

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	Ayrshire Coastal Path
Organisation Address	57 AUCHENDOON CRESCENT AYR KA7 4AT
Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated)	Unincorporated community group

association etc. or private sector)	
If a charity or Limited Company, please include your number	
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	Jessica Wharf
Position in Organisation	Funding Officer (volunteer)

Section 3: Project Details

a. Project Title

Ayrshire Coastal Path Vehicle Maintenance 2026

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?

We are seeking funding to cover the cost of our vehicle insurance for one year. Our 4WD vehicle is vital to our ability to maintain the Ayrshire Coastal Path particularly in the more rural areas in the south of South Ayrshire. The vehicle is used to transport materials such as sleepers, gate posts, stiles, new marker posts to where they are needed on the path. It would simply not be possible to get these materials there any other way. We have excellent working relationships with farmers and landowners along the path who allow us to access their land for maintenance, however we cannot rely on their goodwill to transport materials and volunteers at the times we have available to carry out the maintenance.

The Ayrshire Coastal Path is entirely run by volunteers on a shoestring budget, with our path maintenance funded through sales of our guide books and occasional donations from walking groups, individual walkers and local businesses. Vehicle maintenance, insurance and fuel are one of our largest annual costs and we have found it very difficult to access any funding for this. In the event, we were financially unable to run the vehicle, it would create a serious barrier to continued maintenance of the path.

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

Continued use of our vehicle is vital to our ability to maintain the Ayrshire Coastal Path, which provides walking, recreation, nature connection and tourism opportunities for all the coastal communities along the entire length of the Ayrshire coast.

The Ayrshire Coastal Path is a huge asset to the local area, providing recreational walking opportunities for local people as well as offering a key activity to drive tourism to the coastal towns and villages along the south coast of Scotland. The path stretches along the entire mainland coastline of Ayrshire from north to south, bringing the benefits of accessible walking routes, access to nature and its well-documented associated wellbeing benefits, opportunity for physical exercise, and active travel routes to the communities which ACP passes through. Local communities which the path runs through include Glenapp, Ballantrae, Lendalfoot, Girvan, Maidens, Dunure, Ayr, Prestwick, Troon in South Ayrshire, as well as communities in North Ayrshire

In addition, local businesses, cafes, and accommodation providers who cater to the tourism trade in this quieter corner of Scotland benefit from having a well-maintained, well-publicised and accessible coastal route. Many local accommodation providers promote the ACP as a key activity for guests to enjoy during their stay.

The path is a vital local resource for local Scout, Guides, and Boys' Brigade groups, as well as schools and other youth organisations doing their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Many walking, rambling and local health exercise groups also use the path regularly. Local walking guides including Gillian's Walks and EnRich Outdoors use the path as part of their guided walks, giving locals and visitors alike the chance to enjoy an enhanced walk experience along our beautiful coastline, as well as benefitting these small local walking businesses.

Local communities and visitors both benefit from a cleaner, more biodiverse and healthier landscape through the efforts of the volunteers of the Ayrshire Coastal Path. In-house training is provided to our Pathminder volunteers on habitat management to encourage pollinators and birds by controlled, selective mowing and pruning, and planting/transplanting vulnerable wild saplings, plants, and bulbs. The ACP initiated and helps coordinate the annual Big Beach Clean along the Ayrshire coastline in partnership with local beach cleaning groups, removing thousands of bags of rubbish over the past 16 years. We will continue to build on our present proactive reputation for protecting and enhancing our fragile coastline and its wildlife, in order to benefit our coastal communities as well as nature.

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.

We meet regularly with farmers and landowners to discuss path maintenance and access issues on their land. We also receive regular feedback from groups using the path, including local walk leaders such as Gillian's Walks, who will alert us to maintenance needs, many of which can only be met through use of our vehicle to transport volunteers and materials. The approximately 60 volunteers, who maintain the path also feedback to the board that the vehicle is necessary for their work in which they take great pride.

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.

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:	3/11/2026 (when vehicle insurance is due)
Estimated completion date: (must be by 13 th November 2026)	3/11/2026

- 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?

£840

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

Revenue £840

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
Vehicle insurance annual renewal	£840
Total	£840

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: Jessica Wharf

On behalf of: (Organisation name) : Ayrshire Coastal Path

Date: 23/05/2026

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)