

START

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES ACROSS ARGYLL AND THE ISLANDS

Argyll and the Islands LEADER Local Action Group held a decision-making meeting on Thursday 27th October 2016 in Helensburgh, Thursday 10th November 2016 in Oban, and Monday 5th December 2016 in Lochgilphead, and awarded **£589,109.22** to community projects across Argyll and the Islands.

Thursday 27th October 2016:

Organisation	Project Name	Amount
Arran Theatre and Arts Trust	Arts Co-ordinator and Finance Officer	£21,994.00
<p>Arran Theatre and Arts Trust is a company limited by guarantee set up in 1989 and a charity. It exists to further the arts on Arran for the community and develop visitor attraction to the island. As runner up in Creative Scotland's Creative Places Award twice in 2013 and 2015 we have become aware of the necessity of providing a part - time arts co-ordinator for the island who would co-ordinate the existing arts (McLellan Arts Festival, McLellan Poetry Award, Arran Open Studios, Arran Music Society, Arran Visual Arts, Art in Mind etc.), develop new projects which would bring employment to the island, in particular to attract back to the island young graduates in the arts, as well as enhancing community and visitor engagement in the arts,(an example of such a project is a proposed heritage arts trail for the island, a multi - media performance project and a public arts project) Importantly this person would also market and promote cultural tourism for Arran - Arran the Arts Island. As yet cultural tourism on Arran is not fulfilling its potential and that potential is rich. Up until now the arts on Arran have been developed by volunteers and the realisation is that until we have an experienced professional working alongside the voluntary sector, this potential, which could play so vital a part in the development of Arran's economy is unlikely to be fulfilled</p> <p>The plan would be to start the recruitment process in February 2017 with employment beginning in April 2017.</p>		
Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust	ACT Hubs	£41,913.00
<p>ACT Hubs will work with community groups across the area to develop schemes which maintain, enhance, and realise the benefits of their local assets for the benefit of visitors and for the local economy. ACT will take up ideas instigated locally and assist communities to develop options to generate income, increase visitor numbers, maximise potential and improve the area's facilities. We will take one project from each of Argyll's eight areas forward to a costed proposal.</p> <p>Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) will appoint a Project Officer and Project Finance Officer (p/t) from Jan 17-March 18. The Project Officer will engage with groups and individuals from each of the eight areas starting with ACT Members, Community Groups, Schools and others. This will be combined with research into Community Plans, Local Development Plan, Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Core Path Plan and Local Economic Development Action Plans. Over a 6-month period the Project Officer will work with the community to identify the project with most support, relevance to the Leader LDS and other relevant documents, and the best chance of achieving sustainability and income generation. This project (one for each area) will be researched and a costed proposal prepared which the community, ACT or another group can take forward beyond 2018. Throughout this process the Finance Officer will ensure close control on budgets, area allocation and reporting back to funders and ACT Board.</p> <p>ACT Hubs underpins the work of Argyll and the Isles Tourism Co-operative and others in their efforts to establish our area as a competitive visitor destination with services and options to attract a range of tourism sectors. Through ACT Hubs we will work in partnership with communities to identify key focus points, and opportunities to generate income through locally based schemes.</p> <p>Our proposal presents an opportunity to act upon key local policies and strategies, including Leader's LDS identification of our area's strengths (Economy/Environment – attractive visitor destination) and opportunities (Economy – developing visitor economy, activity tourism). It supports the delivery of Leader themes 1 and 2, specifically Theme 1 Objective 1 – “to support capacity building, research and development.” and Theme 2 Objective 2 “to support community led initiatives to enhance the visitor experience”. It also closely aligns with ACT's objectives, identified through extensive community consultation.</p>		

Thursday 10th November 2016:

VisitArran	Arran Destination Card	£8,412.00
<p>The Arran Destination Card will offer an inclusive pre-paid option for visitors to Arran by being able to be used for Accommodation, Dining, Retail, Activity and Attraction. We want to simplify the current system of everyone doing their own gift vouchers. Any businesses that has a merchant ID number will be able to use the proposed scheme, and through VisitArran we have already established that Arran businesses work well together. This card scheme will offer another enhancement to people's holiday enjoyment of the island.</p>		
Campbeltown Community Business Ltd	The Centenary Project - Sharing Our Heritage	£12,271.50
<p>The 'Sharing Our Heritage' project we are applying for complements and adds to the current restoration and redevelopment of the historic Campbeltown Picture House. The aim of 'Sharing our Heritage' is to enable cinemagoers, visitors, residents, schools and groups to have access to a wide range of cultural and heritage activities - screenings of films, live broadcasts of cultural performances (drama, music, visual arts, etc.), education events and courses, festivals and exhibitions. This will be achieved through three strands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) equipping the education/meeting room with furnishing and AV facilities for use by local schools, organisations and community groups 2) providing facilities which enable hearing impaired and visually impaired audiences and users to fully participate in the activities presented at the Picture House 3) restoring and exhibiting unique artefacts from the Picture House's long history - these will be mainly displayed in the former foyer of the cinema which is due to become the main heritage exhibition space. <p>Collectively these facilities will greatly enhance the Picture House's capabilities and attractiveness to individual users and groups, both local residents and visitors. With LEADER funding we will be able to significantly add value to the services that Campbeltown Picture House can offer local residents, visitors, local companies and community organisations and the education sector. The facilities will also, importantly, add income streams which will help ensure that the Picture House is a sustainable rural business for many years.</p>		
J K & C Bone	Glenkiln Riding Centre	£47,628.50
<p>This is an innovative project which involves building an indoor riding arena, as there is currently no indoor facility on Arran for riding clubs. A comprehensive feasibility study was undertaken by the Scottish Agricultural College on behalf of the Arran RDA in 2009. The conclusions were that there is a demand for this type of facility on Arran, not only for the RDA but for community use. It states the facility would enhance the lives of many disabled children, adults & their families. Also, it would mean that they can operate all year round, not only as a riding venue but also a social focal point and help significantly in attracting new and retaining existing RDA volunteers by providing dry and windproof indoor facilities. The RDA received funding from "Awards For All" which paid for the study, surveyors, architects, drawings, planning application and road access to the site. However, the RDA decided that they could not raise further funds to build the riding arena and the project lapsed. As there are over 200 horses & ponies on the Island & over 70 members of riding clubs. Without travelling to the Mainland, the members do not have access to indoor facilities. The Riding For the Disabled Club ceases to function during the winter months due to the inclement outdoor conditions which are not favourable for teaching & training. What is unique about this project is that other local organisations have expressed an interest in using the indoor facilities. They include the nearby Arran High School for sports, training & events; Arran Rugby Club; Arran Riding Club; Farmers Market; Arran Farmers Show; Poultry Club; Arran Dog Agility Group; Arran Folk Festival; Charitable car boot sales; as well as individual riding instructors who could only teach in summer months. Due to the introduction of RET on ferry fares, there has been a considerable increase in visitors coming to Arran and are looking for things to do, particularly in wet weather. This project would therefore provide a new attraction & activity improving the destination appeal enhancing the experience of residents & visitors alike. The proposed building is 42m x 22m and has received planning consent. The planning includes a large car parking area and an area for horse boxes and lorries to turn and park. The land surrounding the building site would be landscaped and fenced appropriately. A great benefit of the site is that it is adjacent to an existing and extensive network of forestry and farm tracks which are ideal for hacking. There are existing stables and grazing at Glenkiln to cater for visiting horses & ponies. This project would provide the area with an asset that would build capacity within the community by maximising the various uses of this innovative indoor facility.</p>		
Argyll Food Producers	Developing and Growing the Argyll Food Economy	£45,367.00
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broaden Economic Activity - Helping to improve the red meat processing in the region and develop premium markets to achieve required margins. 2. Developing routes to market for Argyll food products 3. Growing the food and drink events calendar 4. Continued development of Argyll as a food and drink destination with increased number of food businesses. 		

Scottish Canals	Delivery of Crinan Canal Active Travel & Tourist Towpath	£123,804.00
<p>Crinan Canal in Scotland provides a strategic long distance walking and cycling route. Scottish Canals (SC) and partners have invested over £20million in establishing the canal towpath as an enjoyable, convenient and attractive place to undertake sustainable travel journeys. This investment continued in 2015/16 with Scottish Canals delivering more than £2million investment within the towpath network throughout Scotland.</p> <p>Scottish Canals has worked closely with Sustrans and other funding sources to continue the investment to improve the experience of active travel and leisure users along the canal towpath. During 2015, SC reviewed the full length of the canal towpath and established sections to be taken forward to improve the experience of the user and active travel modes. In addition to the condition survey, access issues have also been reviewed to improve ease of use by all users.</p> <p>The Crinan canal provides the most direct link between key trip generators and attractors, creating an attractive alternative to using a car or motorised vehicle for short distance (or even in some cases, long distance) journeys.</p> <p>The projects identified for 2016/17 deliver the two missing upgraded links providing active travel users with an uninterrupted bound surfaced towpath from Ardrishaig via Lochgilphead to Crinan. This project within Argyll and Bute Council will complete the towpath upgrade from Bellanoch Bridge to Crinan Ferry Bridge (2.17km). A popular link due to its close proximity to the employment hub of Lochgilphead and improved network completed during 2015/16.</p>		
Marketing Mull & Iona	Mull and Iona Marketing Organisational development	£10,769.62
<p>Marketing Mull and Iona (MMI) is the new Destination Marketing Organisation (DMO) for Mull and Iona, taking over the remit of Holiday Mull & Iona (HMI), which is currently in the process of being wound down. With a committed and experienced board of Directors, drawn from the local business community, MMI has ambitious aims for its first years of operation to make Mull & Iona the rural destination of choice in Scotland, and thus boost the local economy, by supporting small businesses and sustainably increasing tourism through a collaborative approach.</p> <p>MMI is an umbrella marketing and promotional group, representing the tourism sector on Mull and Iona by working with and representing the myriad of existing marketing and promotional activities carried out by individuals, businesses and other groups on the islands. To achieve this, MMI will develop and deliver a high quality and impactful PR and advertising initiatives; develop a high quality, content rich and engaging website to maximise pre-arrival intelligence and on-arrival information for visitors; represent and lobby on behalf of the islands' tourism businesses; and provide a forum for business networking and a focus for collaboration.</p> <p>We are seeking funds from LEADER to specifically deliver our first objectives of developing impactful PR and advertising, and developing a high quality website; and the appointment of Marketing Officer to help deliver these objectives.</p>		
Taynuilt Sports Council SCIO	Taynuilt Sports Council - Access Improvement Works	£12,799.60
<p>The project is re-surfacing of the existing access road and car park to Taynuilt Sports Hub. Currently both are in very poor condition and present safety issues to the general public. The surface of the access road is potholed and requires constant maintenance. The car park is surfaced with various aggregates and water gathers on the surface and leads to puddling and potholes. The condition of the road and car park are vital in ensuring the facilities are used and are safe for public access. The road and car park are used to access the sports facilities, play park, pavilion, golf course and bottle banks.</p>		

Tiree Community Business Ltd	Gott Bay Moorings	£23,150.00
<p>Marine Tourism is a growing sector in Scotland and offers significant opportunity to capture economic value for coastal communities. The West of Scotland and West Argyll offer a marine environment of world class quality. The Mooring Committee of Tiree Community Business (TCB) wish to put 8-10 community owned moorings in Gott Bay, Isle of Tiree. These moorings will be made available for passing yachts or small craft to safely moor overnight. Vessels will be charged a daily rate to use the moorings. Moorings will be advertised in local and mainstream yachting media.</p> <p>The moorings will provide a foundation for any future harbours project which the community are intending to pursue for Tiree and will place Tiree in a good position to benefit from a sustainable sector like marine tourism. The moorings will provide safe anchorage and landing infrastructure and will stimulate sustainable growth for existing small businesses. Further benefits would be that entrepreneurial opportunities will present themselves for new start-ups. The moorings will also provide employment for one seasonal worker.</p> <p>Capturing the benefits of marine tourism has been an aspiration for Tiree and this is reflected as a key theme in the Tiree Growth Plan 2011-16. Tourism has long been recognised as a key economic driver on Tiree and Gott Bay Moorings are seen as a key factor for stabilising the population, stimulating growth and generally encouraging resilience and sustainability within our community.</p> <p>The main source of income for the Gott Bay Moorings will be from passing yachts or other small craft wishing to moor at Tiree to utilise facilities. A daily charge will be incurred per mooring. The customer base will be mostly seasonal and it is expected that the moorings will be used from March to October.</p> <p>Out of seasonal usage will mostly be fisherman using the moorings during inclement or adverse weather or passing vessels seeking refuge.</p>		

Monday 5th December 2016:

Argyll and Bute Council	Argyll and the Isles CHArts Place Partnership Plan	£160,000.00
<p>The population of Argyll and Bute of 89,590 is spread across the second largest local authority area in Scotland. The area has the third sparsest population density of the 32 Scottish local authorities, with an average population density of just 0.13 persons per hectare.</p> <p>Seventeen per cent of Argyll and Bute's population live on our 23 inhabited Islands. Forty-five percent live in settlements of 3,000 or more people; thus, fifty five per cent live in settlements smaller than 3,000 people, or out-with settlements altogether.</p> <p>These figures illustrate the difficulties in developing and sustaining culture and heritage activity and businesses. Attendance at events and access to markets are not sufficient if we rely on only the local populations. The geographic isolation and sparseness of population make it imperative to be able to attract visitors and develop remote markets.</p> <p>These issues have been recognised by the Scottish Government through the award, via Creative Scotland, of a Place Partnership. The Place Partnership Plan addresses these unique geographic and demographic challenges facing Argyll and Bute. The funding available through the Place Partnership must be matched.</p> <p>The PPP recognises the imperative of creating a strategic development organisation to set priorities and to champion Culture and Heritage. The organisation (CHArts) will foster collaborative working which will create events and products that are of sufficient quality and scale to be marketable at the highest level.</p> <p>It is intended to create an environment that provides sustainability to sole traders and micro-businesses so they can stay in Argyll and Bute by highlighting the amazing strengths that Argyll and Bute affords the practising artist as a home.</p> <p>The PPP also recognises the social, health and community resilience benefits that will accrue to the whole of Argyll and Bute through having a strong, vibrant and sustainable Culture, Heritage and Arts (CHA) sector.</p>		

Argyll Small Woods Coop	Feasibility study into the establishment of a shared forester resource	£5,000.00
<p>The Argyll Small Woods Cooperative (ASWC) supports woodland owners and workers to develop their understanding of small woodlands through training, workshops, study tours and practical demonstrations case/studies. A survey of members has shown that the main support that members need is management advice from a professional forester. A study undertaken by the Community Woodlands Association (CWA), showed that many small woodland owners perceive that larger forestry companies/agents may not have the understanding or expertise to deliver the holistic approach to management they require and are expensive. The study suggests a model of a shared forester who acts as a broker/mediator with woodland owners linking to this person depending on their needs.</p> <p>This project will explore how feasible the model would be in Argyll through carrying out research to establish the nature of the woodland resource, understand the motivations and aspirations of woodland owners as well as those innovations that they might be open to considering. The project would also identify the "market" for the environmental and social "woodland services" that can be developed and the economic benefits that might be expected. It would also consider "what works" in stimulating innovation amongst owners and the existing base, as well as effective means of bringing ideas and people in from outside the "sector".</p> <p>The funding will also support the production of Woodland management plans for small woods owners. This will augment the research on the woodland resource by providing management prescriptions to bring these woods into active management.</p>		
Argyll and Bute Council	Dunoon Town Centre Community Engagement Programme	£10,200.00
<p>The Dunoon Town Centre Community Engagement Programme is the community element of a regeneration project aimed at engaging the community in a creative and innovative way, to provide instruments and learning journeys to enable them to engage with their historical and cultural heritage. This will allow the community to discover how to preserve and enhance their heritage and in so doing create a healthy economic environment for the future of the town and the area.</p> <p>This will include awareness raising, merchandising information sessions, masonry and lime taster sessions for homeowners, awareness days for schools and information and taster sessions for contractors.</p>		
Argyll and Bute Council	Rothesay Cultural and Heritage Engagement Programme	£65,800.00
<p>This LEADER application is to help develop community engagement in Rothesay Town Centre in order to tie in with regeneration activities around the town and to develop a creative industries hub.</p>		

Argyll and the Islands LEADER LAG is being part financed by the Scottish Government and European Community LEADER Programme 2014-2020. For more details on the projects approved please visit our website

www.aileader.org



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