

To: The Villages Local Partnership

On: 02 March 2023

Report by:
Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council

TITLE:
The Villages Local Partnership Budget Monitoring and Feedback Report

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Villages Local Partnership provides funding to community groups to undertake projects. This funding is allocated from the General Grant Fund and, through a Participating Budgeting exercise known as Celebrating Renfrewshire, the Youth Challenge Fund.
- 1.2 A table setting out the funds allocated by The Villages Local Partnership in 2022/23 and current budget position is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 1.3 Since the last meeting, Lochwinnoch Toddlers Group have returned their award of £2,701 as this is no longer required. The Villages Local Partnership therefore has a remaining balance of £3,872.
- 1.4 New feedback has been received from two organisations for funding awards in 2021/22 and this is detailed at Appendix 2.
- 1.5 Applications to the 2023/24 round of Local Partnership awards will be open from early March 2023. Updated guidance will be issued to applicants, with opportunities to attend support sessions to advise applicants and answer any queries about the process. Applications will be submitted to the May 2023 round of Local Partnership meetings for decisions on awards.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the budget monitoring and feedback report be noted.

The Villages Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report 2022/23

General Grant Fund	£50,441 (net of Members expenses)
Carry Forward to 2022/23	£4,131 (funds returned)
Total Funding Awards Available	£53,441
	£3,872

Grant Ref	Organisation	Awarded	Paid
FR1034	Friends of Howwood Park	£1,720	£1,720
FR1036	Kilbarchan Improvement Projects	£2,000	£2,000
FR1044	Lochwinnoch Choral Society	£2,070	£2,070
FR1047	Lochwinnoch Arts Festival	£2,879	£2,879
FR1050	Houston & Killellan Kirk Men's Shed	£2,500	£2,500
FR1052	Lochwinnoch S.W.I.	£300	£300
FR1053	The Kilbarchan Singers	£3,010	£3,010
FR1060	1 st Bridge of Weir Scout Group	£5,279	£5,279
FR1062	The Renfrewshire Toy Bank	£1,428	£1,428
FR1108	Lochwinnoch Toddlers Group	£2,701	£0
FR1116	Renfrewshire Model Railway Club	£2,654	£2,654
FR1120	Houston Community Council	£2,900	£2,900
FR1122	Elderslie Community Council	£1,545	£1,545
FR1127	Elderslie Community Council	£200	£200
FR1128	Paisley Sea Cadets/Brediland Hall	£200	£200
FR1136	Elderslie Community Council	£3,000	£3,000
FR1139	Howwood Community Council	£5,235	£5,235
FR1141	Lamont Farm Project	£500	£500
FR1145	Local Energy Action Plan	£10,000	£10,000
FR1152	Brookfield S.W.I.	£400	£400
FR1156	Kilbarchan Community Council	£2,000	£2,000
FR1175	Improving with age	£920	£920

Celebrating Renfrewshire Fund	£39,650.20
Total Awards	£39,650.20

Grant Ref	Organisation	Awarded	Paid
CE1001	1st Bridge of Weir Scout Group	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
CE1002	1st Lochwinnoch Boy's Brigade	£2,340.00	£2,340.00
CE1017	Friends Of Howwood Park	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
CE1024	Lamont farm project	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
CE1026	Lochwinnoch Youth Club	£2,439.20	£0.00
CE1031	PACE Theatre Company	£3,000.00	£0.00
CE1046	Renfrewshire Carers Centre	£1,715.00	£1,715.00
CE1050	Solid rock Cheer and Gym	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
CE1054	Who Cares Scotland	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
CE1008	Blue Triangle Housing Association	£2,906.00	£2,906.00
CE1010	Bungalow Enterprises CIC	£2,550.00	£2,550.00
CE1021	I was Gonnae	£2,200.00	£2,200.00
CE1027	Loud n Proud	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
CE1032	Pachedu	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
CE1043	Renfrew Town Sea Scouts	£3,000.00	£3,000.00

Feedback From 2021/22 Awards

Feedback received from community groups awarded funding from The Villages Local Partnership in 2021/22 is as follows:

Bridge of Weir Scout Group

Project Name: Essential Exterior Repairs to Scout building

Amount Received: £7564.21

Priorities: Health & wellbeing, Young people and/or intergenerational work

What did you spend the money on and was is fully spent?

- All monies spent towards treating woodworm, insulation and cladding with monies also received for other funding grants & donations.

How many people in your community benefited from your project and how?

- The scout hall has 130 young people ages 6 – 18 who attend weekly. Also, community group running sessions weekly.

Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP)

Project Name: Lochwinnoch Food Committee

Amount Received: £3574.09

Priorities: Tackling isolation & loneliness, Health & wellbeing, community facilities & public assets

What did you spend the money on and was is fully spent?

- The money was fully spent on what we originally intended it for. It allowed us to build a comprehensive website which detailed all of our projects, across 18 pages. It also covered costs for branding & logos. It helped to supplement staff costs at a crucial time when we were in a funding gap going through significant development.
- www.myleaproject.org

How many people in your community benefited from your project and how?

This funding allowed us to expand our reach across Renfrewshire and engage greater numbers of people. It has received over 7000 visitors since its launch in February this year. We have many more plans for how to best utilise it going forward, as we build more resource within the Team. The web address is www.myleaproject.org and there are 18 pages within the site which have been invaluable to our operation.

The site has brought more people to our Larder project who have been able to access important information about what we do, where we're located, who we're open to and when we're open. This information is not easy to glean from social media alone and many people are not on social media at all. Likewise, it gave us a permanent home for posting all the instructions and media supporting the Diggin' It project, including our high quality

videos. For the Feel-Good Festival, it was completely invaluable. It allowed us to list all the events in one place – we had more than 50 individual events in September’s Feel Good Week alone, so it was impossible to put all the relevant information on social media or flyers. By referring people to the website, we could ensure all the important information about each individual event was shared.

The site offers vital information about the projects for the public, including a page signposting to support services and other facilities, charities and third sector orgs which can help beyond the scope of our own projects. This has been an important way to share information with some of the vulnerable people we engage.

The site has supported our recruitment process greatly. We received a high number of direct applicants recently and filled two new posts from individuals who found us through our website listing.

One really important thing that the website has done, is it has created an online window for funders to access information about us, which will massively support funding applications. I believe this was instrumental in attracting an award from the National Lottery recently. This will benefit us on an ongoing basis.

The funding which contributed to the Project Officer salary was vital for all areas of what we call LEAP Together. The Feel-Good Festival, Diggin’ It and the Community Larder. It helped us through a funding gap at a time when all projects were on a steep developmental curve. The onward benefit to the community was that these projects were run efficiently and were accessible.

The funding for the website and the salary contribution together contributed to our achieving our aims in **building resilience locally by improving local services and facilities; supporting health & wellbeing; tackling social isolation and food insecurity; improving lives for those living in rural Renfrewshire; reducing carbon emissions and changing habits harmful to planetary health.**