

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



20 April 2026

Ayrshire Rural & Islands Ambition Fund

The Ayrshire Rural & Islands Ambition (ARIA) Fund provides grant funding to support community organisations and businesses across rural Ayrshire, Arran and Cumbrae.

The aim is to help rural areas thrive by supporting initiatives that strengthen local economies, enhance community life and protect the natural environment.

ARIA funding is typically used to:

- Develop community facilities and services
- Grow rural enterprises and create local jobs
- Support tourism, heritage and cultural initiatives
- Improve access to local services and opportunities
- Encourage climate action, sustainability and nature recovery
- Deliver skills development and community-led projects

Both the Main Fund and Community Asset Maintenance Fund are now open for Expressions of Interest.

Applicants can request £5,000 - £50,000 from the Main Fund. For the Community Asset Maintenance Fund grants of up to £9,000 are available for listed buildings, and up to £7,000 for non-listed buildings.

This includes:

- A property condition register: up to £7,000 for listed/specialist buildings or £5,000 for non-listed buildings; and
- A £2,000 sinking fund to assist with future repairs and maintenance

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 22 May 2026.

[Ayrshire Rural & Islands Ambition Fund](#)

Asda Foundation – Local Community Spaces Fund

ASDA Foundation provides the Local Community Spaces Fund for:

- Repair and maintenance: to ensure facilities remains safe and functional.
- Expansion and improvement: to enhance or adapt spaces for the benefit of local people.

Applications are accepted from registered charities, Community Benefit Societies or Community Interest Companies registered with the relevant authority for over three years. Groups must have an annual income between £40,000 and £400,000.

Community spaces, youth centres and facilities that support the most vulnerable in areas of high deprivation (e.g. homeless shelters, food banks, dementia and elderly support, community cafes) are eligible for support.

Grants from £10,000 to £20,000 are available to wholly fund the project. Applicants can contribute up to £20,000 of their own funds to the project if preferred, but should demonstrate these funds are in place at the time of application.

The closing date for applications is 28 April 2026

[Asda Foundation – Local Community Spaces Fund](#)

D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust

The funding is intended for projects in the performing arts, creative health and heritage crafts that align with the Trust's objectives.

Grants typically range from £500 to £8,000. Unrestricted support is available for charities with an annual income below £250,000. Eligible applicants must be UK registered or regulated exempt charities working for the benefit of UK residents.

The Trust prioritises work that improves access for communities facing identifiable barriers to opportunity. Applications are assessed against several criteria, including alignment with funding themes, identification of beneficiaries, delivery capability, financial management, inclusive practice and safeguarding arrangements.

Projects must begin at least two months after a decision is issued, unless organisations have secured at least 75% of the required funding. There are separate application routes for small charities, defined as those with an income of £5 million or less, and large charities with income above this threshold.

Funding can be used to support activities that contribute to improved access and participation in the Trust's focus areas.

The deadline for applications is 8 May 2026 for large charities and 1 June 2026 for small charities.

[D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust](#)

National Archives – Community Hub Project Grants

The National Archives in partnership with Leeds Museums and Galleries, the National Library of Wales, and the Community Archives and Heritage Group, is offering grants of up to £30,000 to support collaborative partnerships between GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums), Heritage, and community organisations, to deliver co-designed and community-led projects and activities that create meaningful changes and strengthen the relationship between GLAM or heritage organisations and the communities they serve.

Community Hub Project Grants will support in-depth research, skills development, and the creation of long-lasting resources that reflect diverse voices and experiences. The programme aims to respond to the long-standing challenge of how “to make innovation and learning from community-facing projects more sustainable, transferable, and accessible” in the UK’s GLAM and heritage sectors.

Eligible costs could include:

- Staff time or freelance fees for project delivery.
- Community engagement and co-design activities.
- Training and skills development for participants.
- Travel and subsistence for project participants.
- Materials, equipment, or venue hire.
- Digital tools, platforms, or content creation.
- Evaluation and dissemination of project outcomes.
- Translation or accessibility services.
- General organisational overheads or core running costs.

Projects should be inclusive, sustainable, and impactful, with a strong emphasis on shared ownership and mutual benefit for all participants.

Priority will be given to co-designed, community-led initiatives that prioritise inclusion, sustainability, and long-term impact.

The deadline for applications is 12 June 2026.

[National Archives – Community Hub Project Grants](#)

Parks4Life – Community Fund

Grants of between £500 and £1,500 are now available to constituted community and friends’ groups that are working to enhance parks and greenspaces in Scotland.

The Fund is intended to support community groups to deliver on their aim of bringing their parks to life and making the best of parks in Scotland for the public to enjoy now and in the future.

Funding can be used for a range of costs, including events, skills training for volunteers, or small planting schemes.

Priority will be given to the following:

- Projects that aim to 'activate' the park through events e.g., a gala day or focussed park clean that will bring people to the park or greenspace.
- Promoting the work of the community and friends' group and the role of the park or greenspace.
- Purchase of tools and materials that will help the group.
- Groups where their park or greenspace is in an area that scores highly on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), particularly those in the 20% of most deprived areas.

It is anticipated that projects will be delivered within six months of a grant offer being accepted.

The deadline for applications is 1 May 2026.

[Parks4Life – Community Fund](#)

TRACS – Traditional Arts and Culture Fund

The Traditional Arts and Culture Fund is supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland and delivered by TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland), the national network for traditional arts in Scotland. TRACS works to promote, develop, and sustain traditional music, song, storytelling, dance and crafts across the country, supporting artists, communities, and organisations at all levels.

Applications to the Traditional Arts and Culture Fund are welcome from both organisations and individuals. The fund is designed to support traditional artists and organisations to create, perform, tour, and showcase work, as well as to develop professional skills and learning opportunities. The fund offers small grants of up to £1,200 and does not support the purchase of equipment, nor can it be used to match other Creative Scotland funding.

The deadline for applications is 11 May 2026.

[TRACS – Traditional Arts and Culture Fund](#)

Volunteering Matters – Action Earth

Grants of between £50 and £250 for volunteer groups across Scotland to respond to the ongoing nature and climate crises and support practical outdoor activities in local communities.

Through the Action Earth Grants Programme, groups can apply for funding to make environmental improvements to urban green spaces, such as planting projects or wildlife habitat creation.

Priority will be given to volunteer groups that:

- Work in areas where there is substantial social or economic deprivation.
- Improve and develop the health and well-being of their local community.
- Involve disabled people, vulnerable people, or those at risk of exclusion.
- Encourage and involve people under 26 in practical outdoor conservation.

Applications that make major environmental impacts or involve mass participation will also be considered.

A minimum of 15 volunteers must be involved in the project, each giving at least five hours of volunteering time. Sites to be worked on must be accessible to the public.

The grant can be used for plants, tools, materials. Some volunteer expenses can be claimed.

Groups must use non-peat compost and are encouraged to plant native species only.

All projects need to have completed their activities by 28 February 2027.

Applications will be accepted until all the funding has been awarded.

[Volunteering Matters – Action Earth](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline for applications is 17 July 2026.

[East Ayrshire Council Community Grant](#)

Renewable Energy Fund

To check the next deadline for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 or eaRenewableEnergyFund@east-ayrshire.gov.uk .

[Renewable Energy Fund](#)

Tincornhill Quarry Fund

For further information on application criteria and deadline dates please go to:

[Tincornhill Quarry Fund](#)

East Ayrshire 4 Community

If you are looking for external funding for a particular project, then please remember to register **FREE** at East Ayrshire 4 Community by going to the following link:

[East Ayrshire 4 Community](#)