

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Section 1: Organisation Details

Organisation Name	Ayr United Football Academy
Organisation Address	Somerset Park, Tryfield Place, Ayr, KA8 9NB
Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated association etc. or private sector)	SCIO

If a charity or Limited Company, please include your number	SCO37325
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	
Name	Stuart Watson
Position in Organisation	Community Programmes Manager

Section 3: Project Details

a. Project Title

Kick a Bout Girvan

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?

Ayr United Football Academy (AUFA) is seeking support for Kick About Girvan, a free summer football programme for children and young people living in Girvan and surrounding Carrick communities. Delivered during the school holidays at Victory Park and other local facilities, the project will provide a safe, structured and inclusive environment where young people can stay active, build friendships and access healthy food.

The programme is designed to address key issues facing families in coastal communities, including social isolation, food insecurity and limited access to affordable activities during the summer. All sessions will be free of charge, removing financial barriers to participation, and every child will receive a nutritious meal or snack each day. Minibus transport will be available for participants who would otherwise be unable to attend, ensuring that distance and travel costs do not prevent involvement.

Through football and group-based activities, participants will improve their physical health, confidence and emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers will also benefit from knowing their children are spending time in a safe, trusted environment led by experienced AUFA staff, reducing stress and supporting family wellbeing during the holiday period.

The project will also create volunteering and employability opportunities for local young people. Volunteers will assist with camp delivery and gain access to coaching qualifications, mentoring and practical experience, helping them develop skills, confidence and stronger employment prospects.

This project delivers clear benefits to the health, wellbeing and local economy of Girvan and surrounding coastal communities, while making the area a more attractive place for families to live and thrive.

We have considered a number of potential risks. Low participation will be mitigated through close partnership working with schools, youth organisations and local football clubs to promote the programme. Poor weather will be managed through access to indoor facilities where required. Staffing risks will be reduced through AUFA's experienced coaching team and established volunteer network. Transport barriers will be addressed through our minibus service.

To ensure long-term sustainability, this investment will help us demonstrate need and impact, strengthen local partnerships and develop a pipeline of trained volunteers. We will use this evidence to secure future grant funding and sponsorship, with the aim of establishing Kick About Girvan as a regular feature of our holiday programme offer in South Carrick.

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

The programme will be delivered in Girvan, with the main activities taking place at Victory Park and other local community facilities. The project is specifically designed to benefit children and young people living in Girvan and the surrounding South Carrick communities, including Barr, Barrhill, Ballantrae, Colmonell, Dailly and Pinwherry. These communities are all part of South Ayrshire's coastal and rural area and can face particular challenges, including limited access to affordable activities, transport barriers and fewer opportunities for young people during the school holidays. By providing a free programme in a central Girvan location, alongside minibuss transport support, we will ensure that children and young people from outlying villages are able to participate fully.

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.

The need for Kick About Girvan has been clearly identified through extensive consultation and direct delivery in Girvan and the wider South Carrick area over the past 12 months. During the last year, the Charity has delivered a range of successful programmes in the area, including summer holiday activities, after-school and term-time football sessions in local primary schools, and an Additional Support Needs (ASN) programme at Invergarven School. Feedback from children and young people, parents, school staff and partner organisations has been overwhelmingly positive and has consistently highlighted the need for more accessible activities for local children and families.

The strongest message from consultation has been that many families are experiencing the combined impact of poverty, deprivation, rural isolation and a lack of affordable opportunities for young people, particularly during the school holidays. Parents repeatedly told us that free, structured activities are essential in helping children stay active, socialise and maintain positive routines when school is closed.

Our evaluation data reinforces this need:

- 62% of parents reported that their child showed greater enthusiasm for being physically active.
- 53% said their child was regularly more active as a result of taking part.
- 76% reported improvements in their child's mental health and wellbeing.
- 86% said their child had developed stronger friendships and social connections.
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Parents also told us that these activities provide reassurance and reduce stress, knowing their children are spending time in a safe and supportive environment.

To secure longer-term delivery, we currently have funding applications pending with Carrick Futures, Kilgallioch Community Fund and Nadara Assel Valley Community Fund, with decisions expected in August and September.

Your funding would help bridge the gap and ensure children and young people across Girvan and surrounding communities can continue to access free activities, healthy food and positive opportunities throughout the summer holidays.

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.

Our project aligns most strongly with South Ayrshire Council's Live, Work, Learn priority, while also contributing to Civic and Community Pride and Spaces and Places.

The strongest fit is with Live, Work, Learn, as the programme will provide free summer activities that improve the physical and mental wellbeing of children and young people across Girvan and the surrounding South Carrick communities. Through regular football sessions, healthy food provision and positive social interaction, participants will build confidence, improve fitness and develop stronger friendships. The project will also help reduce the impact of holiday hunger and provide vital support to families experiencing financial hardship.

The programme will create volunteering and coaching opportunities for local young people, enabling them to gain qualifications, practical experience and employability skills. This directly supports the Council's ambition to improve access to learning, skills development and pathways into employment.

The project also contributes to Civic and Community Pride by bringing children, young people and families together in a safe, inclusive environment, strengthening community connections and encouraging local volunteering and participation.

By making use of Victory Park and other local facilities, the project supports Spaces and Places, helping to maximise the use of valued community assets and making Girvan and surrounding villages more attractive places for families to live.

Overall, the project reflects the Scottish Football Association’s strategic vision, “The Power of Football”, which recognises football as a force for positive change in communities. By using football as a vehicle to improve health and wellbeing, tackle poverty, develop skills and strengthen social connections, the programme will deliver lasting benefits for children, young people and families across South Ayrshire’s coastal and rural communities.

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:

- Deliver improvements to public places that will increase the number of visitors
- make coastal communities more attractive places to live and work
- demonstrate a strong link to local strategies and local place plans

Estimated start date:	29/6/26
Estimated completion date: (must be by 13th November 2026)	14/8/26

g. If your project relates to a property or land, please confirm whether you own, or lease the property or land

own lease

If lease, an indication that the owner is supportive or aware that plans will be required. Please detail how you will provide evidence of support, ie long term lease.

If lease, then a copy of the lease needs to be provided.

h. Please tick/populate as appropriate:

Are you aware of the appropriate consents required for this project? Yes No

Do you have:

- Statutory consents for your project in place
- Planning, including listed building and conservation area consents
- Building Warrants
- Evidence of Pre application discussion Please include your reference number

- Not applicable

Copies of any of the above need to be provided.

Section 4: Project Costs

How much funding are you requesting from the Coastal Communities Fund?

£

Are you applying for Revenue or Capital costs, or both?

Revenue £

Capital £

Please provide a full break down of costs for your project for your application to be considered.

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

Item/Activity	Cost
Staff cost (2 per day@6 hours@£15.46)	£3921.12
Venue cost	£1638
Kit and equipment	£1000
Food/snacks	£1000
Total	7559.12

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: Stuart Watson

On behalf of: (Organisation name) : Ayr United Football Academy

Date: 17/5/2026

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)