List roundup before the festive period, we've gathered the new wishes that are looking for support. If you can offer help - even partial support - please contact us at communitybenefits@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



- **Dalgarven Mill** are looking for donations of funding to support the cost of resurfacing their carpark. The Mill hosts a rural life museum, costume collection and cafe, and the car park is well used and in need of a new surface to get through the winter.
- **Megan's Space** are an award winning youth mental health charity based in Irvine. The team is growing and they're looking for donations of a printer/scanner, mobile phones or laptops to support their staff to deliver their important service.
- **Ardrossan and Largs Sea Cadets** are looking for help from anyone who could install wall vents into their building to help manage moisture issues. As part of their renovation efforts they are also looking for skip hire if that is something you may be able to support with.
- **Beith Playpark Action Group** are looking for a top up of bark to replenish the surface of their playpark area
- **Cycling Without Age Scotland Largs Chapter** are looking for funding to put towards the development of an online booking system to enable people to book out their trishaws, which enable people to get out and about.
- **Dirrans Athletic AFC1946** are a Kilwinning-based football club looking for a donation of £500 towards new footballs and training equipment
- **Whitehirst Park Parent Council** would like to create a storage area for their pre-loved school uniforms project. They are looking for something similar to 2 or 3 IKEA Pax units to be donated and installed which will enable them to support more families to access good quality uniform at a much reduced cost
- **Ayrshire Long COVID Group** are looking for £500 to help them bring in speakers and holistic practitioners to support their members
- **Balance and Bliss CIC** are looking for donations of yoga mats, blankets, sensory lights and other materials (value of around £500) to enable them to continue offering accessible wellness treatments to local people