

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT



22 March 2024

Armed Forces Day – Event Funding

Since 2009, Armed Forces Day has been marked annually throughout the UK with events large and small. The Ministry of Defence provides funding each year to support groups and individuals to commemorate the occasion.

Local councils, voluntary and community organisations, schools, ex-service organisations and individuals can apply for grants of up to £10,000 for activities taking place across the UK. The amount of the grant depends on the size and format of the event.

This grant is match funded and can cover up to half the total cost of the event. For example, if the total cost of the event is £10,000 and £5,000 has been raised, the grant could cover up to £5,000.

The 2024 event should be held within two weeks of the Armed Forces Day, which falls on the last weekend of June 2024.

In the past, ideas for activities have included the following:

- Picnic in the park.
- Themed BBQ.
- Knees up in your living room.
- Street party.
- Fete.

The funding can be used to pay for:

- Road closures required to hold an event, including to allow for parades and marches.
- Decorations, flags and banners.
- Local or national newspaper and radio advertisements to promote the event.
- Marshalling, security and first aid arrangements for the event.
- Insurance.
- PA and communications systems for events organisers.

Groups must register their event before they can access the funding criteria. It can take up to three working days for an event to be approved and the confirmation email sent.

The funder has moved the application window from the usual 1 November to 1 March each year to one month only this year: from 1 March to 1 April 2024.

The deadline to apply for 2024 event funding is 1 April 2024.

[Armed Forces Day - Event Funding](#)

FCC Communities Foundation – Scottish Action Fund

FCC Communities Foundation is offering grants of between £2,000 and £40,000 for constituted not-for-profit organisations and local authorities across Scotland to support community, environmental, and heritage projects in communities near landfill sites and transfer stations.

- Land Reclamation (Object A) - The reclamation, remediation, restoration, or other operation on land to facilitate economic, social, or environmental use.
- Community Recycling (Object B) - Community-based recycling, reuse, and waste prevention projects.
- Public Amenities and Parks (Object C) - To provide, maintain or improve a public park or other public amenities.
- Biodiversity (Object D) - The conservation or promotion of biological diversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat.
- Historic Buildings (Object E) - The maintenance, repair or restoration of a building, other structure or a site of archaeological interest which is a place of religious worship, or a site of historic, architectural, or archaeological interest and is open to the public.

Projects under objects C, D and E must be within 10 miles of an eligible licensed landfill site or transfer station.

Funding can be used for the following types of costs:

- Contractors.
- Materials.
- Capital items.
- Small items of equipment used by volunteers and staff to deliver the project.

The total cost of any proposed project should not exceed £250,000. All grant recipients are required to secure a 'Contributing Third Party' (CTP) payment.

There are two funding rounds each year.

The next application deadline is 5 June 2024.

[FCC Communities Foundation - Scottish Action Fund](#)

Learning Through Landscapes – Local School Nature Grants

Learning Through Landscapes is offering outdoor learning training sessions and nature equipment for nurseries, schools, and other early learning providers to promote outdoor learning for children.

The Local School Nature Grants Scheme will provide a two-hour outdoor learning training session, along with an assortment of equipment up to the value of £500, including but not limited to:

- Woodland activity kits.
- Growing kits.
- Seed packs.
- Gardening kits.
- Pollinator kits.
- woodworking kits.
- Seating planters.
- Fireboxes.

Priority will be given to applicants that include children in the decision-making process and projects that incorporate and benefit the local community.

Applicants must be employed by the school or early learning provider. Applications from PTA's, Governors, or 'Friends of' groups will not be accepted.

There are three funding rounds in 2024.

The next deadline for applications is 26 April 2024.

[Learning Through Landscapes - Local School Nature Grants](#)

Tesco Stronger Starts / The Sun – Footie for All Fund

Tesco and the newspaper, The Sun, have joined together for a second year to provide a total of £150,000 to encourage more children and young people to take up football or improve access to the game.

The grants are part of The Sun's Footie for All campaign to highlight how financial struggles are forcing young people to give up football.

The funding is designed to provide support to grassroots football organisations working with children under the age of 18 to enable them to continue to deliver activities that allow local young people to take part.

Constituted not-for-profit grassroots football clubs from across the UK can apply for grants of up to £1,000 which will support 100% of project costs.

The funding can be used to assist clubs in improving facilities, purchasing equipment and new kits, and meeting any other needs that can enhance the experience of children and young people, enabling them to access and participate in football within the local community.

Applications will not be accepted from schools, projects that work with people over 18 years of age, school breakfast clubs, health bodies or parish and town councils.

Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

The Footie for All Fund is being managed by Groundwork UK which manages Tesco's grant-giving programme.

The deadline for applications is 30 April 2024.

[Tesco Stronger Starts - Footie for All Fund](#)

The Fore

The Fore offers unrestricted funding to small charities across the UK that are making a big impact and who want to significantly grow, strengthen, become more efficient or resilient. The national funding programme is open to any sector and region within the UK with particular interest in grassroots organisations working with underserved communities.

Unrestricted grants of up to £30,000 spread over one to three years are available. In addition, non-financial support such as access to a network of skilled, pro-bono volunteers, online training workshops and seminars are available to successful charities for life.

The unrestricted funding can be used for any purpose, including core costs and capital funding as long as the grants will help strengthen the organisation internally and help it to take the next step forwards in its growth or sustainability. Applications for core costs must show how the funding will move the organisation forward rather than enabling 'business as usual'.

Applications will be considered from UK registered charities, community interest companies, charitable incorporated organisations and community benefit societies with less than £500,000 annual income in the previous completed financial year. Applications will be accepted from anywhere in the UK.

To apply for funding, organisations must first register some basic contact details at the start of the funding round. Once their place on the funding round has been confirmed by email, they have three to four weeks to submit an application. Only organisations that have registered with the Fore and are allocated a place may submit an application for the specific funding round.

This is a very competitive process, and The Fore reports that one-third of applicants will get through to the 'ideas testing' phase.

There are three funding rounds per year (Spring, Summer and Autumn) which open for registration for one week only.

The Summer funding round will open for registration on 28 March 2024 and close on 4 April 2024.

[The Fore](#)

UK Government – Community Ownership Fund

The Government has announced that ahead of the launch of the fourth and final round of the £150 million Community Ownership Fund (COF), it has published a new Expression of Interest (EOI) form. According to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities:

- The new EOI has been simplified to give applicants a result within minutes, meaning that they will be able to see whether their project could be suitable for COF much quicker than before.
- To enable the move to the new system, EOIs submitted prior to February 2024 will no longer be valid.
- Organisations that wish to submit a full application to COF in a future application window, will need to complete a new EOI.
- Only applicants who submitted an EOI in the new system will be informed when a bidding window is about to open and will receive the link needed to apply to COF.

The Community Ownership Fund helps community groups buy or renovate assets that would otherwise be lost to the community.

Voluntary and community organisations from across the UK can apply as long as they are an incorporated organisation set up to deliver charitable purpose, social purpose or public benefit and have a viable plan for taking ownership of a community asset at risk and running it sustainably for community benefit.

Proposals will need to prove the value of the asset to local people and that the asset can run sustainably for the long-term benefit of the community. Projects could include (but are not limited to):

- Community centres.
- Cinemas and theatres.
- Galleries.
- Museums.
- Music venues.
- Parks.
- Post office buildings.
- Pubs.
- Shops.
- Sporting and leisure facilities.

An updated prospectus and accompanying guidance for the final round are expected to be published soon. In the meantime, all prospective applicants, including those that have previously submitted a successful Expression of Interest (EOI) form, must submit a new EOI on the updated system if they have an interest in applying in the final round of the fund.

Only applicants who submitted an EOI in the new system will be informed when a bidding window is about to open and will receive the link needed to apply to the fund.

Expressions of Interest are currently being accepted.

[UK Government - Community Ownership Fund](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline date for applications is 19 April 2024.

[East Ayrshire Council Community Grant](#)

Renewable Energy Fund

To check the next deadline date for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 for further information.

[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](#)