COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

2026-2027

The closing date for applications is 29th October 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 30th June 2027.

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
*Development grant	Up to £15,000	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.	☒

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 ☒ No ☐ In progress ☐

Section 2: Contact details

Contacts	
Name	Shelagh McLachlan
Position in Organisation	Trustee

Section 3: Project Details

a. Project Title

Last Train to Butlins Film

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

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. In 2026 we were a South West Scotland Regional Finalist in the Community Tourism Category.

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 November 2026. We require ongoing funding to enable us to care and maintain the mural and keep this new community space in great condition. We also need to continually add and refresh the content to give visitors a reason to come back and visit.

In November 2026 we will be adding new artwork called 'The Last Train to Butlins.'



Our artist, Chris Rutterford is currently working on this scene, adding in many more portraits of local people and their loved ones. We think this will attract a lot of visitors – regulars but also people who have yet to visit. The nostalgia around childhood holidays to Butlins will attract the interest of those who would gone there by train pre-1968. As well as admiring the artwork, we want to make this visitor attraction more interactive and create a new film with people recounting their happy memories of holidays in Ayrshire when they stayed at Butlins. We'll be making a callout on our website and social media and when we do guided tours or group presentations to local people, we'll be inviting them to share their memories and photos from this exciting time in our history and

include them in a film and future blogs. If we can get authentic and unique content, we can create many different stories to share online which will reach people all over the world. An example is we have identified two families of the train drivers who took passengers from Alloway to Butlins. We've also made contact with the Station Masters daughter who still lives in the original house.

The funding we are seeking will be used to pay for the film – The Last Train to Butlins. It's a story waiting to be told that will bring visitors to South Ayrshire.

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. People from Glasgow and other parts of Scotland will have childhood memories of coming to Butlins for their holidays so we expect this part of the project to benefit people from around Scotland.

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 have joined the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce working group to help us market the mural to international visitors and arrange more group guided tours. This will undoubtably bring more income into 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.

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 creating more multimedia tools to help us share the special history of South Ayrshire 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 depressing dark place that was covered in graffiti and slime to be a bright, colourful place with a spectacular 300m 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 around 3000 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 relevant priority (you can select more than one priority, if applicable):

- 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:	**December 2026**
Estimated completion date: (must be by 30th June 2027)	**April 2027**

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:

Is the property a listed building? Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes:

☐ I acknowledge that works to a listed building may require Listed Building Consent and that it is my responsibility to ensure all necessary permissions are obtained prior to commencing works.

i. 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?
£400
Are you applying for Revenue or Capital costs, or both?
Revenue ☒ £400
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**
Film and edit video	**£400**
Total	**£400**

For development grant:
***3 quotes need to be provided for proposed works/items over £1000, quotes need to be dated within last 6 months – <u>if relevant quotes are not provided when submitting application, it will not be considered.</u>**

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: (Organisation name) : Alloway Railway Tunnel ART SCIO

Date: 20/10/26

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)