

**COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND**

**2024/2025**

The closing date for applications is 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025.

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 31<sup>st</sup> March 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](mailto: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 £4,950	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	Lead Contact
Name	Stuart Watson
Position in Organisation	Community Programmes Manager

## Section 3: Project Details

### Project Title

Ladies Learn to..
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### About your project/what are you seeking funding for?

Ayr United Football Academy, through our Community Hub, is seeking support from the South Ayrshire Council Coastal Communities Fund to continue delivery of our Ladies Learn To programme. Following a successful pilot in the first six months of this year, which was well attended and well received, we now wish to secure funding to allow this valuable initiative to continue.

Ladies Learn To is a monthly programme designed for women aged 50 and over. Hosted at the Ayr United Community Hub, it provides a safe, welcoming, and supportive space where participants can come together to try new activities, connect with others, and build confidence. Each month offers a different focus, from arts and crafts to cooking, crochet, and more, with participants' feedback shaping future sessions. This ensures the programme remains responsive, relevant, and enjoyable.

This programme directly addresses the issues of loneliness and social isolation faced by many women in this age group. It also promotes health and wellbeing, supports learning in later life, and creates opportunities for new friendships and networks. By encouraging attendees to try new hobbies and develop practical skills, Ladies Learn To fosters both personal growth and a stronger sense of community.

In addition, the project has a partnership with Recycle Ayr, where donated items are reused for activities. This not only keeps costs manageable but also raises awareness of recycling and sustainability among participants.

To sustain and enhance the programme, Ayr United Football Academy is seeking funding to cover:

- Staff costs – for coordination, delivery, and facilitation of sessions.
- Venue hire – ensuring the Community Hub remains an accessible and welcoming location.
- Materials and resources – for creative, practical, and skill-based activities.
- Catering – providing refreshments to support the social and inclusive atmosphere.

Fit with Council and Fund Priorities

The aims of the Coastal Communities Fund align directly with this project. Ladies Learn To:

- Reduces loneliness and isolation by bringing women together in a community setting.
- Promotes health and wellbeing through shared activity, creativity, and connection.
- Supports South Ayrshire Council's priorities by encouraging lifelong learning, civic pride, and use of community spaces.

Enhances environmental awareness through its partnership with Recycle Ayr.

With continued funding, Ayr United Football Academy will ensure that this much-valued programme remains accessible, inclusive, and impactful for women in our community, delivering lasting benefits for both individuals and South Ayrshire as a whole.

**What community will this project be delivered in and what communities will benefit?**

The project will be open to any lady over 50 but it would be expected the majority of participants will come from Ayr North and Ayr South.

**Please provide information you have about the need and support for the project, eg community consultation**

The Ladies Learn To programme, delivered by Ayr United Football Academy through our Community Hub, was piloted over the first six months of this year. From the outset, the programme proved to be extremely popular, attracting consistent attendance and enthusiastic feedback from participants. The clear demand and strong levels of engagement demonstrate a genuine need for this type of initiative in the local community.

The programme was designed to support women aged 50 and over, many of whom experience social isolation, reduced confidence, or limited access to opportunities for learning and interaction. The pilot showed that participants highly valued both the chance to try new activities and, just as importantly, the opportunity to connect with others in a safe and welcoming environment.

Feedback collected during the pilot underlines both the impact and the need for the project. One participant, IS (aged 56), told us: "I moved to Ayr during lockdown and other than family, I've met very few people. I was thrilled to find a lovely group of ladies who were very welcoming. The bonus is I get to learn crafts which are new to me. I've been shown very patiently to crochet, and I can't wait to start making garments. Please find ways to keep this continuing."

Similarly, SM (aged 70) reflected: "I am 70 years old and don't get out of the house often. This group allowed me to find some social interaction." Another participant, JG (aged 62), said: "The club helped me learn new crafts and light sports. It has given me a great sense of achievement which is amazing."

These testimonials highlight the deep value the programme has for its participants — from tackling loneliness to building skills and self-esteem. The need is particularly acute given the long-term social effects of the pandemic, which has left many older women with reduced networks and confidence.

Securing funding now would allow us to continue delivering this much-valued programme, providing stability while we develop a longer-term sustainability plan. With time and support, we also aim to expand the programme into new areas of learning and activity, ensuring it continues to grow in line with community needs.

By enabling Ladies Learn To continue, this funding will sustain an initiative that clearly makes a real difference to the lives of local women, while laying the foundations for future development.

**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 ☒

**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 ☒

If linking into a place plan or a community action plan, please details which priority it will be achieving:

The application aligns with all of the locality planning partnerships broad objectives of promoting good health and wellbeing, reducing social isolation and loneliness and supporting our ageing communities.

**Estimated start date:**

1-11-25

<b>Estimated completion date:</b>	30-10-26 (longer hopefully, subject to additional funding)
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#### 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.

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

Item/Activity	Cost
Catering (25@£3 per month)	£900
Staff time (2 hours@£15 p.h monthly)	£360
Venue Hire (2 hours@£25 per month)	£600
Start up Equipment (glue guns and glue sticks)	£100
Guest crafter (£100 per session*3)	£300
Total	£2260

#### For development grant only:

Individual item costs over £1000, 3 quotes need to be provided – 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 Appliation: Stuart Watson

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

Date: 8-9-25

Completed application only should be saved as a PDF document and uploaded to the [Your Area Your Voice Your Choice](#)

Supporting documents should be e-mailed to [grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

These include:

- Constitution
- Last 3 months bank statements
- Independently verified accounts
- Quotes (where required)

