

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	Friends of Dundonald Castle SCIO
Organisation Address	Dundonald Castle Visitor Centre & Community Hub, Winehouse Yett, Dundonald, KA2 9HD South Ayrshire
Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Charity)

guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated association etc. or private sector)	
If a charity or Limited Company, please include your number	SC031541
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	Kirsteen Croll
Position in Organisation	Chief Executive Officer

Section 3: Project Details

a. Project Title

Dundonald Castle Community Hub & Visitor Centre: 21st Century Makeover

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?

PROJECT:

In December 2024 Friends of Dundonald Castle SCIO commissioned a Building Condition Survey. The Board of Trustees and management took steps in response to the Survey to prepare a Maintenance & Repair Schedule to prioritise repair requirements to our Community Hub & Visitor Centre.

The charity has recently carried out extensive works to our 30 year old building including the installation of environmentally friendly heating and lighting. In June 2026 new double glazing units will be installed throughout the centre and hub.

Given the extensive works already carried out we now have to address the external and internal decorative appearance of the hub.

Our current internal and external paintwork is original to the building which was constructed in 1996.

We are seeking Project funding to appoint a professional local painter and decorator to paint the interior and exterior of the building. This work has been identified as a level 3 priority in our Schedule.

The total cost to carry out this much needed Project is £2400. As a VAT Registered charity we are applying for the amount NET of VAT.

If successful this grant, alongside our major improvement works already completed, will help to secure the longevity of our hub for the future.

RISKS:

The care and maintenance of the Community Hub & Visitor Centre is one of the key priorities of the charity and forms one of our Key Performance Indicators. This KPI is to ensure that our asset is well maintained. We recognise the importance of the building to FoDC, local partners, regional, national and international communities and most importantly our community groups and visitors who use the hub.

Prior to undertaking any project we consider all associated risks.

Risk identified in this Project:

Performance and quality of the contractor – we have carried out due diligence on our preferred contractor.

Project management and scheduling – we have considered how the charity will manage and plan the work being carried out.

Financial and budgetary risk – we have ensured that the cost estimate for the work is a true reflection of current market costs through local benchmarking. Our preferred contractor understands that the work is reliant on us securing funding. To ensure the financial security of the charity we have worked with the contractor to limit any closure period to a minimum.

Environmental risk – to negate the impact of poor weather on the exterior work, we have sought an early project commencement date.

Materials to be used - will adhere to all recognised safety standards.

Dilapidation both internally and externally - we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the building remains wind and water tight, and that the community hub remains well presented, clean, cared for and welcoming to our 30,000 plus visitors annually.

SUSTAINABILITY:

Our Maintenance & Repair Schedule will be updated and reviewed regularly to ensure the sustainability of this Project.

We will ensure that the community hub which sits within the coastal communities will become a more attractive place for our staff and volunteers to work, for our community to visit and an enhanced focus for the local and tourist economy of South Ayrshire.

Our team work incredibly hard daily to ensure that the Castle and external grounds remain in the best possible condition throughout the year to welcome our visitors and improve our public places.

Completion of this Project will ensure that our Community Hub & Visitor Centre is likewise presented in the best possible condition to ensure our whole site continues to make Dundonald a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

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

The Project will be delivered in Dundonald and the surrounding area.

It will benefit all users to the building which in 2025 welcomed 30,864 visitors. It will also greatly enhance the working environment for our team of staff and volunteers.

The Project will also benefit rUK and international visitors to Dundonald Castle; a Scheduled Ancient Monument of Category A International Importance, all of whom contribute to the visitor economy of South Ayrshire.

The building operates as both a Visitor Centre for Dundonald Castle and as a busy and thriving Community Hub. Open 7 days a week through the year, the hub not only supports the tourist economy but many in our community who experience loneliness, social isolation and vulnerability. The building is the registered and designated 'Cosy Space' for the village of Dundonald and provides the only public conveniences within the village.

FoDC is a community led tourism charity and social enterprise. This much needed upgrade will support our drive to increase visitor footfall, supporting the wider local economy of South Ayrshire.

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 Board of Trustees and management consulted a well-regarded local chartered surveyor company to carry out a Building Condition Survey. From the Survey we established a Maintenance & Repairs Schedule to inform our priorities. Both the internal and external painting of the building were designated Level 3 priority for completion within the year.

We regularly consult with our users, staff and volunteers, and record anecdotal evidence of improvement suggestions that they would like to see implemented. The internal and external painting of our much loved building consistently ranks highly in the improvement suggestions noted.

Successful completion of the Project to upgrade the paintwork of the building will ensure that it remains wind and water tight, visually attractive and fit for purpose for future generations to use and enjoy.

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 links to the following priorities and the Dundonald Place Plan:
Work in local economy
Care and maintenance
Streets and spaces
Play and recreation
Social interaction
Pride in the village

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:	July/August 2026
Estimated completion date:	13 November 2026

(must be by 13th November 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?

£

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

Revenue £

Capital £ 2400

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
Prepare, wash, sand and paint exterior woodwork, supply all materials and labour	£1300

Prepare walls and paint interior woodwork, supply all materials and labour	£1100
Total	£2400

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: Kirsteen Croll

On behalf of: (Organisation name) : Friends of Dundonald Castle SCIO

Date: 20/05/2026

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)