**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 | **Carrick Rugby Football Club (SCIO)** |
| Organisation Address | **Club Facility Address: Sommerville Pavillion, Glebe Crescent, Maybole, KA19 7HZ** |
| 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 | **SC 050725** |
| Does your group/organisation have a bank account? | Yes ☒ No ☐ In progress ☐ |

**Section 2: Contact details**

| Contacts | Lead Contact |
|---|---|
| Name | Matthew Fields |
| Position in Organisation | Community Development Officer |
| | |
| | |

**Section 3: Project Details**

**a. Project Title**

| |
|---|
| Ruck 'n' Roast – Your Community Chatty Space |

**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?**

**About the project**

At Carrick Rugby we are proud to run a highly successful diversionary rugby programme on Friday evenings at Carrick Academy, and we currently engage with over 80 secondary age children to encourage them take up sport and to promote community-values, helping reduce social isolation and antisocial behaviour in this cohort (‘Diversionary rugby’: Carrick RFC’s attempts to keep kids from the streets). We are forutunate to have established funding arrangements for catering, coaching and transport throughout Carrick for these young people.

What we propose is the reintroduction of a second tangent of the diversionary programme aimed at the wider community and specifically adults in the community but open to a wide range of ages. These would be relaxed, open ‘chatty’ spaces sessions, which create a third place to reduce social isolation through fun and interesting activities, and combat the epidemic of loneliness. The core sessions would take place alongside the diversionary programme at Maybole Community campus with satellite sessions also

taking place in Girvan at a suitable hired venue such as the Z1 Youth Space with whom we enjoy a good partnership.

Alongside the core offerings of games, activities and space to chat, we would look to run specific educational sessions on social issues affecting men and women with professionals in the field coming in to give these, and occasional on-site wellbeing sessions from partners such as The Ayrshire Healing Centre delivering calming yoga/mindfulness/reiki, along with specific talks. In short, something for everyone. Other weeks would be more about low-key relaxation in a safe space, with activities such as board games, quizzes and chartting.

This would be the re-launch of a previously successful project. In 2024-25 the club launched a Chatty Space at the Maybole Community Campus – this involved hot meals/biscuits, tea, cakes being served while the rugby took place.

Throughout 2024 and 2025, we ran our weekly Ruck & Roast Chatty Space alongside Friday evening Diversionary Rugby sessions. Open to everyone in the community, it gave people somewhere to come along for a cuppa, something to eat and a catch-up with others. With support from VASA funding, we were able to provide free food and refreshments, helping to bring people together, particularly those who might otherwise spend their Friday evenings alone.

We also introduced a range of activities and special sessions throughout the year, including quizzes, bingo, arts and crafts and seasonal celebrations. We welcomed guest speakers to cover topics such as drug and alcohol awareness, managing anxiety, building confidence and women's health. Feedback from visitors was really positive, particularly around the social side of the evenings, and showed us just how valuable a simple, welcoming space can be for people of all ages in our community.

**Risks and long-term sustainability**

We have previously enjoyed strong volunteer-engagement and interest in being part of leading/helping out with Ruck ‘n’ Roast sessions. A clear risk would be volunteer commitment but the club’s priorities are to do more activity alongside and complimentary to rugby and conversations that are of benefit to the wider community. Conversations with stakeholders I have had indicate demand is strong both from people wanting to volunteer and participate in a project like this.

We would ensure we have a well-prepared project and resourcing plan in able to facilitate. The proposed timescales are to launch just after Christmas, giving us adequate time to prepare.

It would be fantastic to see the success of this project re-launching and us able to evolve 'Chatty Spaces' away from a fixed sessions but the roll the philosophy into other social events and activities the club runs.

Alongside this, if the re-launch is successful we would as a next step be keen to explore further specific training for appropriate staff and volunteers in low-level mental health intervention.

I feel the need for a service such as this is there – as long as we are able to effectively promote, and that it will ultimately fit hand in glove with the sporting side of the club.

Across North and South Carrick, significant numbers of residents live in areas experiencing multiple deprivation. Around 76% of residents in Girvan and South Carrick, and 33% in Maybole and North Carrick, live in neighbourhoods ranked within Scotland's 40% most deprived.

The idea to run specific Ruck 'n' Roast sessions in Girvan rather than just Maybole is a novel idea that we haven't attempted before, so there is a risk is a low-uptake in interest, but which I feel with adequate promotion will get a decent, albeit smaller uptake than the core sessions at Maybole. I feel the offering of a catering provision will be especially welcome in the current economic climate.

With the project re-launch, I would be keen to launch both the main programme aside Friday night rugby but also satellite sessions in Girvan, to ensure we reach as many people in the whole Carrick area as we can.

I would also be keen to ensure the programme was as inclusive as possible with promotional efforts taking place through our internal club network and popular Facebook/Instagram pages, local flyers, strategically placed posters, and word-of-mouth. I would want to ensure there was a good representation of both Men and Women with suitable activities and volunteers for everyone.

As Community Development Officer, I would actively be involved in the facilitation of this project alongside our committed rugby committee, coaches and volunteer network. With the consultation on the creation of the Community Development Officer post – members of the club specifically identified community and off-field activities as a priority for us to address.

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

North Carrick – based in Maybole Communtity Campus
South Carrick – based in Girvan, hired venue

**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.**

Previous feedback from our Chatty Space project was very positive; some comments included:

***35 year old female.***

*I come for the social side of it, so I don't need to be at home on my own. I bring my children. My eldest trains and I bring my youngest (4 years old) to the Chatty Space. If I wasn't here on a Friday night I would be doing housework at home and my daughter would just be watching TV. The social side is a real benefit. It keeps her stimulated, active and learning to socialise, which she's not great at yet.*

***22 year old female***

*I come for a cup of coffee, something to eat and a wee chat. I like to learn new things and it's a chance to network as well. I bring my daughter (4 years old). If I wasn't here on a Friday night I would be at home alone and no doubt, depressed. We benefit from the chance to socialise, and it's particularly good for our daughter. They are a very welcoming group of people and the space is well organised. Funding for more interactive sessions would be great.*

***45 year old female***

*It's a chance to socialise with grown-ups instead of children. My teenage daughter is at training at the same time. If I wasn't here I'd be sitting in my house in my jammies, a bit bored. I've made new friends here. And helping out with the food service gives me a purpose on a Friday night. Think it could be better advertised to reach even more folk.*

This demonstrates there is still a need for a wider community evening like Ruck 'n' Roast. Especially given continued social pressures such as the cost of living crisis we are currently in and the impacts of deprivation on rural communities.

**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 supports priorities identified in both the Maybole Community-led Action Plan 2026–2032 and the Girvan Place Plan 2021.

In Maybole, it directly supports Priority Three: Civic and Community Pride, particularly Outcome 7 – Building a Stronger Community, which aims to create a more connected and engaged community through regular opportunities for social interaction, volunteering and community activities. There is mutual benefit both for our volunteers and direct participants.

In Girvan, it supports the Empowered and Involved Community priority, which recognises the importance of providing spaces and opportunities for people to meet, alongside supporting local community groups.

By re-establishing our Ruck & Roast Chatty Space, we aim to tackle loneliness and social isolation, improve adult wellbeing and provide a welcoming place for people across North and South Carrick to meet, build friendships and feel part of their community.

**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:** | **8th January 2027** |
| **Estimated completion date:**<br>**(must be by 30th June 2027)** | **25th June 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?**

£

**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** |
|---|---|
| **Catering items for up to 24 weeks @ £60 per week to provide hot meals to attendees) – Maybole** | **£1440** |
| **Budget for additional wellbeing activities, classes, information sessions. – Both North and South Carrick** | **£1000** |
| **Equipment replenishments to provide catering, entertainment e.g. board games, card games, toastie makers, pots, pans as required - Maybole** | **£250** |
| **Additional venue hire – Girvan @ £10 over 24 weeks** | **£240** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Catering items for up to 24 weeks @ £30 per week to provide catering to attendees) – Girvan** | **£720** |
| **Equipment replenishments to provide catering, entertainment e.g. board games, card games, toastie makers, pots, pans as required – Girvan** | **£250** |
| | |
| **Total** | **£3900** |

**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: Matthew Fields

On behalf of: (Organisation name) : Carrick Rugby SCIO

Date: 29th October 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)