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**To: Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board**

**On: 18 January 2022**

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**Report by: Director of Communities and Housing Services**

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**Heading: Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report updates the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board on progress made in supporting community projects through the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment fund, and seeks Board approval for the provision of grant funding for the projects described in Section 3 of this report and set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The key objective in allocating funding is to work with, and support, community groups to identify and deliver improvement projects in their local communities, improve their local greenspaces (including parks and play areas) and strengthen the identity, heritage, uniqueness and integrity of village life.
- 1.3 The Villages Investment Fund was promoted to the Villages Local Area Partnerships encouraging communities to come forward to bid for their share of the remaining funds. Discussions have already taken place with a number of groups and community councils. Potential projects are detailed in Section 3.
- 1.4 In addition, approximately £172,000 of Green Spaces funding has been requested by communities which will see the fund fully depleted. Current Funding levels are detailed in Appendix 2.
- 1.5 Team Up to Clean Up volunteers are already coming forward for tools and grounds maintenance ideas to deliver environmental improvements in their communities, and schools are looking into 2022 to deliver key school and community projects to “*adapt their community and natural habitats*” (COP26 Outcome).

- 1.6 Section 5 showcases case study projects delivered by communities and shows the new approach to building community capacity and resilience. Community projects such as new play parks, the procurement of privately owned land to improve green spaces, a new multi-use games area, a new community garden and signage to promote a local beauty spot have all been delivered with many more projects detailed in Appendix 3 coming to fruition in 2022.
- 1.7 Appendix 4 offers a visual tool highlighting the communities benefitting from the Fund, further information is provided in the areas the Fund did not reach and the efforts made.
- 1.8 This report seeks approval for projects to the value to £35,000. Appendix 1, table 1 details applicant in this round. Following approval of this project approximately 94% of total funding available will have been allocated to projects or be earmarked for projects currently being developed.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board:
- (i) note the work currently being undertaken to support communities as they develop projects to be funded using the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund;
  - (ii) agree to fund the project as detailed in Section 3 of this report and Appendix 1, awarding grant funding totalling £35,000 to support one community group;
  - (iii) note the impact of the funding and the benefits to the wider community's as well as the upskilling of, and rewards to, volunteers who deliver the project; and
  - (iv) note the Fund will not be able to support more projects than those listed in Section 3.
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## **3. Summary of Applications**

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council has supported 66 projects since October 2018 that met the criteria for this fund. Further projects continue to be developed within communities with the following potential applicants still expected to apply:
- Johnstone Community Council – Pump track in Thomas Shanks Park
  - Corseford TRA – Art Project
  - Robertson's Bowling Association I improvements to Green
  - Lochwinnoch Community Garden – Community Social Garden
  - Elderslie Goals posts and boosted outdoor gym
  - Signage for Walk for Health – Clyde Valley Walkway
  - Bonnie Bishopton - Planters and plants for Village
  - Howwood Community Council – Planters and shrubs

- 3.2 Reports will be brought back for the consideration of the Board in relation to these projects at future meetings of the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board. For those approved by Delegated Authority, relevant elected members will be contacted offering further information on projects prior to awarding funds.
- 3.3 In this round, 1 application has been assessed and currently meets the criteria for approval of grant funding. More information on this project is detailed below, with a summary included in Appendix 1 to this report.

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<b>Application 1:</b>	<b>Houston Community Council</b>
<b>Funding Requested:</b>	<b>£35,000</b>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Approve</b>

- 3.4 Houston Community Council are a longstanding community council operating for over 20 years. They are an active group having delivered many improvements in the Houston, Crosslee and Craigends areas. The Swing Park Regeneration Group and Bee Happy Houston come under the Community Council's banner.
- 3.5 Village residents already benefit from new play equipment in 3 local parks over the years due to the Swing Park umbrella group of the Council, and residents are treated each year to the floral displays and biodiversity Bee Happy Houston's offerings bring to the village.
- 3.6 Houston Community Council have contributed £7,000 to this project which will deliver a fully inclusive, interactive outdoor gym appealing to young and old and individuals with a range of abilities. Users can connect via an app to monitor performance and encourage continued use.
- 3.7 The Community were consulted through Facebook with a post introducing the gym in Argyffe Park receiving 123 likes and 100 comments. It was evident the community were supportive of the gym. Fliers were further posted through the doors of residents living closest to the proposed gym site.
- 3.8 As a result of community consultation, local residents met with Renfrewshire Council Officers to raise concerns over issues with the proposed location within the park of the outdoor gym and the proximity to their homes. During the course of the meeting, an alternative site was agreed within the park which the supplier has confirmed is suitable.

## **4 Developing Communities**

- 4.1 Communities across Renfrewshire have been encouraged and supported to take advantage of the £2,020,000 funding available through the Green Spaces, Parks and Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund.

- 4.2 Six community groups, initiated through individual Team Up to Clean Up volunteers, have since become constituted after realising small, incremental improvements made within their neighbourhoods make a significant difference. Volunteers further realised delivering community benefits positively impacts their own wellbeing. They feel supported to continue this journey to deliver bigger improvements benefiting a wider reach.
- 4.3 Eight community groups have either transferred the asset they plan to improve or are working with Estates Management to transfer ownership.
- 4.4 Team Up to Clean Up and the Green Spaces/Villages Funding are delivered by the same enthusiastic team who appreciate the wide range of benefits to communities where key individuals are encouraged and supported to deliver physical improvements.
- 4.5 Applicants are supported to meet the criteria set for the level of funding bid for. Community consultations are delivered mainly through Survey 123. Applications for over £10,000 are expected to have additional funds in place to boost the Council's award. As a result of this criterion, applicants have brought over £300,000 of external funding into Renfrewshire.
- 4.6 Renfrewshire Council's Communications and Marketing Team regularly promote the Fund through social media and local press encouraging groups to come forward to bid for their ideas. Officers coordinating the Fund promote it at community council meetings and Local Area Partnerships, as well as ensuring key community contacts are aware through Team Up to Clean Up engagement. It was a core principle from the outset to deliver benefits to every Renfrewshire community, as far as possible. Appendix 3 offers a map detailing the areas in receipt of funding and further provides details of areas who did not receive benefits and the efforts made to engage there.
- 4.7 The map offered in Appendix 3 is a snip of a newly developed interactive tool which can be accessed by multiple Council Services through RenfoMap. The locations enable StreetScene to understand the location of publicly procured benches, planters and new community gardens, Building Services can access information on improvements to buildings and Parks & Cemeteries Services will refer to the map to identify any gaps especially in the delivery of new park equipment.
- 4.8 The link between Team Up and Green Spaces highlighted no route was open to focused, enthusiastic individuals, with worthwhile local improvement ideas, and a track record of delivering benefits within their community, to realise their aspirations. £40,000 was recently ringfenced for volunteers who quickly put forward projects to clear up areas of wasteland and site planters and shrubs to brighten their neighbourhoods.

- 4.9 The connection between Team Up to Clean Up and Green Spaces funding has been the perfect vehicle for growth and delivering for new groups and new administrations. The Fund has supported them to deliver their own community's aspirations. Pals of the Privies, the Darkwood Crew, Sandyflats Tenants and Residents Association, Elderslie Community Council and Corseford Tenants and Residents Association were all newly constituted after working closely with Team Up. Each of these groups has gone on to take advantage of the funding opportunity the Green Spaces, Parks and Villages Investment Fund has to offer.

## **5. Case Studies**

- 5.1 The following projects have been funded and supported by the Green Spaces, Parks and Play Areas and Villages Investment Fund:

### **Green Spaces**

#### **5.2 Friends of Jenny's Well Increasing biodiversity and the Appeal of Jenny's Well Nature Reserve**

- 5.3 The Friends of Jenny's Well group have received funding enabling them to procure a container and gain permission to store in on site. The container is equipped with the power tools and hand tools the group need to continue with their project. Both the Team Up to Clean Up and Green Spaces Teams have supported the groups through funding, signposting and liaising with required Council Services to deliver their work.
- 5.4 Over the course of 2022/23 the nature reserve will become free of invasive Japanese Knotweed, will be planted with native wildflower which will be supported to thrive, there will be repairs to fencing and signage and seating will be placed in areas to allow visitors to appreciate the idyllic surroundings.
- 5.5 *"Local wildlife appreciates the work we are doing, Jenny's Well is full of all kinds of insects, plants, fungi and mammals. The community built to look after this place has been overwhelming. We all have the shared goal of making Jenny's Well more appealing to people, for local wildlife, and we are also working hard encouraging native biodiversity to thrive. The Council Team have encouraged me throughout the process, picking up the bags and flytipping, promoting our work to give us a wider reach, to take the next steps to become a constituted group and finally to access funding through the Green Spaces fund. I'm looking forward to continuing with our work and, with a bit of money behind us, I hope we can really attract people to come and see what Jenny's Well has to offer"* (Matthew Smith, Friends of Jenny's Well, Chair).

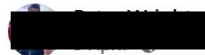


Thanks to your husband for taking the time to restore the sign to Jenny's Well; an amazing community effort to help both nature and humans 🥰



Had a lovely walk around Jenny's Well this morning with my daughter and Charlie. It is very peaceful and tranquil and the people you meet are really friendly. Look forward to my next visit.





...

5/4/21. We laid a drain to prevent water flowing over the path which freezes in winter, making the path impassible. And had a hack at giant Hogweed. Roland Vogt has kindly donated wood for the bat and bird boxes.



## Erskine Community Council Promoting Newshot Island Nature Reserve

- 5.6 Erskine Community Council have cleaned up the Newshot Island Nature Reserve, pruned back trees and vegetation and erected signage to increase the appeal of this much loved local popular bird watching spot.
- 5.7 *“We can confirm that our vision for the Bird Watching area has been fully realised, because of the donation received from Green Spaces. Our regular users are delighted at the efforts made by Green Spaces, and the improvements made have resulted in a huge increase in usage of the area. On behalf of the Community Council, and the friends of Newshot Island we offer our heartfelt thanks” (Jim O’Neil, Erskine Community Council).*

**Before**



**After**



## Erskine Community Garden

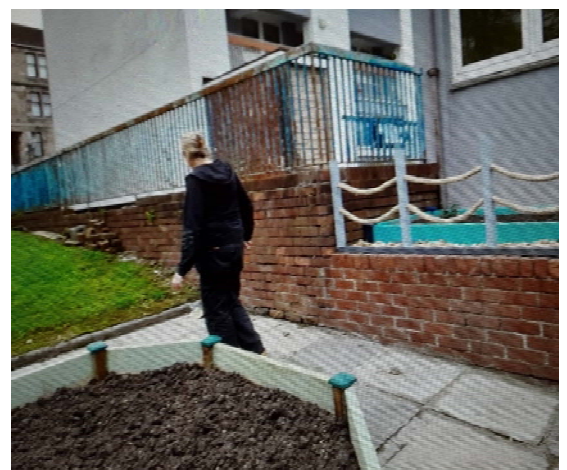
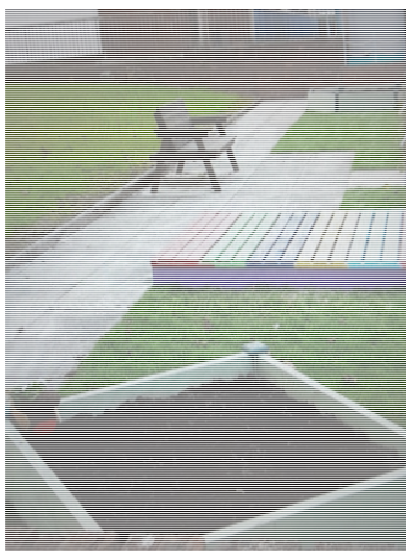
- 5.8 Erskine Community Garden's primary goal is community engagement. The Garden holds reiki classes, meditation, memorials, Earth Hour, Halloween events, pooch parties and more in an effort to deliver this.
- 5.9 Regular litterpicks, supported by Team Up to Clean Up, allowed Heather Clissett, the Chair of ECG, to be familiar with the Green Spaces Fund. The group has Permission to Occupy the land in the garden releasing Renfrewshire Council of any associated burdens.
- 5.10 Awarded funding enabled the group to install a labyrinth, extend their sensory garden and fruit patch, install new raised beds and purchase tools for children to encourage engagement with the local schools.
- 5.11 Parkmains High School and primary pupils have been out to the garden in the last few months as well as representation from Team Up to Clean Up and Green Spaces. The group provide the local foodbank with garden grown fresh fruit and vegetables.

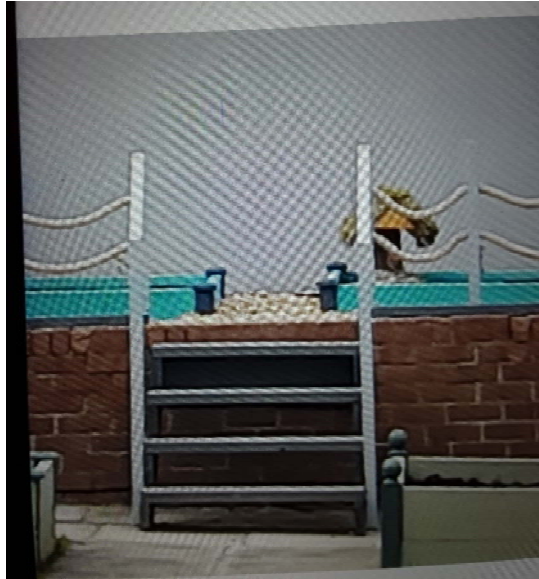




### **Charleston Residents Association Neilston Road Flats – Shared Community Garden**

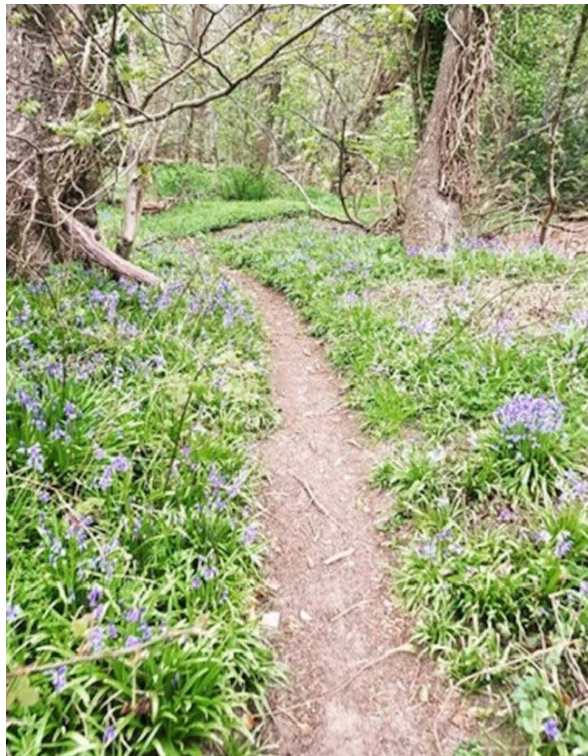
- 5.12 The shared community garden, which is in a communal space in the middle of the high flats on Neilston Road Paisley, has only recently been installed. Raised beds, fruit trees, planters and seating have been installed to offer the largely elderly residents there somewhere to go to relax and socialise with their neighbours.
- 5.13 The surrounding community have expressed they are happy to be involved in planting and maintaining the shrubs and vegetation going forward, presenting a true community delivered and appreciated safe green space for all to enjoy. The Charleston Residents Association are regular Team Up to Clean Up volunteers.
- 5.14 *“Charleston Tenants and Residents Association and the local residents of the flats would like to thank everyone from the Council who helped us to deliver this project. It really does make a difference and we are all looking forward to the Summer” (Dorothy Finlay, Charleston Residents Association).*





### **Inchinnan Development Trust Procuring and Improving Tuecheen Woods**

- 5.15 Inchinnan Development Trust, an umbrella group of Inchinnan Community Council, was set up for the purpose of procuring Tuecheen Woods. In November 2021 the group were successful in achieving this.
- 5.16 Consultation demonstrated a real anxiety within the village for the future of this privately owned ancient woodland which offers uniqueness to the skyline of Inchinnan. The Development Trust will deliver any necessary tree works, maintain the existing path network to ensure its continued use and place some subtle seating to allow visitors to enjoy the beautiful surroundings.
- 5.17 *“We cannot thank Renfrewshire Council's Green Spaces Funding enough for the help and support offered to us throughout the course of the application. The Team made themselves available whenever needed. The funding was instrumental in allowing Inchinnan to reclaim this valuable asset, we are all delighted with the outcome – thank you!”* (Maggie Morrison, Secretary, IDT).



### **West End Growing Grounds Maintenance Tools and Ground Works**

- 5.18 The West End Growing Grounds group (WEGGA) have been trailblazers from the outset and Sanctuary Gardens on Underwood Road is their most celebrated growing ground. The group enjoying offering this facility which is regularly attended by 89 local individuals as well as other groups who share experience and seek advice from the members. WEGGA lease Sanctuary Gardens grounds from Renfrewshire Council.

- 5.19 A WEGGA key objective is to bring together communities, reducing social isolation and loneliness. Green Spaces funding was used to purchase equipment ensuring anyone can take part in Sanctuary Gardens offerings, relaxing and enjoying gardening, or growing their own vegetables.
- 5.20 John Wilby, the Chair of WEGGA, regularly participates in clean ups of Paisley's West end and as such was familiar with the Fund and its objectives.
- 5.21 *"We really are grateful to receive Green Spaces funding. The fund supports us to help local residents grow their own food which has a healthful and positive impact on them and the wider climate change agenda. We are reducing commercially-produced food miles while educating local people on improving the environment"* (John Wilby, Chair, WEGGA)



## Parks and Play Areas

### 5.22 Langbank Swingpark Regeneration Multi-use Ball Court

- 5.23 Work on the tennis court was completed in September 2021 and the community have been enjoying the area ever since. A launch event was well attended and feedback from the community was very positive. The asset was gifted to the People of the Village of Langbank over 100 years ago however there has been little investment in the tennis courts.
- 5.24 Langbank primary have been taking pupils to deliver gym classes. Promotion of the facility has ensured villagers, and those living beyond the village, are aware of its presence and this tennis court is a welcoming village asset to be enjoyed by all.

Before and After:



*"I found the process of applying for this funding a reasonably simple one. Nicola and Graeme initially met us at the tennis court, and they believed in us from the beginning, sharing our vision. They gave us invaluable advice and were helpful, knowledgeable, and encouraging throughout the project. They supported us to overcome a couple of issues raised throughout the process, were always available when we needed them and continue to support us now."*

*You can see from the village's comments on Facebook how happy the community are with the delivery of this new provision. Not only does it look great, but it is also an attractive option for the local kids and adults encouraging them to get fit and socialise. P6/7 from Langbank Primary School walked to the MUGA for their PE session recently and enjoyed their first game of football and basketball together, they loved it and it was wonderful to see!"*

Julie Gilmour, Secretary, Langbank Swingpark Regeneration

Excellent addition to village. Great kids have a safe place to go play and encourages sports activities too. Well done everyone involved 🍌

Like · Reply · 1 w



Absolutely brilliant facility for the village, it's been so well used by our family and we gratefully appreciate the time and effort this has taken to be achieved.

Like · Reply · 1 w



Always being used when I pass it 😊

Like · Reply · 1 w



What a fantastic facility for the village this is. Gives me a smile every time I pass to see it being so well used.



Like · Reply · 1 w



The MUGA is an amazing and much needed new facility for our village. My 3 boys absolutely love it and every time we pass there are kids playing. Thanks to all involved. 🏈 ⚽ 🏀

Like · Reply · 1 w



Muga is great for the village and allows kids to use for multi purpose. Lovely to see kids using and my kids enjoy even running around in it. Brilliant facility thanks to all involved

Like · Reply · 1 w



Langbank has lacked places for our children to play sports for years. This is a fantastic, much needed facility, which is used regularly by my football mad son. Thank you.



Unbelievable 🤔 🍌

The difference this will make to the residents of the village is invaluable. Can't thank everyone who was involved in this project enough - finally somewhere the families of Langbank can go to exercise and have fun. Thank you 🤍 ⚽ 🏀 🏈

Like · Reply · 8 w

## Pals of the Privies Upgrading Glencoats Park, Phase I & II

- 5.25 The Pals of the Privies make sure they make the most of their local park, Glencoats. The group have had 2 rounds of funding for play equipment and have also procured a container to store grounds maintenance tools. The group, and other local volunteers, boost StreetScene's grounds maintenance schedule by edging, strimming, litterpicking and ensuring their Park is presented to the highest standards.
- 5.26 Pals of the Privies hold silent disco's, gala days, Halloween trails and other events in the Park, their main objective is to bring their community together. The group have installed a memorial garden where local people celebrate the lives of loved ones, they further have a fairy and superhero trail for visitor's children.
- 5.27 *"We are so pleased with what we have all achieved In Glencoats Park. I'm also so proud of the volunteers who regularly help to make the Park look better and help us with our events. It really feels like there is a really strong sense of community again here in Ferguslie. The Parks Funding really made a difference to our Park. We couldn't have delivered what our community wanted without this Fund. Thank you!" Karen Campbell, Chair, Pals of the Privies,*

## Community Feedback

Yes! we enjoy the park so much more since the improvements. Grace loves the new equipment and is there everyday after school ❤️

Like · Reply · 8 w



Yes..my grandkids love it. Everytime they come visit me, they ask to go to the new playpark.

Like · Reply · 8 w



My kids love it. Jason literally asks to go to my mums every day so he can go to the park lol x

Like · Reply · 8 w



Definetly... more open, my grandson loves it and always wants to go to park or go look for superheroes

Like · Reply · 8 w



Maddison absolutely loves it and what a difference to see all the kids using it weldone yous ❤️

Like · Reply · 8 w



My wee one loves it her fav is the jumper hole 🤡 (trampoline) and the round and round 🎡 (roundabout) shes 2 and a half and we come here nearly every week well done to all involved house have done a fab job and the parks always immaculately clean aswell ❤️❤️ xx

Like · Reply · 8 w



Our kids go here more with the nursery/school and they say they love it now. The improvements have been a good investment 🙌

Like · Reply · 8 w



Its so gd to see kid playing in the park plus the work pal of prives have done is amazing love going there every day with my dog thank u pals of the prives xxx

Like · Reply · 8 w



Done

Like · Reply · 8 w



Before my kids didn't bother with this park as it was boring they said with the outdated park I even remember that park like that when I was a wee girl am now 30 so to see it all new equipment and bright with loads of space it's great I look forward to taking my kids here it's there favorite park now and only up the road from us thanks Pals of the Privies xxxxxxxx

Like · Reply · 8 w



The new park is amazing. Weather permitting we go home via the park after school, its always busy which is the way it should be. Its lovely to see all the kids playing together and also seeing alot of the parents chatting away. Its helped alot of people get out and about again, which is an added bonus. Well done x x

Like · Reply · 8 w





This is what hard work has done over the last few years a group of volunteers from our community started clearing the prives And what a stunning job they have done also thanks to Renfrewshire Council's green spaces investment funding to get Glencroats Play Park to a high standard ive never seen as many children coming to the new play park also parents joining them The Prives is now a wild life area and its great to see dog walkers coming through the prives We have our own memorial garden this is the best ive ever seen The pals of the prives will never ever be forgotten for all their hard work i was over the moon when i was named the Glencroats Park Keeper but the last few months i havent done much due to ill health but i hope i will be back to help out when im feeling better Thank You

Care · Reply · 8 w



My daughter loves the New park always wants to go play I never used to let her go but now I do the new exercise equipment is great while she plays I can do a quick workout it has even encouraged my teenager out of the house thank you pals of the prives for all your hard work sweat and tears it is all worth it you do the community proud ❤️❤️❤️



## Friends of Howwood Park Upgrading Howwood Park

- 5.28 Friends of Howwood Park became a constituted group after the installation of the new park, such is their dedication to making the Park more relevant to village life in Howwood. Regular fitness classes, summer play sessions, a mini library, outdoor bingo, a Christmas Tinsel Walk, an Easter Egg Hunt and a Halloween scavenger Hunt are all events that have taken place in the Park since it was upgraded. The group are also speaking to Estates Management to transfer ownership of the Pavilion.
- 5.29 The Villages Fund has recently awarded the group more funds to deliver a large shelter in the park which offers users a place for eating, a chance to get out of the rain/sun or simply to socialise. The Friends group were also awarded funds for tools to improve the look of the Park, they regularly engage with Team Up to Clean up for monthly litterpicks.
- 5.30 The Park now offers an outdoor gym, skate ramps, new goal posts, basket swings, new signage and picnic tables, appealing to villagers and beyond.

*"The Parks and Villages Investment Fund really has changed the landscape of Howwood Park, offering an exciting experience for users of all ages.*

*Footfall has without a doubt increased; we are all so proud of what we have collectively achieved!*

*With our new shelter on the way, and seating and benches in the village to be installed over the next few months, the Fund has been a great catalyst for bringing our community together".*

Gillian Whyte, Chair, Friends of Howwood Park.

It's a fantastic venue with all the new upgrades and equipment. Gillian has done a marvellous job in raising funds for the improvements. I especially like the mini library. I was able to donate a pile of books that my granddaughter no longer needed.

Like · Reply · 4 d



1

It's lovely to see the park being enjoyed by so many people now. A real hub for the community.

Like · Reply · 4 d



1

I love the park. It's a great place to go to relax in the fresh air & you always meet someone for a chat. It's a safe place & the kids love it. It's buzzing now & we're so grateful for all the funding Gillian applied for to get the amazing equipment.

Like · Reply · 4 d



2

Ps love the gym equipment used regularly

Like · Reply · 4 d



2

It's absolutely brilliant and great to see so many activities taking part in the park

Like · Reply · 4 d



2

The park is great now and so much more for all the children - and adults ! 👍👍

Like · Reply · 4 d



1

The park looks amazing . it is great seeing everyone having fun and enjoying the fresh air and exercise

Like · Reply · 4 d



1

Outdoor exercise for all. Great to see the park being used for lots of different activities 🙌🙌

Like · Reply · 4 d



1

Love the park since it's been upgraded, been able to do laps with the pram and give little one a shot on the swings. It's great seeing so many people use the park, it really is the heart of the community xxx

Like · Reply · 4 d

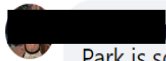


1



Park is the hub of the community and in particular was a happy place during the deepest times of the pandemic as families could meet safely outdoors . The facilities suit both young and old with play areas, paths for walking and sports area xx

Like · Reply · 8 w



Park is so much more accessible and is widely used by the community. Great to see it used by all demographics, and the variety of additional activities on offer. Great progress (and thanks to all) but still has so much more potential with additional funding and fundraising.

Like · Reply · 8 w



The park is a great place to be. Its busy and buzzing with activity. And even when its quiet, there's a lovely atmosphere.


Like · Reply · 8 w



## Elderslie Community Council New Park in Lomond Gardens/Queens Road


- 5.31 Elderslie Community Council have taken advantage of the Villages Investment Fund to improve Elderslie, make the village more attractive and instil a stronger sense of community.
- 5.32 The Villages Fund has recently awarded the group more funds to deliver new “Welcome to Elderslie” signage, a mural at the railway station, increased seating and to continue with their efforts already underway to improve biodiversity and brighten up Elderslie with planters and flower bed maintenance.
- 5.33 Elderslie CC have also secured funding for an outdoor gym and teen shelter on the old Park site on Lomond Gardens/Queen Road.

*“Elderslie Community Council has used the Green Spaces and Villages Funding to open up dialogue with our community. We asked what physical improvements our community would like to see in Elderslie, and we are proud to follow the community’s lead, working with the Council Team to deliver these improvements”. Ann-Marie Balfour, Treasurer, Elderslie Community Council*




Great addition to the community, I didn't realise there were so many children in our area. Our kids have made new friends at the park. Excited to see what comes next. X

Like · Reply · 8 w




Both my boys absolutely love the park one is 6 and one is 2 and there's lots to keep them both amused and happy. We enjoy walking to the park and it's been such a great asset to the area. During school holidays, we visited most days.

Like · Reply · 8 w · Edited




My children and even my grand children are past the playpark stage but I must say this is a vast improvement on what was there previously. It seems to be very well used whenever we pass by on our walks. I think it's been a huge success.

Like · Reply · 8 w




It's great having a nice park within walking distance. We visit often

Like · Reply · 8 w




It's been ideal for letting the wee one get out and play in the fresh air when we've not had time to travel to a big public park for a whole afternoon meaning she's more regularly getting exercise and fresh air. It's also been great for building confidence in mixing with other kids esp upon just starting school. Great addition to the village!

Like · Reply · 8 w




My great nephew visits me often and has made many friends here through playing in the park ,he loves he can go on his own safely.

Like · Reply · 8 w




Every time i walk past always full of kids having a great time, lovely to see them enjoining themselves.

Like · Reply · 8 w




My daughter absolutely loves the park especially the flying fox.

Like · Reply · 8 w




Having a park next door to our house has made my son very happy! It's a great wee park.

Like · Reply · 8 w




Fabulous park for wee ones..it's all about making happy memories and it's a lovely place to visit.

Like · Reply · 8 w



The park is brilliant and well done to the Cameron and Barr families who are always out litter picking 🍷 Love having a community park.

Like · Reply · 8 w



So lovely to see the park updated on one side and children enjoying it so much. Will be exciting to see what develops on the other side in the future. Play is so important for our children 🍷🍷

Like · Reply · 8 w



It has a great selection of equipment for different ages. My daughter enjoys it when we go.

Like · Reply · 8 w

It's a great place to take your kids , 🍌🍌🍌🍌🍌

Like · Reply · 8 w

It's a great wee park my two love it ❤️

Like · Reply · 8 w

It could do with few seats for somewhere to sit

Like · Reply · 8 w



## Stronger Communities Glenburn Upgrade to Skye Crescent Play Park

- 5.34 Stronger Communities Glenburn are an active group who offer childcare, operate walking groups and deliver events in the Skye Crescent Community Centre, next to the Park.
- 5.35 Parks & Play Areas enabled them to boost a £15k award from Save The Children who had been working with the group for 12 months prior to Renfrewshire Council's involvement. A new play park was an aspiration of the group.

*"As a group we felt fully supported throughout. There was plenty of communication from all sides. Our group and community hugely benefited from the project. I would say we would definitely go for more community projects if they were to come up. We are more confident, however would still benefit from some support. The community definitely benefited from the new park. Speaking to them they would definitely like to see an extension on the already park, and also another park up the top end".*  
Yvonne Povah, Chair, Stronger Communities Glenburn.



Fantastic 🍌 1  
 Like · Reply · Award · 1 y

Crai Thom 🍌🍌 2  
 Like · Reply · Award · 1 y

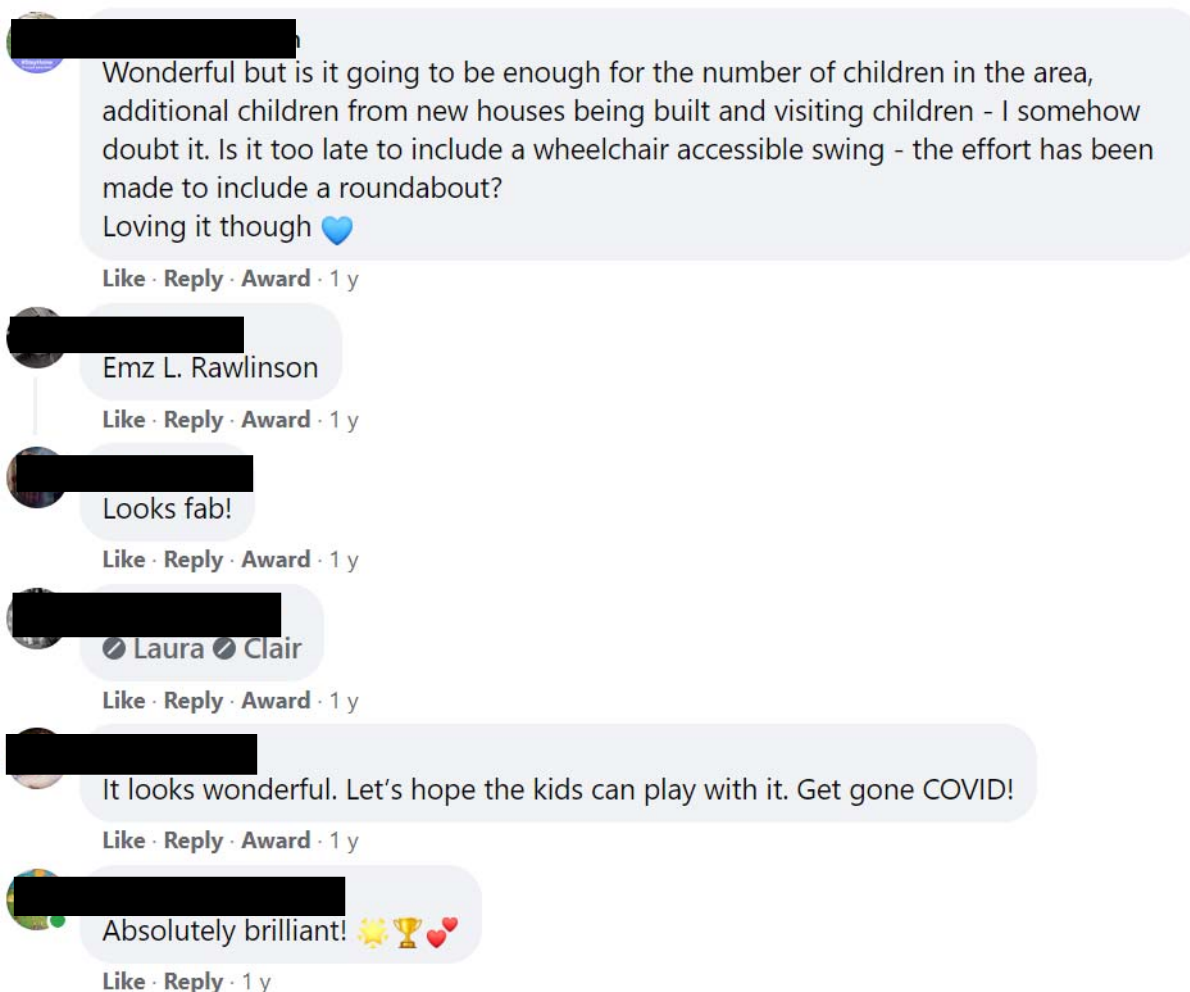
Nnicole Mmoore 1  
 Like · Reply · Award · 1 y

This looks fantastic! Could one of the swings be wheelchair accessible please? 🗨️❤️ 5  
 Like · Reply · Award · 1 y

Kerry McPhee Yvonne Ward 1  
 Like · Reply · Award · 1 y

Kerry McPhee hi Kerry unfortunately it's not. This is due to various things. However the roundabout is  
 Like · Reply · Award · 1 y

Stronger Communities Glenburn Thats a shame about the swing but thank you for including a wheelchair accessible roundabout. It's heart breaking having a child in a wheelchair who can only sit and watch other children playing.



### **Erskine Youth Council Bargarran Interactive Play Park**

- 5.36 Erskine Youth Council, supported by Renfrewshire Council's Community Learning and Development Services, took the lead in delivering a new, state of the art play park in Bargarran, Erskine. The Youth Council is run by young people in Erskine and is focussed on delivering for that audience.
- 5.37 The interactive equipment evidences the Park equipment has been used for 1200 active hours since the park opened in April 2021. The Sona Arch is most often played, it has the highest use of all such equipment in the United Kingdom averaging around 1 hours 30 play per day.

*"The play park has given the community a new interactive facility in a space that didn't have much to offer to young people. The play park can be seen to be used throughout the day from 8am until 8pm. The new equipment is inclusive to all children and young people and it's a great bonus that we can change the games and add in new ones every few months to keep the playpark experience interesting for all. Looking at the top games list we can see that the education number, spelling and quiz games get used a lot which we think is great!" Erskine Youth Council*



I have to admit I was very sceptical about it but my 5 year old daughter absolutely loves it and has been 4 times already, I was even running around with her this afternoon too! I just hope it stay in decent condition and doesn't get vandalised!



Like · Reply · 27 w

6



Author

**Renfrewshire**

We are glad your daughter loves it. Here's to many more happy trips to the new park. 😊

Like · Reply · 26 w

Sarah Morgan it looks really good, lots to do but also lots of space to run about - perfect.

Like · Reply · 27 w · Edited

3



### **Villages Investment Fund**

- 5.38 It is important to note that many upgraded play parks delivered in the villages were split between the Villages Investment Fund and Green Spaces, Parks and Play Areas Fund. Howwood, Elderslie, and Kilbarchan were all funded in this way with upcoming park projects awarded in Lochwinnoch and Houston requesting the full £30k from the Villages Investment Fund.

## Kilbarchan Improvement Projects

### The Old Library – Structural Works

- 5.39 With a 25-year lease in place and an active user group, the Kilbarchan Improvement Project (KIPco) noted the Villages Investment Fund offered them a chance to secure the long-term use of the building.
- 5.40 Cracks had begun to show in the stonework and one area in particular was causing safety concerns. The windows were leaking and there was a leak on the roof. This work has now been carried out and the group are satisfied of the buildings condition and their future use.
- 5.41 Kipco were successful in bidding for a smaller fund which will allow them to breathe life into the Old Library's garden. They are working alongside another community group, Kilbarchan Smile, to deliver a bright, welcoming garden for the community to relax in and to increase biodiversity.

*"We were delighted to learn of the Council's Villages Investment Fund, it came at exactly the right time as there were growing concerns over the condition of our building during our regular meetings.*

*The application process was fairly simple with Council staff taking the time to spend with us to complete the form and help us to meet the Fund Criteria. We look forward to continuing to serve our community".*

Willie Beattie, Chair, KipCo



## Bridge of Weir Community Council New Play Equipment - Horsewood & Lintwhite Crescent Play Parks

- 5.42 Bridge of Weir Community Council noted a need in their community for play equipment for younger children. The Villages Investment Fund facilitated the purchase of this new apparatus, procured to save VAT through Renfrewshire Council.

*The play experience is enhanced for the young children within the community which cause locals to travel to other playparks. The park has encouraged more active play and improved the health and wellbeing of families who want to get out in the fresh air and encourage active play.*

*Many local people have thanked the community council with one saying "The Horsewood Road had been feeling a bit left out. Thanks for all you do the kids will appreciate the additions."*

Neil Ferguson, Treasurer, Bridge of Weir Community Council



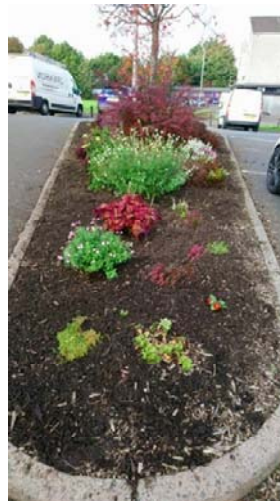
## **Elderslie Community Council Repainting the Goalpost on Glenpatrick Road**

- 5.43 Elderslie Community Council were awarded this funding however the goalposts have since crumbled to the ground.
- 5.44 Elderslie Community Council plan to submit another application, if possible, for new steel goalposts with a 25-year guarantee.



## **Green Elderslie**

- 5.45 Elderslie Community Council took a new direction through 2020/1 and, together with active litterpicking, volunteers began clearing council owned and private sites with overgrown vegetation. This has led to a number of local people volunteering to assist and brighten up their village.
- 5.46 Green Elderslie, part of the Community Council, have now overhauled forgotten areas and planted bulbs and shrubs. They have also re-potted many of the planters around



## Elderslie Community Council

- 5.47 The play park at Dunvegan had a large multi play unit which was removed as it was considered unsafe. The surrounding community, impressed by what the Community Council had achieved so far, requested the organisation took this up for them.
- 5.48 An application was submitted to the Villages Investment Fund and the multi-use apparatus below was installed.



Like · Reply · Award · 20 w



Fabulous.

Like · Reply · Award · 20 w



Jennifer Herd Sameena Javed Ashraf

Like · Reply · Award · 20 w



Looks amazing!!! Thanks to all who rallied together to make this happen!

Like · Reply · Award · 20 w

## Lochwinnoch Sustainable Garden

- 5.49 The Lochwinnoch Sustainable Garden project has the community at its core. The group's objectives are to increase biodiversity and educate local people on the benefits to health as well as the environment, of growing their own vegetables. The group host sessions to ensure people are comfortable with the process. They further supply fresh vegetables to their local foodbank and raise funds through selling pre-potted planters and hanging baskets.
- 5.50 The Villages Investment Fund was appropriate for this project and dialogue began through the Treasurer and Team up to Clean up.

*"It's so great to have a fund that is designed to support villages and what we do. The Sustainable Garden is very appreciative of the funding awarded and we understand other projects in the village have come forward too. The fund let us pay for necessary components to ensure we keep delivering this valuable service to our community and local food bank".*

Morag Thow, Lochwinnoch Sustainable Garden, Treasurer



Selling plants to raise funds



Veg to be donated to local foodbank



Hanging baskets for sale

## Houston Community Council Bee Happy Houston

- 5.51 Bee Happy Houston are locally well known and celebrated. Most of the looked after patches of land in Houston, Crosslee and Craig ends have wooden signs letting people know the area is looked after by bee Happy Houston.
- 5.52 To continue with their efforts delivering colour, beauty and encouraging nature to thrive in their community, the group require tools, PPE, bedding, wildflowes and equipment to extend their community meadow,

*“We appreciate our bid for funding being successful thorough the Villages Investment Fund. These funds will help us to continue with our work which makes local people happier and proud of their village, the volunteers really enjoy making a difference too”.*

Mark Arthur, Community Councillor, Houston Community Council



## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - Council approved the allocation of £2.020 million to establish the Greenspaces, Parks & Play Parks and Villages Investment Fund in March 2018. Due to the capital works being undertaken, Officers are ensuring that there are minimal recurring revenue costs to Services in the coming years.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community/Council Planning** –  
The Greenspaces, Parks & Play Parks and Village Investment Fund will be important to achieving and assisting the Community Plan by ensuring that Renfrewshire is thriving, well, fair and safe for residents, workers and visitors.
4. **Legal** - All legislative requirements will be taken cognisance of during this process wherever required e.g. health and safety requirements.
5. **Property/Assets** - There is the potential for property/assets to be included as part of this fund.
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality & Human Rights**  
The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** - Cognisance will be taken of health and safety requirements wherever required e.g. for play park equipment.
9. **Procurement** - There is no potential for the Council to be procuring and installing equipment of behalf of a community group as part of this grant funding process.
10. **Risk** - Discussions with the Council Risk Manager are on-going to ensure that the risk to the Council, as part of this grant funding process, is minimised.
11. **Privacy Impact** - None.
12. **COSLA Policy Position** – Not Applicable
13. **Climate Risk** – Not Applicable

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## List of Background Papers

None

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**Author:** Oliver Reid, Head of Communities and Public Protection.

**Appendix 1**  
**January 2022 Application (s)**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>
1. Houston Community Council	The village of Houston has extended in recent years and the local Community Council also speak for, and improve, Crosslee and Craigends. Ardgyffe Park is the most central location for these 3 communities. An inclusive gym will appeal to	£14,100	Approval by Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Board.	Improving biodiversity is a priority for Renfrewshire Council. This application achieves many of the key principles in Renfrewshire's Biodiversity Action Plan (conservation, invasive non-native species and people and partnership).	Paisley

**Appendix 2**  
**Greenspace, Parks and Play Areas Funding**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding proposed</b>	<b>External Funding (or other Council funding)</b>
Houston Community Council – Fully Inclusive Outdoor Gym	£35,500	£1,000 Grass roots fundraising £1,000 local businesses

<b>Funding</b>	<b>Allocated Budget</b>	<b>Committed Budget</b>	<b>Potential Additional Projects</b>
Greenspace, Parks and Play Areas	£1,280,000	£1,306,819	£122,000
Village Investment Fund	£520,000	£402,726	£50,000
Staffing costs	£220,000	£220,000	-
Total	£2,020,000	£1,969,545	£172,000

**Appendix 3**  
**Approved Projects and their Current Status**

Group	Project	Status
Bishopton Development Trust	Purchase of Rossland Cicle and transform to Community Social Garden	Group arranging land purchase
Brediland Allotments	Biodiversity Pond	Money to be recovered
Craigielea Residents Association	Clearing privately owned greenspace nearby green space	Work to commence 2022
Darkwood Crew	Community Garden on Ferguslie Village Green	With Plannning
Elderslie Community Council	Part II Park – outdoor gym and teen shelter	Group consulting community to determine requirements
Elderslie Community Council	Railway Mural Project	Work to commence 2022
Elderslie Community Council	Stoddard Square Seating	Work to commence 2022
Elderslie Community Council	Village Signs	Work to commence 2022
Erskine Outdoor Leisure Group	Barwood Playpark Upgrade	Supplier approved - Work to commence early 2022
Friends of Feruslie Gardens	Outdoor Gym in Ferguslie Park Gardens	Work to commence 2022

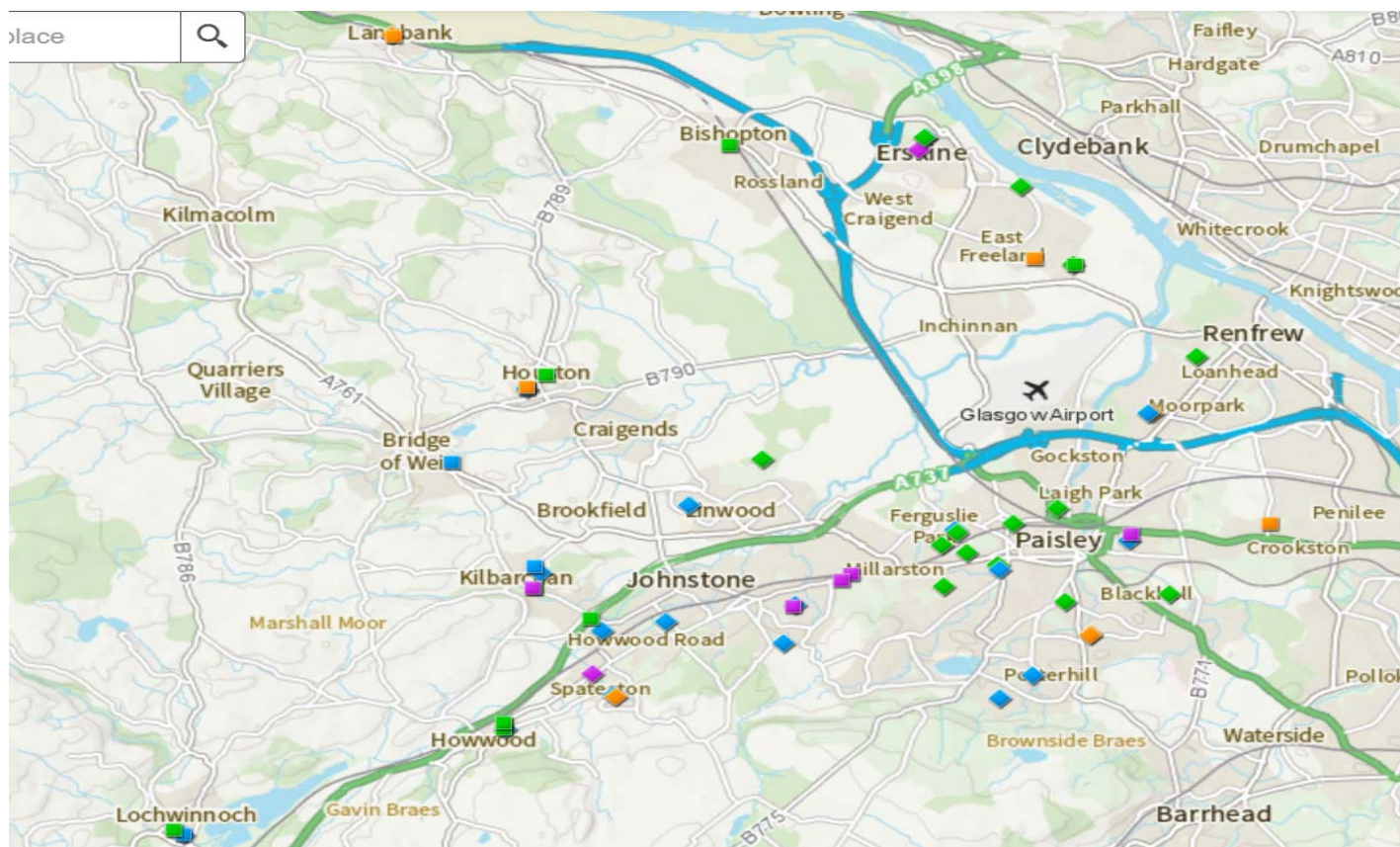
Group	Project	Status
Friends of Knockhill Park	Running Track	Delayed due to covid. Planned work progressing
Friends of West Primary School	Maxwellton Playpark Upgrade	Currently out to tender
Friends of West Primary School	Maxwellton Park – Improve Sensory Gardens	Work to commence 2022 Group to procure
Houston Swingpark Regeneration Group	South Mound Park	Continued efforts to fundraise to maximise potential
Howwood Community Council	Village seating	Work will be completed early 2022
Inchinnan Social Association	Resurfacing Bowling Club car park	Work to commence 2022
Kilbarchan CC	Kilbarchan Playpark Upgrade	Supplier approved - Work to commence early 2022
Linwood Klasscare	Resurfacing and line marking for childrens play	Work to commence 2022
Lochfield Bowling Club	Upgrading the South Green	Working with group to deliver desired outcome
Lochfield Bowling Club	Feasibility Study for Bowling Green	Money to be recovered
Lochwinnoch Development Trust	Lochwinnoch Playpark Upgrade	Currently out to tender
Paisley FM	Signal Booster to reach villages	Delays due to Covid and relocation – project will be complete early 2022
Renfrew Evironmental Trust	Community Gardening at Fountain Gardens flower beds	With Estates

Group	Project	Status
Sandyflats TRA	Sandyflats Playpark Upgrade	Supplier approved - Work to commence early 2022
Spateston Development Trust	Spateston Park Upgrade	Group procuring independantly
St Mirren Youth Football Team	Repairs to Inchinnan Playing Fields fencing	With Estates

## **Appendix 4**

### **Location of Successful Applicants and Identified Gaps**

The map below shows the location of delivery of Green Spaces, Parks and Play Areas and Villages projects. The map is new layer on the Council's RenfoMap, enabling other Services to quickly and easily access information on areas benefitting from physical improvements and the details. The map demonstrates fair coverage of awards, almost every village benefitted and each of the towns surrounding communities were also successful.



Communities who did not apply were encouraged. Areas are noted as:

- Foxbar – To date, no application received. Conversations have taken place with the Foxbar and Brediland Community Council, Environmental Improvements Group and Gleniffer High school. Interest was shown by all bodies.
- Shortroods – No constituted community group (Team up volunteers perceive very little Council owned land in this community)
- Gallowhill - no constituted community group
- Seedhill – details of an emerging group, supported by Williamsburgh HA have yet to materialise, local interest to upgrade McKerrell Street Play Park
- No response from Brookfield, contact made to Community Council