

COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

2025/2026

The closing date for applications is 24th May 2026.
Please note late applications will not be accepted

Please refer to the associated guidance when completing this application form.

All projects must be completed by Friday 13th November 2026.

This is an application form for the Coastal Communities Fund managed by South Ayrshire Council. Please complete all parts of the form. If you require any clarification or additional information, then please contact grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Amount of grant requested

TYPE OF GRANT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	SELECT ONE
*Small grant	Up to £1000	To support small grass roots groups and organisations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
*Development grant	Up to £10,000	The Development Grant will assist groups to plan & develop small scale projects that will link into one of the priorities of the Coastal Communities Grant Fund. Projects will essentially make communities a more attractive place to live & work.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 1: Organisation Details

Organisation Name	Alloway Railway Tunnel ART SCIO
Organisation Address	7 Wellpark, Alloway, KA7 4QA
Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated association etc. or private sector)	Charity

If a charity or Limited Company, please include your number	SC052139
Does your group/organisation have a bank account?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/>

Section 2: Contact details

Contacts	Lead Contact
Name	Shelagh McLachlan
Position in Organisation	Trustee

Section 3: Project Details

a. Project Title

Guided Video Tour of Alloway Railway Tunnel Mural By Chris Rutterford (Mural Artist)

b. About your project, what are you seeking funding for?

For large grant applicants only - what risks have you considered, and what steps will you take to keep the project sustainable over the long term?

The Alloway Railway Tunnel ART is an arts and heritage community project creating a stunning mural within a disused railway tunnel near the Brig O'Doon, Alloway, Ayrshire. At 300m it's one of the largest murals in Scotland.

Governed by 14 trustees and project managed by Chris Rutterford, mural artist, we have collaborated with 15 local schools, 250 college students, local groups and individuals in the community. Over 2,500 people have been involved so far.

Our purpose is to tell the story not just of Robert Burns, but about the vibrant history of Ayrshire so that visitors have the best experience of visiting our village.

Over three years we've organised 32 mural art workshops in schools, college and public places and created 25 short films to engage visitors and tell the stories of our social history and heritage.

We're promoting the health and wellbeing of South Ayrshire residents and visitors by encouraging the use of the active travel path for walking, cycling and wheeling.

We have won the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Business Award for best Community Project in 2025 and won a Highly Commended Award from the Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum (SURF) for Art Regeneration.

We have significantly increased the footfall of people to Alloway and continue to promote this visitor attraction as well as other attractions in the village and surrounding areas. Indirectly we are helping to support the local economy.

We plan to finish this project in September 2026. We require ongoing funding to enable us to care and maintain the mural and keep this new community space in great condition. One of the ways we plan to raise this income is to offer guided tours. Some of these will be in person and led by one of our trustees, once a month. However, we know most people are visiting every day on their own and would like to have access to a guided video tour.

We are applying to Coastal Communities fund for funding to make this audio/visual guided tour by artist Chris Rutterford. We will also create a large poster with the QR code of this film and people can pay online and get an instant download of the tour to help them hear the amazing stories behind the mural. This anticipated income will help us sustain the mural in the future.

The poster will also have QR codes of the 25 other films we have produced and will help visitors find out more about Ayrshire history, people and places. These include many Ayrshire coastal places; Ailsa Craig, Culzean Castle, Ayrshire Coastal Path, Dunure Harbour, The Waverley, Ayrshire tatties, Turnberry. (These additional films will be free to watch.)

c. What community will this project be delivered to and what communities will benefit?

This project will be delivered to the community of Alloway and Doonfoot.

Lots of residents have got behind the project and supported it by getting involved in painting the mural, making films, volunteering in the garden areas, making donations, bringing friends and family for walks etc. We are arranging lots of visits to the tunnel for local community groups, women's groups, health walks, youth organisations and clubs. We are finding the local people are starting to take ownership of this new community space and approaching us with ideas on activities they would like to use it for. There is a lot of community pride.

However we know from speaking to visitors that people are travelling from all over Ayrshire and the Southwest of Scotland to visit the mural

We are also seeing an increase in International and UK domestic visitors who come to Alloway to visit the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum and Cottage and enjoy an extra attraction to visit as we are situated across the road from the museum.

We believe a video guided tour will offer a real benefit to a wide range of communities.

d. Can your project demonstrate that your project/organisation needs have been identified through consultation?

Yes No

If yes, please include details of the consultation and a summary of the results.

At the start of the main project in 2023 we collaborated with Ayrshire College Business students to invite the local community to complete an online survey with their views and opinions on our proposed project. Almost all respondents voted in favour of transforming the tunnel into a beautiful new safer community space. Everyone had suggestions of how this space could be used.

Improving access to walking, cycling and wheeling and encouraging active travel was high up in the list of needs.

Now, we continue our consultation by speaking to visitors to the tunnel on a 1-1 basis. The same questions arise, why did you decide to do this project, how much did it cost, how did you fund it, who are all involved in creating this space, what are the stories behind the illustrations, where are these places, who are the people you have painted portraits of and what are their stories etc. This has led us to the conclusion that there is a definite appetite for more information about what they are looking at when they view the mural. We believe filming a guided tour by artist Chris Rutterford would enhance the visitor experience.

e. Which of the following Council plan priorities most aligns with your proposed project:

Priority 1 – Spaces & Places

Priority 2 – Live, Work, learn

Priority 3 – Civic & Community Pride

If linking into a place plan or a community action plan, please detail which priority it will be achieving. See [here](#) for local plans.

This project supports the SAC Plan Priorities and Outcomes 2023-28

Priority 1: Spaces and Places Everyone can access places and spaces that make a positive contribution to wellbeing, are well connected, well designed and maintained. The ART Project has transformed the Alloway Tunnel from a dark depressing place that was covered in graffiti and slime to be a bright, colourful place with a 300m spectacular mural. A new path has been installed by ARA with funding from the Ian Finlay Path Fund/Walking Scotland. Improvements have been made to the path drainage, thousands of plants have been planted, an information board, bike racks and directional signage are also installed. The active travel path upgrades have enabled the community to walk, wheel or cycle more for their everyday journeys. The route is more accessible, helping people connect to surrounding communities.

Priority 3: Civic and Community Pride Everyone can enjoy attractive destinations and people are proud to live in our towns and villages and celebrate our culture and heritage. We have created a vibrant space for the community to use for events and leisure activities. Feedback from residents, visitors and tourists show that they have enjoyed visiting our mural and it's enhanced their visit to the village. The overwhelming feeling from local residents is of community pride. It matters to us that they are proud of our work. Everyone has an opportunity to influence and contribute to what happens in their local area. So far, we have involved over 2,500 local people in the mural. It's been inclusive and intergenerational and we have evidence through evaluations of the pleasure they have getting involved in this project

f. Please select the grant you are applying for and the relevant priority (you can select more than one priority, if applicable).

For small grant only:

- To assist with barriers to sustain the group
- To develop new projects/ideas

For development grant only:

If applying for both revenue and capital, then please detail costs separately.

Item/Activity	Cost
Beingthere Media: Cost of filming and editing the guided tour	£400
Blueprint: Cost of design of poster to display QR codes	£112.50
Total	£512.50

For development grant only:

***3 quotes need to be provided for proposed works over £1000 (individual item), quotes need to be dated within last 6 months – if relevant quotes are not provided when submitting application, it will not be considered.**

Section 5: Checklist

Please confirm you have the following documents:

Constitution/Memorandum & Articles

Audited or independently verified accounts

Last 3 months bank statements

Section 6: Declaration & Conditions

I, on behalf of, (organisation name):

- Certify that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this application is true and accurate and will adhere to the following terms and conditions;
- Understand that making this application does not entitle the organisation to funding as a right;
- Will not commence or commit any expenditure before receiving approval of the funding;
- Confirm that the quotations are bona fide competitive quotes;
- Will provide the External Funding officer with digital colour photos of the work, both before and after the work has been completed. I understand that these images will be kept on record and used for future publicity;
- Understand that this funding award does not cover retrospective work;
- Understand that to make any misleading statement in relation to this application could make the application invalid, or may mean the organisation has to repay the funding;

- Understand that this application is subject to appropriate checks and meets appropriate conditions such as planning, procurement guidelines, and other statutory consents; and
- I Have read the associated guidance before completing and submitting this application form.
- Understands that if I do not provide satisfactory evidence of spend then the council may request I repay the grant

Failure to return or complete and return any evaluations requested then I may not receive any future funding from South Ayrshire Council. I may be asked to repay the funds if I cannot provide evidence that they were used for the purpose intended.

Name of Person Completing Application: Shelagh McLachlan

On behalf of: Alloway Railway Tunnel ART SCIO

Date: 14/05/26

Completed applications only should be saved as a PDF document and uploaded to

[Your Area Your Voice Your Choice](#)

Supporting documents should be e-mailed to grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

These include:

- Constitution
- Last 3 months bank statements
- Independently verified accounts
- Quotes (where required)