

Colonsay & Oronsay Common Good Fund

Background

The Colonsay Community Council (CCC) has set up a Common Good Fund.

Marine Harvest gives an annual £10,000 gift to the community on Colonsay & Oronsay, which is being gathered to form the basis of the Common Good Fund, for projects that benefit the community on Colonsay & Oronsay. The CCC and Marine Harvest together have the task of selecting which projects should benefit from the Marine Harvest money.

The criteria, set out below, will be used to determine which projects should be funded. An application form is available from Kevin Byrne or Richard Buttrick. Applications will be considered twice a year, i.e. approximately every six months, with the possibility of special consideration of urgent applications should the need arise. Applications will be considered on their merits, and only projects meeting certain minimum requirements will be eligible.

A subcommittee of the CCC including councillors and other residents will consider applications and make recommendations to the CCC and Marine Harvest as to which projects to fund.

It will not be necessary for all the money to be allocated each year, and the CCC will be able to build a reserve of money for bigger projects. The CCC may be able to ask Marine Harvest for an advance of future annual gifts if a big project justifies spending more money than is currently available. The community would be consulted before such a request is made by the CCC to Marine Harvest.

Successful applications may be funded subject to certain conditions, for example reporting back on the success of the project.

History of Common Good Funds. "The Common Good Funds" in Scotland date from the late 15th century and they have been identified as all "property of a Royal Burgh not acquired under statutory powers or held under specified trusts". Today they can be seen as resources which have been donated by either individuals or organisations, and are now used for the "public good" within a specified area.

The following criteria apply to all applications for financial assistance from the Colonsay Common Good Fund:-

1. The Common Good Fund will be administered with due regard to the interests of the inhabitants of Colonsay. Accordingly, applications must clearly demonstrate that the purpose of the grant is to provide a service or facility that will meet a local need or directly benefit the residents of Colonsay. The CCC and Marine Harvest must be satisfied that any and all monies from the Fund meet this requirement, and their decisions in this regard are full and final.
2. The Common Good Fund is not an alternative to mainstream Grants Schemes and normally applications to the Fund will only be considered once other sources of funding (where applicable) have been applied for and determined. The use of arrangements for "match funding" is encouraged.
3. Subject to 1 and 2 above, applications will be considered from individuals and properly constituted voluntary or charitable organisations for funding towards 'one-

off' projects. Applications for routine operational costs will not normally be considered. Regular applications from organisations will only be considered where such applications form part of a defined development plan or growing project.

4. Applications will only be considered if they include a copy of the most recent audited or approved accounts of the organisation. Accounts can only be approved by someone independent of the applicant organisation. This person's name and address must be supplied. Organisations which do not have audited or approved accounts should provide such accounts as are available, so that the funding position of the organisation can be understood and assessed.
5. Applications will not normally be accepted in respect of projects on which work has already started, or in aid of expenditure towards which applicants have already made a commitment or paid.
6. Applications relating to a wider area than that covered by the Fund will not normally be considered unless the applicant can specify, to the satisfaction of the CCC and Marine Harvest, how any grant will meet a local need or directly benefit residents of Colonsay.
7. Applicants must enclose, along with the completed application form, the following information (where applicable):
 - ? A copy of the most recent audited or approved accounts (or similar alternative if audited or approved accounts are unavailable)
 - ? Contractors' estimates
 - ? A copy of the organisation's constitution
 - ? Any planning or other consents (which must have been already obtained)
 - A project plan, covering benefits of the project, why the money should be spent, how much money is needed, and what the money will be spent on, and how the benefits for the community on Colonsay will be sustainable.

All successful applicants will be required to complete an end-of-project report, so that the CCC and Marine Harvest can see that monies awarded have been used appropriately, in accordance with the Fund criteria. The submitted information must outline the amount of funding, any matched funding, project details and outcomes, including the number and breakdown of people who benefitted from the award.