



Article 4.1 The Community Fund - Support For Bigger Ideas

This article has been created in order to compliment Article 3.1, which is all about the Community Fund Support Grants. We recently contacted you to keep you updated about the support grants for constituted groups within the community, who are entitled to apply for funding towards community projects. The main purpose of that fund is to support community projects on Hoy, supporting the islands groups with events and works to be carried out in order to promote health and well-being, island heritage, and encourage greater foot fall which supports local businesses and increases Hoy's profile.

Article 4.1 focuses on our Community Fund, and how we can assist in making these applications, and the infrastructure required, a reachable goal. There are many other funding opportunities offered by the IoHDT, information on these can be found at:

<http://www.hoyorkney.com/newsletter/>

The Community Fund - Support For Bigger Ideas

How can the Trust assist you?

The Community Fund has been in operation since early 2014, each constituted group within the Hoy and Walls Community is entitled to apply for funding towards a variety of community projects. Do you as an individual have an idea about a community project, but you simply don't know what to do about it? Perhaps you're not part of a group, or maybe you are but your group isn't constituted. Don't be put off, that's where we will assist you, listen to you, and support you in order to create a road map and guide you towards what we hope could be project reality. Our aim is to try and support groups who have bigger project ideas which might involve securing larger grants.

So, you've got an idea about a community project, you feel that community benefit outweighs individual benefit, and you feel that your project could enhance certain aspects of the island, and life within the community.....come and talk to us about it. We are happy to discuss your ideas, and we can be here to help guide you through to the next part of the process. In the initial stages, we encourage individuals to seek support from others through communication with potential interested parties. We need to know that your idea is supported by other community members. Not sure how to do it? Why not create a very basic survey and ask for support by word of mouth. If the community is interested, then so are we!

Once you know that your idea is supported by others, and there is a group of you willing to be the driving force behind your project, we can then create links with Voluntary Action Orkney.

Who are Voluntary Action Orkney?

VAO supports the third sector in Orkney by providing advice, information and practical services. The third sector is made up of voluntary, community and charitable groups, social enterprises and volunteers. VAO is a Third Sector Interface, part of a national network with four main aims, promoting volunteering, social enterprise development, supporting third sector organisations, and building a strong relationship with community planning.

With VAO, if your group is not yet constituted, for potentially as low as £40 your group could become a recognised body with your own set of articles. VAO can give you real support and advice about the feasibility and infrastructure that your project needs to take off. These aspects will allow your group to cost elements of the project in the early stages such as:

- VAO Guidance
- Planning Applications
- Feasibility Studies
- Business Plans
- Quantity Surveyor Fees
- Building Fees

.....Support and advice could be offered for anything depending on what your project entails.

VAO may also be able to assist groups in identifying and securing funding for their projects from other organisations such as The Big Lottery Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which will advance progress and assist with the financials.

Once consultation with VAO has taken place and a group has become constituted, these groups who then apply into the Community Fund are applying to us for all identified costs for their projects such as those listed above. Having discussed with VAO already, groups are in a great position to be able to outline the full costings of their project.

What kind of projects might we support?

The answer to the question is really up to you and your group. We want for you to approach us if you have something in mind, for example...

...there has been a lot of interest regarding establishing a marina on the island. Is this something your group has a vested interest in?



Perhaps you have a hobby which requires an area of ground with specialised facilities, such as a bowling green.

The list of community projects is not exhaustive and if you are unsure as to whether or not your groups' project could potentially be funded, we urge you to get in contact with us and we can assist you with this.

OK, we've got an idea for a community project, how do we apply?

As outlined in the last article about the Community Fund, applications can be done in a number of ways. You can download a form by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.hoyorkney.com/2016/06/community-fund-application-form/>, or we can email or post you a hard copy, we would however, encourage groups in the first instance to come and chat with us about the process and your groups project, as the Community Fund applications follow no set format, and are entirely dependent on the project itself.

Applications for funding must be received prior to projects being undertaken and we may have to refuse funding if the application is retrospective.

How often can we apply?

Each group can apply to the fund as often as they want to. This means that if you receive funding for a particular project, you are welcome to continue applying for further funding for projects in the future. Group applications are entirely independent from one another. This means that individuals involved in a variety of groups can still take part in applying for project funding simultaneously with no effect on applications elsewhere.

So why not give it some consideration? Your group, the people of Hoy, and visitors to the island could be benefiting from your project in no time!

