

News Release

18th September 2007

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RENEWAL GRANTS

BTCV Scotland has been awarded a grant of £28765 from the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme which they plan to use to create a series of pathways linking the community and secondary school. The Auchinleck group are among 16 community organisations from across Scotland sharing nearly £500,000 for projects to improve the local environment.

The Auchinleck Community Trim Trail project will create a series of pathways linking the community and the secondary school. A trim trail will be created within the school. The site will be fenced and vehicle access restricted.

A total of £497,115 has been awarded to 16 Scottish community groups for projects in areas where past or present quarrying has had an effect on local quality of life. The grant offers have come from the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme which Forward Scotland is administering during 2007-08 on behalf of the Scottish Executive. The scheme awards funds provided by the Executive from the Aggregates Levy – a tax paid by quarry operators. Many grants were awarded for projects which created or improved community spaces and footpaths or which provided safe play facilities

Announcing the latest awards Environment Minister Mike Russell said: "The Community Environmental Renewal Scheme is designed to help communities across Scotland living in the vicinity of quarrying activity to boost their quality of life through restoring their local environment. Community action can make a real difference in improving environments and changing attitudes. This grant scheme supports our objective of creating a Greener Scotland - by improving Scotland's natural and built environment and the sustainable use and enjoyment of it."

Ends

Issued by: Jenny Hogan, Forward Scotland
Tel: 0560 0010 575 / 0870 4711 730
E-mail: jenny.hogan@forward-scotland.org.uk

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RENEWAL GRANTS

Stewarton Woodlands Action Trust (SWAT) has been awarded a grant of £13998 from the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme which they plan to use to construct 500m of path in Lainshaw to improve access to play facilities. The Stewarton group are among 16 community organisations from across Scotland sharing nearly £500,000 for projects to improve the local environment.

The 'Completing our Routes for the Future' project will create of a 500m path in Lainshaw in Stewarton. The project will enhance local play facilities by redressing the play area with bark and provide seating and signage along the route. This will form part of a larger path network of 17 paths the group hope to develop around Stewarton in the future to encourage walking, cycling and general leisure access.

Welcoming the award, Ros Lauchland, Spokesperson for Stewarton Woodlands Action Trust (SWAT) said: "This award of £13,998 from CERS will be a great step forward for Stewarton Woodlands Action Trust's (SWAT) work – in fact, many steps, because it will be used to surface a path which is approximately 1000 metres long. Known as Lainshaw One, this is Number Six on our Sixteen-Path Network Strategy through the eastern end of Lainshaw Woods, and a very popular route for all abilities of user. It is a key link in the circular network, and SWAT are very appreciative of this generous award, which will be of direct benefit to so many people in Stewarton."

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For more information on the Stewarton Woodlands Action Trust (SWAT) project please contact Ann Sinclair on 01560 485990.

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL RENEWAL GRANTS

Dunlop & District Community Council has been awarded a grant of £30000 from the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme which they plan to use to upgrade the village hall. The Dunlop group are among 16 community organisations from across Scotland sharing nearly £500,000 for projects to improve the local environment.

The Dunlop Village Hall project will fund the upgrade of Dunlop community hall. The grant will install double glazed windows and improve storage space within the hall. Moveable partitions will be erected to create flexible spaces within the building.

Welcoming the award, Margaret Hunter, Director for Dunlop & District Community Council said: "We were delighted to learn this week that they have been awarded a CERS grant of £30,000. This will allow Phase 2 of the Village Hall Project to go ahead. This next phase will not only improve the built environment but will also involve interior work to improve the use of hall space and to allow the creation of much needed storage space, all of which will increase the project's long term sustainability."

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E-mail: jenny.hogan@forward-scotland.org.uk

For more information on the Dunlop & District Community Council project please contact Margaret Hunter on 01560 483231.

Notes to Editors:

- **Forward Scotland** is a charitable company which champions innovative approaches to sustainable development in Scotland. Forward Scotland is working to build a culture of sustainable development in Scotland by improving awareness and understanding of sustainable policies and practices in Scotland's public, private and community based organisations and helping local communities deliver practical sustainable development projects. Forward Scotland manages a range of grant schemes for communities.

- **Sustainable development** involves achieving environmental, social and economic improvement at the same time, now and for the long term. Sustainability cannot ever be fully achieved; improvement is always possible. The 2005 UK Sustainable Development Strategy says that the goal of sustainable development is to 'enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations'.
- **Aggregates Levy** – the UK Government introduced the Aggregates Levy in order to reduce aggregates use, encourage the use of alternative materials and address the environmental costs associated with quarrying. A levy of £1.60 is paid by quarry operators for each tonne of rock, gravel or sand which they extract. Information on earlier projects funded by the Aggregates Levy can be found at www.sustainable.scotland.gov.uk.
- **For a full list of grants offered in this round see following pages.**

Funding totalling £497,115 has been offered during this funding round to the following projects throughout Scotland:

Argyll & Bute

West Bay Play Park, Dunoon Regeneration £75, 000
Upgrade existing play park

Clackmannanshire

Menstrie Community Woodlands £30, 732
Construction of 500m of all abilities pathway

Tillicoultry Allotments Association £25, 355
Redevelopment of a disused allotment for the local community

East Ayrshire

Auchinleck Community Trim Trail £28, 765
Creation of a series of pathways linking the community and secondary school

Completing Our Routes For The Future – Stewarton Access Strategy £13, 998
Construction of 500m path in Lainshaw to improve access to play facilities

Dunlop Village Hall £30, 000
Building upgrade to include double glazing and creation of flexible spaces

Edinburgh

King George V Park Basketball / 5-a-side Court, Currie £25, 000
Creation of a netted, all weather surfaced court

Falkirk

Muiravonside Country Park Heritage Trail Link £29, 734
Upgrade of 2km of pathways

Fife

Back Braes Project, Leslie £48, 534
Installation of a youth shelter, ball court, aerial slide, skate park & path

Community Based Red Squirrel Conservation, Ladybank £22, 800
Construction of a meeting area and viewing platforms

Family Play Area – Gilvenbank Park, Glenrothes £43, 000
Development of a family play area

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| Highland | |
| Get the Community on the Go, Inverness Creation of a multi-use games area | £50, 000 |
| Muir of Ord Skate Park Final phase of Skate Park development | £29, 400 |
| Perth & Kinross | |
| Braco School Playground Improvement Group Upgrade of playground to provide outdoor classroom & promote learning | £15, 562 |
| Renfrewshire | |
| Brediland Outdoor Project, Paisley Installation of a trim trail and toddlers play equipment | £18, 778 |
| South Lanarkshire | |
| Tinto Trim Trail, Symington Installation of a trim trail | £10, 457 |