

SOUTH ISLAY DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH ISLAY NEWS



Covid-19 and the worldwide pandemic have really challenged traditional ways of working. Maintaining meaningful engagement with the community has been key to making people feel like they're a valued part of a community effort. This year we have learned a whole new language – who would have thought about self-isolation, flattening the curve, 'new normal' and Zooming in March this year?

And so, 2020 has been an unprecedented year on a global scale. Community organisations like SID have found themselves on the front line in responding to urgent local needs brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. SID immediately started working collaboratively with the Islay Resilience Group, I&J Community Enterprise and the Islay Development Initiative to establish, coordinate and deliver the Covid Response, Resilience and Recovery Programme across Islay. To facilitate this SID expanded its geographical coverage to support the whole island community.

As part of Islay's Covid response SID secured and managed over £199,000 in Covid grant funding to support the community of Islay. SID's staff, working with the Islay Resilience Group, co-ordinated hot meals across the island, establish a volunteer network and secure PPE for key organisations. SID also managed a programme of grant funding to local groups and organisations. The Covid-19 Fund, which has so far granted £30,000 to support a cross section of organisations through the pandemic. This fund is still open for applications - see details below.

This fund has been described as a great example of community groups working together to ensure the resilience funding from the Scottish Government got to the right groups. The projects that are being taken forward plan to support the community as we all prepare to move into 2021 and finally enter what we hope will be a period of recovery from the massive impacts 2020 has had on all our lives.

SID's staff working with volunteers across the island have provided a life-line service to many members of our community. Quietly and confidentially they have supported families and those living alone or in isolation. The Covid pandemic has opened our eyes to what is happening beneath the surface within our community and underlined the need for support and investment more than ever. It has also shown how much SID can achieve collaborating with other Islay and Jura organisations - we are bigger than the sum of our parts.



ISLAY COVID-19 FUND

SMALL GRANTS FOR LOCAL GROUPS & ORGANISATIONS

Are you a charity or group looking to re-open safely, start new or progress with projects affected by Covid?

**IF SO, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT
UP TO £2K TOWARDS YOUR
COVID-19 PROJECT**

To request an application form
or discuss in more detail please contact:

Alyson MacGillivray at the SID Office
T: 300 579 or E: southislaydevelopment@gmail.com

Playing Fields Update

The community may recall that a funding application for a new community building on the site of the Port Ellen Playing Fields pavilion was unsuccessful early in 2020. Much of this was due to land ownership issues and the sheer scale of the project.

In May 2020 SID successfully secured funds from the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) to purchase the Playing Fields. A frustrating situation ensued resulting in a lack of evidence to prove community ownership and consequently the Playing Fields fell under the ownership of the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer (QLTR). The process is still ongoing with glimmers of hope on the horizon that the completion of contracts is close, and the title will be transferred to SID. Another of 2020's complications!

In October SID learned that on re-submitting the Stage 1 application to the Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Fund it had been successful again and SID was through to stage 2. This is a community game changer with new plans having been drawn up involving the funders, input from the SID directors and of course the information from community consultations done in 2019.

A Stage 2 funding application for a single-storey Community Hub was submitted in early November and we eagerly await the outcome in the new year.

SID believes that a Community Hub such as this could have a longer-term role in recovery from the pandemic, joining the dots between people that require support - connecting them to a range of services to promote individual and community wellbeing.





The layout of the Community Hub is very similar to that shaped by the community back in 2019, but smaller and more deliverable. It has been designed to be as flexible as possible, with movable walls opening up sections of the building to allow for meetings, events and gatherings. External entrance doors into different spaces and lots of storage makes for a fully flexible building that aims to meet the needs of the community and the users of the spaces.

SID will be keeping the community in the loop with lots more details over the coming weeks as this project gears up again. SID hope to embark on a Community Shares Initiative in early 2021 where members of the community will have the opportunity to invest in this project; supporting the generation of funding to make the project a reality. Watch this space for more information coming soon



A big thank you to all members of the community that have supported The Wee Box over the last few months. We hope you'll agree that Rosie's presence, paninis and pick and mix have made a huge difference during the last few months, particularly at a time where socialising outdoors is the only option for many of us. The presence of a catering van has highlighted how important a cafe is for Port Ellen and the Playing Fields Site.

Reducing food waste and improving health and wellbeing for our young people.

SID, along with The Mactaggart Community Cyber Café, has been accepted on to the Co-op's Food Share Programme. This is a new initiative whereby Co-op Food Share donates food that stores have been unable to sell but are still good to eat. SID and The Mactaggart Cyber Cafe have co-ordinated a collection service to be made on scheduled days throughout the week for all four primary schools across the island. The food collected mainly includes fruit which is then prepared and offered to children as a healthy morning snack. Saving school funds, allowing kids to focus on their work, less litter in the playground and a willingness to try new fruits are just some of the benefits of this great scheme. They are a caring, sharing Co-op!

The benefits are numerous, not only does it save school funds, but the provision of a healthy nutritious snacks has already made a noticeable difference. In Port Ellen for example Mrs MacDonald, Headteacher has described how there is now a calmness amongst school children, they are more focussed on their work, and come lunch time children are hungrier and finish their food which means less wastage. There is noticeably less litter in the playground and the children are more willing to try out different types of fruit. The programme has been rolled out across the island with great success.



SID MEMBERSHIP

Re-confirm your membership or join as a new member

As SID moves to digitise its data management inline with its new IT systems and GDPR regulations . We are asking members of the community to re-confirm their membership or join as a Member or Associate Member. Membership is FREE and it is important as many members of our local community as possible join to ensure they have a say on what happens in our community. Whether you are an existing or a new member, please follow this link to complete the simple online form <http://eepurl.com/g7Oyvr>



How to Contact SID while we work from home:

Call: 01496 300 579

Email: southislaydevelopment@gmail.com

