

Snippets of Success: Community Grants Scheme

16TH AUGUST 2018

LAURA TRAYNOR, CALLP ASSISTANT SCHEME MANAGER

ltraynor@coigach-assynt.org

01571 844 683



Supported by

The National Lottery®

through the Heritage Lottery Fund

Le taic bhon

Chrannchur Nàiseanta

tro Mhaoin-Dualchais a' Chrannchuir

Outline of Community Grants Scheme

- ▶ Aim: to support activities at a community level that complement those taking place through the Landscape Partnership Scheme and provide benefit to people living within the project area.
- ▶ Projects can be about natural, built and/or cultural heritage
- ▶ 2 grant levels: £1,000 individuals, £5,000 for organisations
- ▶ Grants are for up to 75% of total project costs, with min 25% match funding or volunteer time
- ▶ Total budget £100,000 over 4 years
- ▶ Awarded £48,128.24 to date
- ▶ Advertise in January, deadline Mid March, goes to judging panel, ratified by Scheme Delivery Committee and Community Councils, grants awarded at start of April. Recipients have until following March to claim their grant

Achievements

- ▶ Given us projects we wouldn't have known about
- ▶ Involvement from outside organisations
- ▶ Projects for partners who don't have one of our 28 main projects
- ▶ Lots of volunteer time
- ▶ People, young and old, know more about the heritage of the area
- ▶ Fuels individuals' interests
- ▶ Coigach Geotrail map which has been very popular
- ▶ More wildflowers looked after as a result of two projects – Achnahaird Meadow and Clachtoll Grazings' Power Scythe
- ▶ People are trained in new skills – strained wire fencing and powerboat training
- ▶ Better access to community owned island of Isle Martin
- ▶ Culag Park able to be used by school again now that its fenced to keep the deer out. Also better for sports teams and annual Highland games

Challenges

- ▶ Working out how to score applications
- ▶ Judging individuals and organisations in same pot (like comparing apples and oranges) – we brought in value for money scoring to account for this
- ▶ Putting together paperwork – looking at what other organisations do helped! Please get in touch if you want to see what we've done
- ▶ Reporting – reporting form still in development so getting information from people comes in different forms
- ▶ Calculating the grant amount if total project cost different to application – we had this as a percentage of total project cost including volunteer time, it was too confusing!
- ▶ Private vs public benefit – we thought if an individual was claiming grant to pay for their own time this was ineligible (though if they were being paid by an organisation to do it this was ok), however now it seems that as long as the public benefit is great enough this is acceptable. These rejected applicants will be invited to apply again in the future
- ▶ Income generating projects have to pay income back into scheme or ringfenced to provide further benefits from grant e.g. print further copies of materials
- ▶ Underclaiming – funds needing to be carried forward to next year. Will be a problem in the final year!
- ▶ 2 steps forward, one step back

Future and legacy of grants scheme

- ▶ Two more rounds to go
- ▶ Grants for capital works given on understanding they will be maintained for at least 10 years
- ▶ Raises goodwill locally – fantastic PR for the partnership scheme overall
- ▶ More volunteering – may lead to people continuing to volunteer in the future
- ▶ Sales of materials produced will pay for further production, for example Coigach Geotrail leaflet
- ▶ Increased knowledge and awareness of heritage locally
- ▶ Engaging organisations outwith our existing partnership may lead to future projects to work together on – and get funding for

Summary of projects Year 1

Project Code and Applicant	Grant Awarded	Total Project Costs inc In Kind Costs/Volunteer Time	Summary of Project Activities	Main Geographic Area	Natural or Cultural Heritage (or both)?
Lochinver Wildlife Watch	£ 220.00	£ 1,820.00	Purchase a trail camera for use by Lochinver Wildlife Watch group to record wildlife and submit data to Assynt Field Club database	Assynt	Natural
Individual	£ 1,000.00	£ 6,757.60	Undertake improvement works to Achnahaird meadow, improve access and provide interpretation	Coigach	Natural
Individual	£ 888.75	£ 2,401.00	Build fencing skills with the Ullapool High School Rural Skills class and construct fencing on croft to protect riparian habitat from livestock	Coigach	Natural
Clachtoll Grazings Committee	£ 1,129.00	£ 1,679.00	Purchase a power scythe to be used by the crofters to mow their areas of meadow to provide hay and to encourage wildflower growth	Assynt	Natural
Coigach Geotrail	£ 5,000.00	£ 10,200.00	Produce a map to show walks in the area with interesting geological features and provide interpretation	Coigach	Natural
Coigach Community Heritage Group	£ 4,500.00	£ 7,400.00	Create an accessible database (likely online) to provide a one stop shop index of where information about Coigach's heritage is stored and signpost people to it	Coigach	Cultural
Individual	£ 1,000.00	£ 4,950.00	Run music sessions for young people in the area to promote the tradition of social music playing, including local heritage tunes	Assynt	Cultural
Ullapool and Lochinver Wildlife Watch Groups	£ 3,137.00	£ 8,109.07	Day trip to Isle Martin for the 2 Wildlife Watch groups with activities to learn about natural and cultural heritage and includes training for activity leaders.	Coigach	Natural
Comhlan Gaidhlig Asainte	£ 3,883.33	£ 7,398.33	2 Gaelic language weekends and to create a website of gaelic placenames in the area with interpretations	Assynt	Cultural
TOTALS	£ 20,758.08	£ 50,715.00			

Summary of projects Year 2

Project Code and Applicant	Grant Awarded	Total Project Costs inc In Kind Costs/Volunteer Time	Summary of Project Activities	Main Geographic Area	Natural or Cultural Heritage (or both)?
Comhlan Gaidhlig Asainte	£ 800.00	£ 8,750.00	Two one weekend workshop for 4 levels of Gaelic learners. Each weekend would have between 20 and 30 adult (16+) learners and 4 fluent tutors.	Assynt	Cultural
Individual	£ 722.66	£ 1,863.55	Purchase a static bat recorder to allow private research into the species and distribution of bats in Coigach and Assynt.	Assynt	Natural
Assynt Field Club	£ 2,047.50	£ 5,147.50	Andy Acton, one of Scotland's leading lichenologists and ecologists to run five day lichen identification workshop in Assynt	Assynt	Natural
Drumbeg Development Association	£ 3,800.00	£ 5,080.00	Celebrate 140th Anniversary of the opening of Drumbeg School by mounting a display in the old school/ Village Hall, recording/ transcribing local peoples' memories, display on wreck of a Dutch cargo ship, WWI and WW2 connections with local inhabitants, and building a commemorative, drystone seat, using original stones from the old school building.	Assynt	Cultural
Isle Martin Trust	£ 5,000.00	£ 7,000.00	Employ a part-time ferry operator to establishing good working systems and practice, and to buddy members of the ferry volunteer team in gaining experience. New and young ferry volunteers will be trained and mentored.	Coigach	Cultural
Ullapool Museum	£ 5,000.00	£ 18,099.00	Professional support to transfer, document and publish our collections related to Coigach; and training for volunteer team to support and develop this work.	Coigach	Cultural
West Sutherland Fisheries Trust	£ 5,000.00	£ 9,500.00	Wellies to wildlife: educate school children, residents and visitors about natural habitats within Assynt and Coigach through a series of activity sheets which can be downloaded for free or purchased from local vendors	Coigach & Assynt	Natural
Assynt Development Trust	£ 5,000.00	£ 11,306.20	Deer fencing for approx. 1ha of Culag Park with regard to serious health risks to people who share a recreational outdoor space with Red Deer e.g. Lyme Disease from the ticks	Assynt	Cultural
TOTALS	£ 27,370.16	£ 66,746.25			



Trail Camera

Lochinver Wildlife Watch



Power Scythe

Clachtoll Common Grazings



Before

Deer Fence Culag Park

Assynt Development Trust

After





Drumbeg Heritage Project

Drumbeg Development Trust



Achnahaird Meadow

Individual grant