

Our River Leven Community Fund (ORLCF)

This Fund was designed, planned and delivered by the Levenmouth Connectivity Steering Group (LCSG)

The LCSG were originally responsible for the development of the Levenmouth (Behaviour Change) Community Action Plan and the ORLCF was designed to help resource local groups in order that they could take forward projects that aligned with community outcomes in the action plan.

https://www.theleven.org/media/1132/behaviour_change_community_action_plan.pdf

Coalfields Regeneration Trust facilitated the process and applied for the funding of £50,000 from Sustrans via Green Action Trust and £30,000 from Fife Council giving a total fund size of £80,000

When the announcement was made at the close of the voting count that the funding available was short by a few thousand pounds to cover all the projects in full, it was suggested that if everyone accepted a bit less than they applied for then everyone could go home with their project funded. All the groups were unanimous in their agreement, meaning that everyone was a winner. A great day of community spirit in action!



A bit of background about the LCSG and the ORLCF PB Process

About the Levenmouth Connectivity Steering Group (LCSG)

Mission statement of LCSG

To make the community's aspirations a reality leading to a more prosperous, healthier and attractive place to live, to learn and to work.

Aims and Objectives

The aim of the LCSG is to bring people together to discuss and ensure that the implementation of The Leven Connectivity Project Community Action Plan meets the needs and aspirations of the community.

Membership

Members of the steering group are made up of local people and local representatives to meet with project representatives to help inform and influence major project decisions within Levenmouth related to the Leven Programme. By sharing your email you become a member of the group and will receive monthly minutes of meetings and any relevant updates relating to the LCSG. There is an open invitation to attend meetings either in person or on Zoom.

GDPR Statement

Membership details are securely stored and will not be shared with any third parties without members' consent.

Purpose

The steering group leads on a number of outcomes included in The Leven Connectivity Project (Behaviour Change) Community Action Plan and its main function is to help make these happen.

The Levenmouth Community Action Plan outcomes that the steering group lead on:

- Building the existing umbrella group with community representation at its core and fostering partnership working
- Create and promote an accessible and inclusive programme of leisure events / activities that allow people to connect with their area and the river area.
- Explore (social) history, heritage and nature and develop interpretation boards/murals and trails.

- Enhance opportunities for people to enjoy, learn about nature, wildlife, food growing and foraging.
- Create a programme of place making/art making.

Meetings

Meetings are held on a monthly basis usually in a local community centre, with accessibility in mind. Meetings can also be accessed on line through zoom. At meetings we share information and advice, it is a space where all voices are heard and are valued. Coalfields Regeneration Trust are the first point of contact as they are responsible for organising meetings and act as secretariat for the group.

ORLCF Participatory Budget Process

Regular meetings were held to discuss, design and deliver the PB process. It was agreed that the purpose of using a PB approach with a voting element was not just about deciding who gets the money, but also about bringing people together, creating a shared space for local groups to network and find out what is going on in the area. It also enabled local people to take part, have a voice in the decision making process and hopefully get more involved in local community activities, including the LCSG.

Thanks go to Kylie at Green Action Trust for working on the graphics and the social media

OUR RIVER LEVEN COMMUNITY FUND

GOT A PROJECT IDEA?
GET IT FUNDED!

APPLY UP TO £4,000
FOR YOUR
COMMUNITY PROJECT
WITHIN THE
LEVENMOUTH AREA*
*Terms and conditions apply.

APPLICATION
CLOSES
FRIDAY, 5 JAN
2024

PROJECTS & INITIATIVES COULD INCLUDE:

- Leisure and sport events and activities that allow people to connect with their area or the river
- History and heritage projects (e.g. social, natural and industrial)
- Projects for people to enjoy, learn about nature, wildlife, food growing or foraging
- Art, crafts and creative projects

For more details, email david.wright@coalfields-regen.org.uk



Making the Fund Accessible

The group designed the application form, using an existing CRT CIP fund application form as a template. It was created so as to be as simple as possible to apply for funding.

It was agreed that any individual with a good idea could apply for funding as long as they had a constituted group with a bank account that was happy to host the project.

It was agreed that funding applications would be accepted between £200 - £4,000

It was agreed that Funding Surgeries would be held in each of the communities. These ran from 3pm – 7pm and manned by CRT Staff. This enabled people to find out about the fund, what type of project was eligible for funding and if suitable they could access a funding application.

Applications were available as paper copies as well as editable PDF's

THE LEVEN PROGRAMME

OUR RIVER LEVEN COMMUNITY FUND

**GOT A PROJECT IDEA?
GET IT FUNDED!**

APPLY UP TO £4,000 FOR YOUR COMMUNITY PROJECT WITHIN THE LEVENMOUTH AREA*	DROP IN TO FIND OUT HOW
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Drop in from 3pm-7pm at the following locations:

The Centre, Leven	Mon, 6 Nov
Buckhaven Community Centre	Wed, 8 Nov
Kennoway Community Shed	Fri, 10 Nov
Wemyss Central Hotel	Mon, 13 Nov
Methil Community Education Centre	Thurs, 16 Nov
Methilhill Bowling Club	Mon, 20 Nov
Windygates Bowling Club	Tue, 21 Nov

*Terms and conditions apply.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust | Green Action Trust | Fife Water



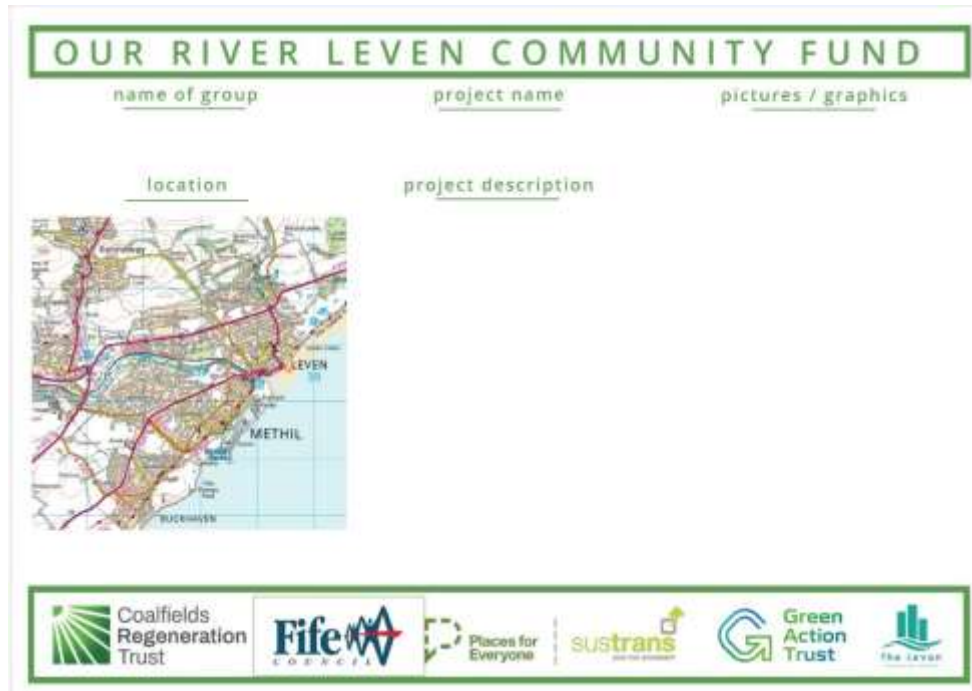
The Participatory Budget Event

The Voting Event Venue

It was agreed that we would use the new Wellesley Parish Church Hall and the event would be held on 27th January 2024, set up from 10am and voting 11am -1pm, results announced 1.30pm. Catering was provided by the hall with hot soup, sausage rolls and stovies.



Projects were invited to attend and put on a display to promote their project. To help 'level the playing field' regarding presentation, every group was given a display board that they could use to promote their project. Thanks go to Iglu Studios Ltd.who designed and delivered them.



Display boards were made available to all projects to complete and display. All but one group took them home!

Reaching out...

We created an online voting option as a way of reaching out to a wider audience, enabling people to vote who could not attend the live event. This option enabled people to vote within the same 2 hour time frame as the live event.

Thanks go to Fife College who kindly offered their support in producing the on line voting service. A sub group was set up to work on its design that included CRT, CLEAR, GAT and Fife College. A total of 1045 votes were registered on the voting platform!

Getting the message out...

THE LEVEN PROGRAMME

OUR RIVER LEVEN COMMUNITY FUND

LIVE IN THE
LEVENMOUTH AREA?
COME CAST YOUR VOTES!

**WELLESLEY PARISH
CHURCH HALL
WELLESLEY RD
METHIL, LEVEN
KY8 3PE**

**SATURDAY,
27TH JAN
11AM-1PM**

Join us at our community voting event:

- Discover potential projects in your area by local groups
- Cast your votes to support these projects
- Enjoy free nature activities, face painting, and refreshments
- Can't attend? Vote online* with this link:
<http://go.fife.ac.uk/coalfieldsvote>

Logos at the bottom: Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Green Action Trust, Places for Everyone, Fife.



Voting Results

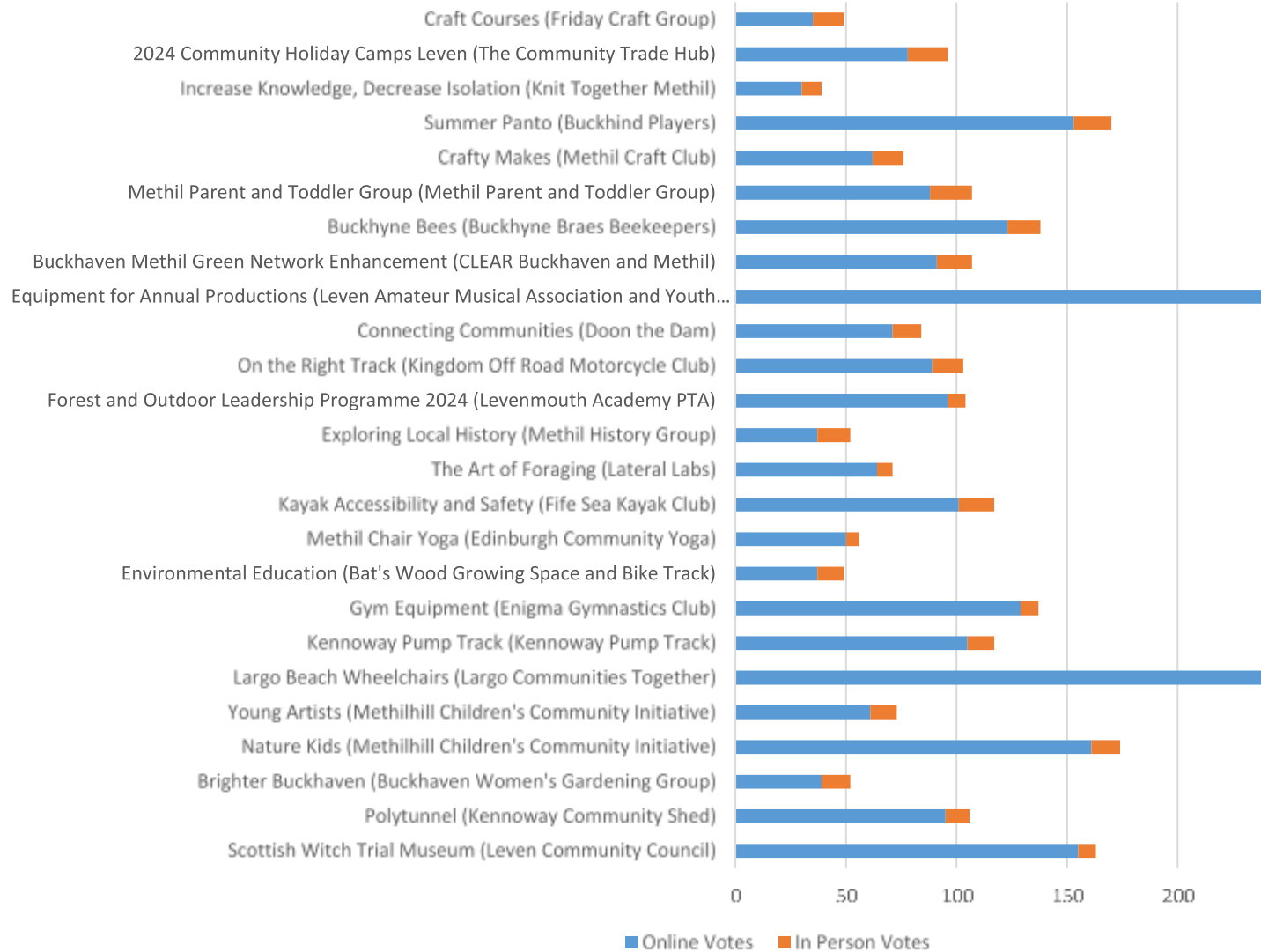
Voting in the hall and on line were totalled to give a final result of how well the projects fared.

The following table shows the breakdown of where the voters came from.

Q2: I live in the following area	
Baintown	3
Balcurvie	11
Bonnybank	11
Buckhaven	107
Coaltown of Wemyss	15
Drumeldrie	6
East Wemyss	21
Kennoway	62
Leven	226
Lower Largo	62
Lundin Links	100
Methil (including Aberhill, Kirkland)	102
Methilhill	40
Upper Largo	32
West Wemyss	7
Other	238
In person vote	114

Levels of Voting: 1043 people voted on line with 114 people voting in the hall.

Q3: Cast your 3 votes by selecting 3 projects from the 25 listed below



The chart below shows the project summary and voting results

Total	Online Votes	Table votes	Org	Project	project summary
323	300	23	Largo Communities Together	Largo Beach Wheelchairs	To purchase specific beach mobility equipment that will enable disabled and less able people to access the beach/water at Largo Beach. The beach wheelchair project aims to set up a free loan scheme, called Largo Beach Wheelchairs, to provide beach wheelchairs from Temple Car Park, Largo.
306	277	29	Leven Amateur Musical Association	Equipment for annual productions	We want to purchase our own set of communication headsets for the crew to use during our productions. This would mean we don't have to spend money each time to hire them.
174	161	13	Methilhill Children's Community Initiative	Nature Kids	Children who attend nature kids during the school summer holidays will have the opportunity to participate in a number of nature related activities. These will include planting and growing sessions, learning about wildlife and climate change sessions.
170	153	17	Buckhind Players	Summer Panto	Stage communication equipment to help with putting on performances.
163	155	8	Leven CC	Scottish Witch Trials Museum	Scottish witch trials museum
138	123	15	Buckhynie Braes Beekeepers	Buckhynie Bees	We want to purchase new hives and bee keeping equipment including kids bee suits so more people can learn about bees and making healthy honey.
137	129	8	Enigma Gymnastics Club	Gym Equipment	To purchase specialised equipment to allow boys and girls to learn the sport of gymnastics. By using such equipment, it will allow them to undertake new skills safely and with confidence.
117	105	12	Kennoway Pump Track	Kennoway Pump Track Connecting Communities	We plan to offer organised events and activities including free bike rides connecting communities, river rides, local history rides, nature and foraging rides

117	101	16	Fife Sea Kayak Club	Kayak Accessibility and Safety	To purchase 3 Sea Kayaks for new members to use, helping lower barriers to trying this sport. We are seeking to buy suitable clothing and safety equipment which can be loaned to new members, to allow them to participate safely in club activities. The purchase of group safety equipment, such as group shelters and the provision of first aid training for club members.
107	88	19	Methil Parent and Toddler Group	Methil Parent and Toddler Group	To expand our activities we would like to visit a local farm and host soft play sessions. Hall hire costs.
107	91	16	CLEAR Buckhaven and Methil	Buckhaven Methil Green Network Enhancement	To brighten and enhance the urban space in Methil and Buckhaven and create opportunities for greater biodiversity. We want to involve local residents, pupils and other groups in helping propagate and plant trees, shrubs and wildflowers
106	95	11	Kennoway Community Shed	Polytunnel	Purchase of a 25ft x 14ft polytunnel to host growing and learning sessions with primary pupils and local people willing to learn. Produce will be shared with elderly members of the community.
104	96	8	Levenmouth Academy PTA	Forest and Outdoor Leadership Programme 2024	Offer 10 pupils a place in an 8 week outdoor programme in the River Leven Valley lead by the Ecology Centre. This will lead to a Level 4 qualification with increased confidence in outdoor skills eg campfire cookery, foraging, nature conservation and wildlife observation. For age 16+
103	89	14	Kingdom Off Road Motorcycle Club	On the right track	To purchase a motocross bike to enhance our current service. The bike will be used every week, helping to develop participants, thus enabling them to use the bike to enter national competitions, where they've shown interest.
96	78	18	The Community Trade Hub	2024 Community Holiday Camps Leven	The aim of this project is to have additional activities in the community in school holiday periods. This is to reduce social isolation and seeking youngsters to be outdoors in their community having fun with others.
84	71	13	Doon the Dam	Connecting Communities	Activities Doon the Dam including nature/history walks, picnics and community gatherings. Create a community gathering spot with benches and picnic tables. Seasonal craft activities and a doggy café pop up events.
76	62	14	Methil Craft Club	Crafty Makes	to fund learning sessions in different types of craft techniques such as using sewing machines, clay and resin work as well as developing new ideas. We also need funding for hall hire.

73	61	12	Methilhill Children's Community Initiative	Young Artists	We will have a programme which will allow the children to explore their creative talents and give them the time to produce a piece of art - this will be in the form of painting, drama, music and much more.
71	64	7	Lateral Labs	The Art of Foraging	To deliver a series of creative foraging workshops aimed at bringing communities together whilst learning new skills. These four adult workshops will consist of an exchange in knowledge in foraged seaweed and seasonal land plants, preparing and enjoying a communal meal together, and exploring how these plant-based materials can also be used to create 'green photography'.
56	50	6	Edinburgh Community Yoga	Methil Chair Yoga	We want to offer chair based yoga that people can be referred into by GPs, nursing staff and community link workers. Over time we would hope to identify someone in the community with an interest in yoga to take part in additional peer support training and become a peer volunteer for the class.
52	39	13	Buckhaven Women's Gardening Group	Brighter Buckhaven	To further enhance the green space around Buckhaven by purchasing more plants, bulbs and tools. We also want to encourage more volunteers.
52	37	15	Methil History Group	Exploring local History	We would like to gain more knowledge on the history of Kirkland, Methilhill, Methil and Buckhaven through visits to various archives. This would enable us to gain more skills in research. We wish to include young people in these trips. We hope to make our research available to Schools, the Community and visitors to our area.
49	37	12	Bat's Wood Growing Space and Bike Track	Environmental Education	To continue to manage and restore nature to the 5 acres of Levenmouth Academy known as Bat's Wood and purchase some outdoor furniture
49	35	14	Friday Craft Group	Craft Courses	Felting, Water Colours, Silver jewellery work taster sessions. Also a climate friendly snakes and ladders board game is to be created.
39	30	9	Knit Together Methil	Increase knowledge, decrease isolation	Expand the range of items we can produce through reading material and magazine pattern books. To purchase looms and material such as stuffing, accessories etc that can be used for soft toys thus increasing saleable items. We wish to attend workshops at the Scottish Arts and Craft Show in Glasgow. Costs toward hall hire.

The chart below shows what outcomes the groups are working to support

Leisure and sport events and activities that allow people to connect with their area and the river	History and (social, natural and industrial) heritage	Projects for people to enjoy, learn about nature, wildlife, food growing and foraging	Art, craft and creative projects
Bat's Wood	Bat's Wood	Bat's Wood	Bat's Wood
Buckhaven Women's Gardening Group		Buckhaven Women's Gardening Group	Buckhaven Women's Gardening Group
			Buckhind Players
		Buckhyne Braes Beekeepers	
		CLEAR	
Community Trade Hub Ltd			
Doon the Dam Group	Doon the Dam Group	Doon the Dam Group	Doon the Dam Group
Edinburgh Community Yoga			
Enigma Gymnastics Club			
Fife Sea Kayak Club	Fife Sea Kayak Club	Fife Sea Kayak Club	
			Friday Craft Group
Kennoway Pump Track	Kennoway Pump Track	Kennoway Pump Track	
		Kennoway Community Shed	

Leisure and sport events and activities that allow people to connect with their area and the river	History and (social, natural and industrial) heritage	Projects for people to enjoy, learn about nature, wildlife, food growing and foraging	Art, craft and creative projects
Kingdom Off Road Motorcycle Club			
			Knit Together Metil
Largo Communities Together			
		Lateral Labs	Lateral Labs
Leven Amateur Musical Association			Leven Amateur Musical Association
The Scottish Witch Trial Museum	The Scottish Witch Trial Museum	The Scottish Witch Trial Museum	
	Levenmouth Academy PTA	Levenmouth Academy PTA	
		Methilhill Community Children's Initiative	
			Methil Craft Club
	Methil History Group		Methil History Group
Methil Parent and Toddlers Group			

A total of £82,880 was applied for from the 25 groups from a funding pot of £80,000 Payments are in the process of being made and there will be a follow up with each group to get their feedback on the process.

For further information contact Enid Trevett, Engagement Officer, CRT Contact email enid.trevett@coalfields-regen.org.uk