

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2021/22

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to decide on the allocation of the Supporting Communities Fund (SCF) for Bute and Cowal. Supporting
- 1.2 The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Bute and Cowal for distribution in 2021/22 is £23,233
- 1.3 It is recommended that 13 applicants are awarded funding.
- 1.4 months in which to spend the funds.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES FUND 2021/22

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The report details recommendations for the award of the Supporting Communities Fund (SCF). The total Supporting Communities Fund budget made available by the Council for allocation in Bute and Cowal for 2021/22 is **£22,500**. In addition, there is a carry forward from the financial period 2019/20 of **£733** from return of unspent funds from previous applicants which gives the total amount available **£23,233**.
- 2.2 Following consultation on the SCF with the community and recommendations from this agreed at Council on 26 November 2021. Organisations can apply for up to £2,500 and the period of spend is 18 months. This is what the respondents of the consultation wanted. Improvements were also made to simplify the application process.
- 2.3 The SCF is a popular fund and has attracted 20 applications from the Bute and Cowal area requesting a total of £45,493 in funding.
- 2.4 Applications are scored against criteria set out in the guidance (<https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants>)

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The SCF is marked through a robust process which involves financial checks and contact with the applicant to verify any information where required. All applicants need to provide satisfactory essential information on governance and finance to be eligible for further assessment. The scoring is based on a set of criteria outlined in the guidance and made [Guidance for applicants](#)). Applications to the fund in March 2021 must meet one or more of the criteria:

Fairer Communities tackling poverty by sharing opportunities.

Resilient Communities rebuilding and repairing from a pandemic; noting that this is only in the case of the group being unable to access other specific funds for this, e.g. Scottish Government funding.

Greener, cleaner communities climate change mitigation

Creative Communities - Creativity for Health and Wellbeing

- 4.2 Of the 20 applications received, 2 applications were not eligible. These applicants have been notified and provided with support on applying to other funds where relevant.
- 4.3 Of the 18 eligible applications (requesting a total of £45,493) one is a partnership project seeking to reduce fraudulent activity due to Covid-19 and has been passed to the Community Planning Partnership which is currently supporting partnership working on this.
- 4.4 10 applicants have not applied to the fund in the previous year/ two years. Applications to the fund are listed in alphabetical order, by applicant name, in Table 1.
- 4.5 Members are asked to agree

Table 1 – Supporting Communities Fund Recommendations of Award 2021/22

Ref No	Organisation	Grant 20/21	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Award 2021/22
1	Alienergy	N/A	£2,500	£625	

Table 2 – Supporting Communities Fund Recommendation

Ref	Organisation	Application Detail
2	Argyll Arts Collective	Towards costs to deliver a 6 week community writing project encouraging creative writing and discussion, looking to increase learning opportunities related to literacy. Also funding will be used to run outdoor workshops related to a new Woodland trail to encourage use to the outdoors. Furthermore, to promote and deliver live events in local halls throughout Cowal from July 2021.
3	Beachwatch Bute	Towards cost of purchasing and installing a 4th storage bench for the collection of marine litter on Bute. The benches are made by recycling farm plastic waste and will allow access to litter pickers / bags and PPE for all community members. The lifespan of these benches are 40 years and Beachwatch Bute has already installed 3 storage benches around the Island.
4	Bute Resilience Team	Towards costs of delivering First Aid training and Mental Health First Aid Training for the Bute Resilience team. At present the group have approximately 30 volunteers involved in their activities. The Bute Resilience Team offered a vital service as an emergency response group to the vulnerable on Bute during the pandemic, delivering prescriptions and shopping and delivering food supplies.
5	Cairndow Village Hall Recreation Committee	Cairndow Village hall has applied for funding to help increase hall usage and to start a small gardening project on its grounds for local residents - many of whom are elderly. This project aims to increase health and wellbeing by involving and attracting elderly residents to the centre. The hall is keen to develop social and support services to all members, and is furthermore involved in the delivery of NHS teleservices. The group was active during both lockdowns, providing outdoor cafes, and a meeting point in the community The funding will be used
7	Dunoon Bid PA23	

Ref	Organisation	Application Detail
12	Friends of the Riverbank Bird Hide	<p>Towards costs of Installing a small pedestrian and traffic safety barrier to improve access to the hide. This will increase safety for children and wheelchair users as it removes the risk posed by an embankment beside the path.</p> <p>The application also includes costs of Improving the pathways, parking and cycle parking to increase access and usage of the site in general. This is with particular reference to those with</p>

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Supporting Communities Fund application and assessment process has been completed as set out within the guidance.
- 5.2 The recommendations made fully allocate the funding available for financial year 2021/2022.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy: N/A
- 6.2 Financial: Recommendations in the report are limited to the budget allocation available in 2021/22 for the Supporting Communities Fund in Bute and Cowal
- 6.3 Legal: Applications are initially assessed to ensure that groups are constituted with managed accounts.
- 6.4 HR: N/A
- 6.5 Fairer Scotland Duty: The Supporting Communities Fund supports community groups in tackling poverty, reducing inequality and building a fairer and more inclusive Scotland.
 - 6.5.1 Equalities - protected characteristics: Applicants are given the options of receiving the application in large print and other languages.
 - 6.5.2 Socio-economic Duty: None known
 - 6.5.3 Islands: 4 of the applicant projects are island based. 3 of these are recommended for funding.
- 6.6 Risk: risk to the public pound is managed through the assessment and scoring, and through the end of project monitoring process.
- 6.7 Customer Service: None

7.0 Appendices

- 7.1 Table 3 No Grant Recommendation

Chief Executive Pippa Milne

Policy Lead Cllr Devon

Community Planning Manager Rona Gold

12th May 2021

For further information contact: Sharon MacDonald/ David Hagerty

Community Development Officers for Bute and Cowal, Tel 01700 501357

