

CASE STUDY

CARRICK RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB - ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SPORT

Funding Amount: £6111.12

Community Led local Development - Ayrshire
Rural and Islands Ambition (ARIA) – Small
Capital Fund (2022/23)



BACKGROUND

To provide centralised transport to rugby training and increase playing opportunities for the community.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The funding is allowing Carrick RFC to reduce their carbon footprint through cutting down on the use of individual cars for both spectators and players.

This year they will save approximately 8.92T of green house gasses through this award.

HOW DID YOU FIND THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

The main issue with the application process was the mandatory provision of 3 quotes. This was very difficult as we live in a rural area where choices are limited and we have established good relationships with local suppliers that we would not want to disrupt.



AT A GLANCE CHALLENGES

- Community engagement
- Maintaining volunteer support
- Supply chain issues
- Cost of living crisis
- Seeking further funding

BENEFITS

- NetZero / climate action & reducing carbon emissions
- Community empowerment & improving local democracy
- Wellbeing & mental health
- Community capacity building



CARRICK RFC

“The fund is helping to support transport costs and reduce our carbon footprint. The cost of transport has risen hugely over the past year, the funding is allowing us to offer increased access to sport by providing subsidised transport.”

Anna Connon
Carrick RFC

WHAT DID THE PROJECT SET OUT TO ACHIEVE?

To provide centralised transport for players/volunteers of all ages to access training and playing opportunities. Providing transport to allow parents to accompany young people and participate in their activities as part of our community club.

To help young people access sport and social activity, who, due to the COVID pandemic, have had very little opportunity to learn to drive. The current economic climate will also prevent them from accessing lessons and buying/running a vehicle.

The reduced levels of rural transport and the subsequent threat to participation in community health and wellbeing activities means that the provision of additional transport is now essential.

The club uses South Ayrshire Community Transport mini buses for smaller numbers. Helping to support a local community enterprise and participate in community wealth building and the circular economy.

The club enquired about hiring an electric minibus currently running in Ayr by SACT. However, the range and weight restrictions of this vehicle make this impractical. As a follow-on from this project Carrick RFC hope that the demonstration of regular hire opportunities will demonstrate a need for rural transport, making the provision of electric vehicles in rural areas a possibility.

When larger buses are required, we currently use the Shuttle bus Company who provide modern, low emission buses.

WHO WILL THE PROJECT BENEFIT AND HOW?

This project benefited a huge range of people including the young and families, those experiencing financial difficulty and those still affected by the knock on effects of the pandemic.

The cost-of-living crisis meant that many young people could not afford individual transport to training and games 3 times per week, this also applied to their parents and families who were no longer able to participate as supporters and helpers. For those young people aged 17 plus who may have expected to achieve independent travel the Pandemic effectively closed off both lessons and their affordability.

WHAT STAGE IS THE PROJECT AT NOW?

The project was completed in as much as the end date was reached and all journeys applied for were fulfilled. However, transport and the cost of providing it is an ongoing challenge but we do know now that it is crucial to the increased participation of many people in sport and associated social activities.

WHAT BENEFITS HAVE YOU SEEN AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT?

Capacity building: The club has been able to employ a part time Business Development Officer with the funds released from transport which, in turn, has helped to develop:

- Better membership revenue collection procedure
- A successful application for help to create a professionally built business plan.
- Increased social media traffic resulting in full sponsorship of all kit across all ages.
- Improved links with community organisations to help support the aims of the club and the broadening of our activities



WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED DURING THIS PROJECT AND HOW DID YOU OVERCOME THEM?

Community engagement: as a club we are constantly engaging with our local community who are our players, parents, supporters, committee, trustees, and sponsors.

Maintaining volunteer support: our players are our biggest group of volunteers who are in turn supported by the many people around them through general organisation, washing kit, catering etc. Having centralised transport meant that all the volunteers from both on and off the pitch could travel together, increasing the feeling of community and giving the club a very high retention rate of volunteers across the board.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WOULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY ON REFLECTION?

Not really, the only difficulty was the very tight timescale. However, the fund was flexible, as several games were postponed due to matters out with our control, an inevitable situation in an outdoor winter sport. We were granted an extension so that we could fully utilise the award.

We know our suppliers well and have a great relationship with them.

Overall, there was nothing we would have done differently and would like to thank the funders for their support.

FINALLY, WHAT ADVICE COULD YOU OFFER FOR ANYONE LOOKING TO TAKE ON A SIMILAR PROJECT?

Remember to ask any and all questions as you go. Keep communicating with the administrators, most issues are solvable if you just ask. Start looking for quotes before you think you might need them and have them lined up ready to go!

FUNDING INFORMATION

'Community Led Local Development' or 'CLLD' gives local communities the power to tackle their own, local challenges.

By building knowledge and skills, supporting new ideas and encouraging cooperation, CLLD helps to create viable and resilient communities.

CLLD activity can support Community Wealth Building initiatives and opportunities to help enable Just Transition priorities.

£8.6 million has been allocated to [Local Action Groups](#) (LAG) to support CLLD within their areas through the Rural Community Led Fund (RCLF) in 2022-23.

Ayrshire LAG used their funding to establish the [Ayrshire Rural and Islands Ambition \(ARIA\) Fund](#)

You can find further information about current funding availability at the Scottish Rural Network Website including a free online [funding search tool](#) for your charity, community group or social enterprise.

From small grants to funding for big capital projects, we can help you track down the funding you need to make a difference in your community. The Scottish Rural Network is a one-stop-shop for news and information about rural development.

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