



East Ayrshire
COUNCIL

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Organisation
**NEW CUMNOCK
COMMUNITY SPORTS
AND WELLBEING HUB**

Reference Number
GC 7471

grant assessment form

1 Aims and objectives of the organisation

The objectives of the club are: -

- To create an appropriate community sports hub organisation for the benefit of the community of New Cumnock and surrounding areas;
- To liaise with architects to achieve a future proof build design which considers a variety of sports and the needs and wishes of its future users; and
- To communicate with and consider the views of the local community in the work of the steering group.

2 Purpose of the grant (including breakdown of costs)

A grant of up to £35,000 is requested to refurbish the existing family viewing rooms into a multi-functional suite and small gym area.

A REF award of £11,040 was made to New Cumnock Community Council in June 2018 to support the cost of an options appraisal and feasibility study for a community sports hub at Loch Park, New Cumnock. A further grant of up to £17,970 for the procurement of architectural services for project drawings was secured in September 2019. This grant was paid to New Cumnock Development Trust who agreed to facilitate the financial transactions of the new steering group until they formally constituted.

Funding was also secured by Glenafton FC from Minerals Trust in November 2019 to upgrade the existing kitchen facilities and build new toilet facilities, which will be accessible from the outside viewing area.

Architect drawings have now been produced for a phased community sports hub project based on discussions with the football club and steering group. The proposed project phasing is as follows: - Stage 1 as per current application; Stage 2 – (a) upgrade changing rooms and (b) new synthetic pitch and lighting; Stage 3 an extension for a community gym; and Stage 4 a flexible function suite and community building.

The estimated cost of phase 1 works are as follows: -

Down takings of existing area	£ 2,000
Structural work to replace wall with steel beam	£12,000
Flat roof repair	£ 8,000
Replacement windows	£ 5,000
Flooring, kitchen, painting & decorating	<u>£ 3,000</u>
	£30,000
VAT @ 20%	<u>£6,000</u>

All questions on this form must be completed

Total Estimated Project Cost £36,000

To secure REF funding for refurbishment works the applicant group must either own the land or premises or hold a long-term lease of the premises. There are currently no legal agreements in place between the football club and steering group. The applicant has advised that they are in discussions with Glenafton Athletic and their lawyers regarding a lease of the park/ground. Lawyers have indicated an intent to enter into a lease should funding be secured to construct the Sports and Wellbeing Hub.

Advice from the applicant is that the current steering group will undertake management and delivery of the Sports hub to final completion stage. At that point members are likely to change prior to the formal incorporation of a new management body.

The options appraisal survey and business plan carried out by Douglas Westwater from Community Enterprise Scotland, advises of a range of potential users following project completion. However, currently the pitch and sporting facilities are used almost exclusively by Glenafton Juniors. Concerns over damage to the playing surface and lack of floodlighting are a barrier for extending the use of the pitch to other sporting groups.

New Cumnock Development Trust are currently providing admin support to the steering group but to date there has been no capital funding commitment from the windfarm monies paid directly to the Trust for the proposed upgrade of Loch Park. The Trust are proposing to look at the development of community wellbeing and sporting activities in New Cumnock and will consider the use of Loch Park as one of the delivery venues.

3a How many people are on the organisation's Management Committee? 12

3b What is the organisation's total membership? 12

3c How many members usually attend the organisation's meetings or events? 8-10

3d How many members of the organisation would benefit from the grant? All

3e How many members of the community would benefit from the grant? All who use the facility

4 How will the grant :-
(a) develop the organisation; or
 It will provide funding to support delivery of phase 1 of project proposal.
(b) benefit the local community.
 It will support refurbishment of viewing rooms for the football club.

5

Total cost of project	up to £36,000
Amount of grant requested	up to £35,000
Bank Balance(s) Date 24/6/20	£0
Where the group has more than one bank account all balances should be recorded	
Cash in hand Date	£
Value of any other financial assets Date	£
Name of other funding sources	
Amount and date of grant	
£	Date

All questions on this form must be completed

6 If latest balance (including other financial assets) exceeds the cost of the project or is substantial, are these funds ring-fenced for the normal activities of the group or can they contribute to the cost of the project?

No bank account held.

7 **Recommendation**

Support

Refuse

Defer

Amount Recommended

Reason for recommendation

Funds are requested from Afton windfarm income.

As part of the New Cumnock regeneration master plan delivered by Outside the Box, a gym and sports hub was high in the action plan for the community. A feasibility study was carried out which backed up the need for a community sports hub.

In considering a recommendation on the grant application the following point were taken into consideration: -

- Advice from the applicant is that the current steering group will manage the delivery of the sports hub to completion stage. At that point members are likely to change prior to incorporation of a new management body. The skills and commitment of the applicant group's committee form an important part of assessment considerations regarding longer-term project sustainability, especially given the value of the overall project;
- Whilst the applicant group do have a signed constitution and a committee, they do not have a bank account for receipt or payment of grant funds. The group's financial transactions continue to be managed by the Development Trust;
- The group seeking funding do not currently either own or hold a lease of the property to be refurbished as per this application;
- Additional wider community benefit is required to support a recommendation for REF funding. It is advised that maintaining the playing surface for junior matches and a lack of floodlights is the major barrier to why the facilities at Loch Park are not available for use to the wider community and currently only used by the junior football team. Committing significant funds to the first two elements of phased project works, these being the renovation of the social space and the upgrade of the existing changing rooms will only provide limited additional community benefit whilst the pitch continues to remain inaccessible to amateur, disability and women's football teams and for other sporting activities. It would therefore be preferable and more in line with REF objectives to consider support for an application for the refurbishment of the playing surface in conjunction with a formal commitment from the football club of increased community sports development and community use of Loch Park before considering funding requests for other elements of this project;
- Discussions with other funders have still to be undertaken by the current committee. Without evidence of wider community involvement and a commitment to support grassroots football there are concerns that the project may struggle to receive support from key funders for larger sporting projects;
- Although advised that a community sports hub was one of the projects identified within the master plan there is no current capital financial commitment from windfarm monies held by the Development Trust to support this project; and

- Suggestions that the group and football club should contact the Council's Sports Development team to assist with grassroots sports development planning and funding assistance has not yet been taken forward.

Discussions with the applicant have indicated that the football club would prefer not to enter into any formal agreements until funding is guaranteed/secured. Unfortunately, given the level of funding that will be required for the overall sports hub project more of a longer-term commitment will need to be evidenced from both the project group and football club to secure significant project funding.

It should also be noted that both the risk and financial assessment for this application indicate that in its current format this is a high risk project.

Given the foregoing, it is recommended that this application for grant funding to refurbish the viewing rooms be deferred.

It is recognised that there is potential for the development and delivery of a successful community project for the wider use of Loch Park for grassroots football and other sporting activities. As the overall objective of the proposed project generally meets with REF criteria and given the significant annual funding budget available for New Cumnock, it is suggested that to assist with the progression of this project the applicant: -

- **Contact the EAC Sports Development team and the EAC community worker for assistance in the development of the community based project proposal to help address some of the issues identified in this assessment;**
- **Discuss the project with SportsScotland and other capital funding providers to seek advice on what steps need to be taken to be eligible for funding support to match fund any future applications to REF for this project; and**
- **Discuss the possibility of capital support from windfarm funds held by the New Cumnock Development Trust.**

It is suggested that a further application to REF only be considered when the previously noted issues have been addressed and a robust plan for a grassroots community sports development programme that will utilise the Loch park facility has been formulated in conjunction with local voluntary sports and leisure groups. The NCSWH will also be expected to seek match funding to support any future applications to the Renewable Energy Fund.

Management Risk Ranking **HIGH**
Risk Ranking based on Grant Application and Financial
Information used to determine appropriate levels of monitoring
and evaluation.

Child Protection Risk Ranking L / M / H
Applications with a **HIGH** ranking are not recommended for support

8 If there are any revenue implications how will they be met in future years?

WILL BE ADDRESSED IN BUSINESS PLAN

9 Does the project represent value for money?

Yes

No