

To: GREENER RENFREWSHIRE THEMATIC BOARD

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Report by:

Oliver Reid, Lead Officer
Head of Public Protection, Renfrewshire Council

STALLED SPACES SCOTLAND

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the first phase of Renfrewshire's Stalled Spaces Scotland programme. This initiative supports and enables community groups to take temporary ownership of underused open space or stalled development sites for community use. The budget for this first phase of the programme was £20,000 - this comprised of £10,000 from Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS), match funded by Renfrewshire Council. Across Renfrewshire, nine projects were funded to a total of £19,882 including: growing and planting; live music; art; and filming.
- 1.2 The £20k budget for the first phase of the programme has now been exhausted, although A&DS have advised that additional funding has now been released and around £10k has been made available for projects in Renfrewshire. This additional funding does not require to be match funded and will be administered through A&DS but they still have a requirement that all applications submitted to them for approval have previously been approved in principal through the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board:
 - a. notes the detail of the projects completed in the first phase of Renfrewshire's Stalled Spaces Scotland programme.
 - b. note the applications which have been received for funding in the second phase of the programme, being administered through A&DS.



3. Background

- 3.1 Community groups were invited to apply for grants of between £250 - £5,000 to bring derelict or vacant land back to temporary use within the Renfrewshire area as part of the Stalled Spaces Scotland programme. 75% of projects funded had to be town centre based and applications were approved by the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board, having been initially assessed for essential criteria by the Greener Communities sub-group.
- 3.2 The application form, guidance notes and scoring matrix were made available on the Renfrewshire 2023 website (www.renfrewshire2023.com). The scoring matrix was used by the Greener Renfrewshire Thematic Board to assess each application.
- 3.3 In August 2016, A&DS advised that additional funding for the Stalled Spaces Scotland programme had been released with around £10k available for projects in Renfrewshire. A&DS requested that details of applications for this additional funding be submitted by early October.
- 3.4 Information on this additional funding was shared with community groups across Renfrewshire and notes of interest were received from a number of organisations.
- 3.5 Three applications have now been received for this additional funding and have been submitted to A&DS for approval:

Applicant	Project	Funding Requested
Kilbarchan Community Council	2nd phase of the community garden at the disused petrol station	£2,900
Paisley West & Central Community Council/West End Growing Grounds Association	2 nd phase of the Brown Street/Sutherland Street and Underwood Land projects	£1,160
Paisley West & Central Community Council/West End Growing Grounds Association	Creation of community garden at Carbrook Street, Paisley	£5,000



- 3.6 A&DS have been developing a toolkit to provide advice and guidance to groups looking to take on a stalled space. Due to the success of the Renfrewshire programme, they asked if a focus group could be held with some of the community groups in Renfrewshire which delivered successful projects, to help refine the guidance within the toolkit; road-test the publicity materials; and create case studies. This event was hosted in the offices of Engage Renfrewshire on 31 October 2016 with representation from the groups concerned. The finalised toolkit and guidance will be shared with future applicants.

4. Community Involvement/Engagement

- 4.1 The community groups and projects which were funded through the first phase of the Stalled Spaces programme cover a wide range of communities and different age groups. Details of the projects are shown in the table below:

Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire	Development of disused site next to ROAR's premises
Paisley West & Central Community Council	Improve and clear two derelict sites in the West End of Paisley
Loud n Proud	Series of music events on unused ground near Sma' Shot Cottages in Paisley
Environmental Training Team	Revamp Alexander Wilson Park and install benches etc at site at St James' Street Paisley
I Am Me	Film making at derelict Coats site in Johnstone
Renfrew Development Trust	Artwork created on disused toilet block in Renfrew
Kilbarchan Community Council	Creation of a community garden at the old petrol station, Cartside Terrace, Kilbarchan
Erskine Music and Media	Pop up arena to host music events in the Erskine area
Star Project	Art work at the old St Mirren site in Paisley

Author: Jean Brown, Planning and Performance Officer, Community Resources, Renfrewshire Council. Tel: 0141 618 7576
E-mail: jean.brown@renfrewshire.gov.uk