

**To: The Villages Local Partnership**

**On: 10 June 2021**

**Report by:**  
Chief Executive, Renfrewshire Council

**TITLE:**  
**The Villages Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report and 20/21 Funding Application Feedback**

**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 2020/21 and current budget position is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 1.3 Feedback from projects receiving funding in 20/21 on the outcome of projects is also attached. Due to the impact of Covid 19 on the capability of groups to successfully deliver projects, some groups have returned funding to the Local Partnership. In recognition of this situation it has been agreed that Local Partnership underspends in 2020/21 will be carried forward and added to the budget for 2021/22. For 2021/22, the normal arrangements will apply, requiring all funding to be spent by the end of the financial year with no provision for carry over to the following year.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the budget monitoring report and feedback from recipients of funding in 2020/21 be noted.

**3. Feedback From 2020/21 Grant Recipients**

- 3.1 Feedback on the use of The Villages Local Partnership funding allocated in 2020/21 was received from sixteen organisations.

## **1.Lamont Farm**

Funding from The Villages and other Local Partnerships enabled Lamont Farm to provide a service when able to open to the public during 2020 and to enable the public to visit animals safely in the fields when other services were unavailable. Projects were also carried out via the internet, for example Zoom sessions with local children. Animal handling for children under-12 was also delivered safely.

Lamont Farm was opened July-November 2020. Over 1,000 people attended in a single day in during July.

Even during periods when the farm could not fully open, access to the Farm's fields for the public has provided a way of reducing stress and depression.

## **2.Paisley and District Boys Brigade Battalion Administration.**

The Boys Brigade received funding from Renfrew and other Local Partnerships to run events and for Battalion Headquarters running costs. Funding enabled staff to maintain the Headquarters building and prepare it to be ready to open and function fully once lockdown restrictions eased.

## **3.Kilbarchan Improvements Project**

The purpose of the project is to enhance the facilities at our Community Hub and enable the supporters to use the outside facilities,weather permitting. The task which is ongoing has been helped by members of the community who have given of their time voluntarily to do the heavy work entailed in the project. In effect what was once a derelict area has been turned into a pleasant area, still needing work done on it.

Money was spent on garden materials, a locked storage facility, an outside tap and the payment of another part time employee, as with our estimate on our original application form. During the pandemic we have not been able to operate. However when things get back to normal we hope to continue to operate our venture with the same number of participants as before when we had 5000 attending our classes in a calendar year.

All of our annual objectives were realised. We realise that this is continuing story and sincerely hope to be able to continue in the coming years. The area has been transformed from a wilderness to a desired area, but one which needs continuous work.

## **4.Lochwinnoch Arts Festival**

The grant enabled us to deliver art in many forms during the pandemic. in addition, we were able to support our local art community who had no income or very little due to the arts being closed down. We were able to spend it on the areas we applied for. Sound and media, publicity and advertising.

We had over 3000 people watching our online events in December and January . We also had over 70 families take part in the Winter Window Wonderland decorations. An unknown number walked round the village to look at the decorated windows.

We were able to keep people connected and participating in the arts during the pandemic. The local artists and film makers were able to stay creative and continue to perform, We were able to get different groups to work together in a virtual form

## **5.Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP)**

We hoped that the investment would help us to get residents in the village to develop a more positive attitude towards sustainable transport choices, by not only boosting people's first hand use but also by increasing their knowledge and exposure to sustainable transport choices and, as a result, enhancing connectivity.

As per our application form the money covered, LEAP Car Club running costs, Staff Costs, Vehicle Running Costs and Marketing costs. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, there have been severe travel restrictions in place throughout the entirety of the project length (Nov 2020 - March 2021) so, as you would expect, this has had a dramatically negative effect on the number of people who used our cars over the period. As such we were not able to reach the number of people we had originally hoped to.

Users saved money; only paying to drive when they needed to, not having to pay for their own car or for insurance, maintenance, cleaning, road tax or fuel. This allowed for greater accessibility and a valuable transport option.

## **6.Renfrewshire Christmas Toy Bank**

The funding had been applied for support with our Christmas campaign however then to expand to operate all year. The funding allowed us to do this by paying for a year of storage as well as other items listed below.

We now run at Easter, Halloween and Christmas as well as supporting all year round with birthday gifts.

Teens are always hard to buy for so often we purchase gift cards. They have all been distributed.

The funding purchased:  
Storage for a year £1,859  
Gift cards £2,360  
Toys and gifts £859  
Easter £1,650

We had put in for Halloween as well however did not get from all partnerships meaning we could not make the funding go as far as to Halloween.

Christmas - 2,510 completed referrals  
Over 40 organisations reffered to us

Easter - 3,594 big eggs, 1,465 small creme egg type as well as over 1,500 small toys and arts and crafts items.

45 schools

26 nurseries

14 charities and other organisation received eggs from us

Birthday boxes

All social work departments, health visitors, star project, ebi unites, the space project as well as some schools and nurseries have a stock of gifts that they can take from. This means items have already been quarantined at their end. They then fill out a record sheet and we top up their supply when needed.

Other organisation refer to us due to space or working from home.

We were able to provide safe, new toys and gifts of a high quality taking away and stigma. Our referral process also set up parents and carers with other services that we cannot offer - helping us all work together to keep services fair.

The toy bank also relives financial strain or helps stop families getting into debt.

Easter helped with food poverty as well as helping with an Easter egg hunt and another organisations Easter activities for the children that they support.

Businesses act as drop off points. This was a bit stop and start due to Covid however we try to use as many local small businesses as possible which also tends to bring them some new customers helping the local economy.

## **7.Shopmobility Paisley and District**

Local Partnership funding was spent as intended on materials, equipment and volunteer expenses to ensure the provision of a mobility scooter and wheelchair service in Renfrewshire.

During lockdown open hours for the project were longer than normal. A new website was developed and support given to enable people to visit relatives in hospital, access scooters (including advice and maintenance), access counselling services, pick up prescriptions, get out of their home and access food.

## **8.C-Change Dates-n-Mates**

The money was a contribution towards direct running costs and was used as a contribution towards the salary of our Community Engagement and Events Worker.

Our outcomes were focused on ensuring adults with learning disabilities:

- have opportunities and support to make and sustain natural friendships and close personal relationships with increased levels of wellbeing and happiness;
- develop the skills and abilities to make decisions about, develop and sustain close personal relationships and friendships;

- are better able to participate in the social, economic and cultural life of Renfrewshire
- have a wide range of rewarding volunteering opportunities which also increase their engagement with the local community.
- Improved social connection between people with learning disabilities and the wider community through a number of events organised in local amenities in Renfrewshire.

The money was spent on direct staffing costs as originally planned, but our service delivery was different due to Covid-19. We had to cease all in person events and move our events online.

## **9. Renfrewshire Walking Network**

The funding was to promote the Walking Network through printed booklets and promotional material. These are placed in library's Community Facilities and Doctors surgeries. There was also money for training of new leaders and equipping them with Waterproofs and First Aid kits.

As we work with elderly and vulnerable groups all walks were cancelled due to Covid in March 2020. It is only in the last month that we are gradually restarting the Community Health Walks. This as delayed spending the grant on booklets and promotional material along with training and equipment. It is our intention to spend the grant as intended as things get back to normal.

## **10. Meikleriggs Cricket Foundation**

Our project sought funding to enable cricket coaching to be available to the community. The funding enabled us to provide a qualified cricket coach, when COVID restrictions allowed. Sessions encouraged people of all ages and abilities to take part outdoors in an activity which enhanced their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

We reached a total of 100 people - mainly for the Paisley partnerships. The community were able to attend structured and Covid friendly sessions to take part in physical activity. This was vital at a time when gyms etc were closed.

## **11. Ferguslie Cricket Club**

We sought funding to enable us to purchase a new cricket roller, which was purchased. All our junior and senior players will benefit circa 75 members. In addition, all visiting teams will also benefit through better cricket pitches prepared for all our teams and visiting opposition. In addition better pitches will enhance our ability to host representative games thus attracting visitors to Paisley.

## **12. Houston Community Council**

The award funded a children's motif competition, window wanderland and fireworks display. Due to Covid restrictions with the switch on event not going ahead in 2020 we decided to buy a projector in lieu of hiring and also did gobos for the kids competition to design a motif at the two primary schools that in previous years were manufactured and installed in the centre of the village. This means we have a projector

now and it was such a success we shall use this each year for the kids motif competition thus saving monies.

The whole Community benefited from the project at Christmas especially during this challenging year.

The projector projected the kids competition motifs and a Merry Xmas message to the community on the church hall wall in the centre of the village. Most people in the community would have seen the this during the month that it was on and also the kids at both schools were again involved in designing a motif and two winners selected from the schools. The children visited the Church hall to see the projector / motifs being switched on and we had good response again this year on our facebook page for the overall event.

### **13.Lochwinnoch Choral Society**

The award enabled Lochwinnoch Choral Society to implement year two of our three year Choir development strategy which included encouraging singing development in Lochwinnoch and surrounding areas for all age groups ; encouraging and developing community engagement and cohesion; help combat loneliness and isolation; improve and develop the proficiency and quality of singing in senior and junior choirs; increase the sustainability of local singing by increasing choir membership and quality of performance thence the financial stability of the choral society.

Spend of the award was different as due to Covid 19 we had to cancel choir practices, our planned spring and Christmas concerts. We continued to pay our conductor his retainer and paid our pianist and junior choir master a sum to encourage his continuing loyalty. We ran on-line singing lessons for choir members and any village residents who wished to participate. Choir subscriptions were cancelled in December as we had no idea when rehearsals might re-commence. They will re-start when normal rehearsals and concerts resume.

We had 15 regular Participants in the online singing lessons. They were not always the same 15 so more than 15 participants benefited. Participants enjoyed the `social/participatory` benefits of online singing lessons and the incentive to continue practising during lockdown. We also believe the participants choral skills will have improved and be evidenced once normal rehearsals re-commence. Currently it is not possible to evidence the impact of lessons on choir members capabilities. However, the personal and social benefits of participation will undoubtedly have had and continue to have personal and community benefits.

### **14.Lochwinnoch Toddlers Group**

Lochwinnoch Toddlers Group sought support to pay for the rental of an alternative venue to the McKillop Hall on two mornings per week during term time.

Due to Covid we were unable to meet as a group so we asked the council if we could use the grant to support at home and outdoor activities for our members instead. We used the funding to purchase craft materials, to support a range of activities from arts and crafts packs, cooking packs, Santa visit to gardens and an outdoor trail of

painted characters. We purchased a gazebo and outdoor tables and chairs, catering and supplies and sanitising equipment, and outdoor storage to enable us to deliver outdoor activities as restrictions lifted.

The PPE equipment enabled us to deliver our activities safely and the printing and stationery funds enabled us to promote our activities locally.

We had asked for £75 for posting activities to members out with the village, they did not remain engaged so we asked the council if we could reallocate this to buying a first aid pack, and additional costs for gazebo, table and chairs and outdoor storage.

### **15.1<sup>st</sup> Bridge of Weir Scout Group**

The award was requested to be able to increase the number of young people who can access the group as the main hall is too small to accommodate larger sections and we had waiting lists. We did this by creating a second smaller hall by removing internal walls between two existing storage rooms and create a room which was well insulated and user friendly to help with inclusivity and a space which can also be used during the day by other local community groups.

The work was completed as planned and evidence photographs have been emailed in. We have over 100 young people from our village and local surrounding area attend our scout group as well as 16 volunteer leaders. Due to covid the young people have yet to get the benefit of the hall but hopefully we will all be able to get back together in the hall soon.

The whole village will benefit from the completed work. Local community groups use our hall during the day and all the young people who attend our Scout Group benefit from increased self confidence, a healthier lifestyle and greater positive mental health. The young people have a greater appreciation of their local environment through the badge work that we complete which helps guide them on the right path in life.

### **16.Friends of Howwood Park**

The funding was requested to enable purchase of equipment etc to allow us to run events and activities at Howwood Park. We broadly spent the money on what we originally intended to spend it on. We could not buy everything, because we applied for £1938.69 but were not awarded the full amount.

We have had 4 'events' over the last year, and these were attended by approximately the following;

St Andrews Day Event - 100

Halloween Scavenger Hunt - 80 kids and 80 adults

Tinsel Walk - 60 kids and 50 adults

Easter Scavenger Hunt - 100 kids and 20 adults.

Fitness Classes - These have only just started due to lockdown. We had 5 the first week, and 8 the second week, and we hope to increase this weekly up to around 20 per week.

The Community benefited through:

Increased Community Cohesion - The classes and events bring people in the village together.

Increased Health and Fitness - The classes and events get people outdoors in the fresh air in natural surroundings, taking part in physical activities, be it participating in outdoor fitness classes, playing football, or searching for Easter Eggs!

## Appendix 1

### The Villages Local Partnership Budget Monitoring Report 2020/21

<b>General Grant Fund</b>	<b>£50,441 (net of Members expenses)</b>
<b>Total Funding Awards</b>	<b>£44,988</b>
<b>Carry Forward to 2021/22</b>	<b>£5,453</b>

Grant Ref	Organisation	Awarded £	Paid £	Still To Be Paid £
FR1057	Greensyde Carers	£70	£70	
FR1070	Calder Drama Club	£490	£490	
FR1072	Lochwinnoch Arts Festival	£5,013.40	£5,013.40	
FR1095	Renfrewshire Walking Network	£350	£350	
FR1110	1 <sup>st</sup> Bridge of Weir Scout Group	£5,699.40	£5,699.40	
FR1111	Boys Brigade Paisley and District	£420	£420	
FR1114	Lochwinnoch Choral Society	£1,158.50	£1,158.50	
FR1116	Local Energy Action Plan (LEAP)	£4,021.15	£4,021.15	
FR1122	Friends of Howwood Park	£1,357.08	£1,357.08	
FR1126	Home Start Renfrewshire & Inverclyde	£337.92	£337.92	
FR1128	Renfrewshire Christmas Toy Bank	£850.50	£850.50	
FR1135	The Kilbarchan Singers	£1,053.50	Award declined and returned.	
FR1136	Bridge of Weir Elderly Forum	£700	£700	
FR1137	Rays of Hope	£6,580	£6,580	
FR1160	Houston Community Council	£2,555	£2,555	



FR1172	Renfrewshire Access Panel	£1,567.52	£1,567.52	
FR1175	Lamont Farm Project	£2,800	£2,800	
FR1186	Lochwinnoch Toddlers Group	£1,228.50	£1,228.50	
FR1187	Kilbarchan Improvements Project	£2,849	£2,849	
FR1189	1 <sup>st</sup> Elderslie Girls Brigade	£377.30	£377.30	
FR1190	1 <sup>st</sup> Elderslie Girls Brigade	£350	£350	
FR1194	Elderslie Community Council	£770	£770	
FR1196	Elderslie Community Council	£490	£490	
FR1206	Bridge of Weir Senior Citizens Association	£1,050	£1,050	
FR1207	Lochwinnoch SWI	£210	£210	
FR1210	Lochwinnoch Art Group	£315	Award declined and returned	
FR1212	Shop Mobility Paisley and District	£949	£949	
FR1216	Johnstone Dementia Friendly Group	£992.95	£992.95	
FR1217	Lochwinnoch Christmas Lights Switch On	£1,750	£1,750	

**Celebrating Renfrewshire Fund £23,609**

**Total Funding Awards                    £ 9,386**

**Carry Forward to 2021/22                £14,223**

<b>Grant Ref</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Awarded £</b>	<b>Paid £</b>	<b>Still To Be Paid £</b>
CE1007	Johnstone Burgh 2007s Football Team	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1020	Gryffe High School	£1,500		£1,500
CE1024	Lamont Farm	£2,000	£2,000	
CE1041	Renfrewshire Carers Young Boys Carers Group	£1,886		£1,886
CE1049	1 <sup>st</sup> Lochwinnoch Boys Brigade	£2,000	£2,000	