



From Moffat to the Mull of Galloway, Community Events are being planned to help social and economic recovery in Dumfries and Galloway
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Dumfries and Galloway Council has approved funding for thirty nine community events projects that span the length and breadth of the region. The total funding announced is more than £60,000.

The grant support comes from the Council's Community Events Fund, which was established to encourage towns and villages across Dumfries and Galloway to consider planning new smaller scale festivals and events in the immediate aftermath of COVID-19 related lockdowns. Three of the projects to receive support are being funded through the Council's budget to encourage grassroots festivals and events in Annandale and Eskdale.

There is great diversity and creativity in the funded projects, from sports open days, to community ceilidhs, gala weeks and many new micro-festivals. Many small communities such as Balmaclellan, Kirkmichael, Whithorn and Colvend responded to the new Fund to plan events projects to bring local people together.

Councillor Andy Ferguson, Chair of the Council's Communities Committee said, "There was a wonderful response to the introduction of the Community Events Fund. To be in a position to announce funding for thirty nine separate projects shows the depth of commitment our voluntary sector has to supporting social and economic recovery across our region, and the quality of our Council's partnership with events organisers."

Councillor John Martin, the Vice-Chair of the Communities Committee said, "From Moffat to the Mull of Galloway, Kirkcudbright to Dalbeattie, a wide range of community events projects will take place this summer and autumn to bring local people and visitors together. This is a fantastic achievement for Dumfries and Galloway. The Council will continue to offer support and advice to ensure these projects can go ahead as planned, with full recognition of public health guidance and community consultation."

The funded projects represent thirty nine steps in helping communities move on in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council has also recently published a Community Events Toolkit to provide information and guidance to community events organisers who are planning or considering planning a festival or event in Dumfries and Galloway. The toolkit is available upon request by emailing events@dumgal.gov.uk

ENDS

Notes for Editors

A map detailing the full list of Community Events Funded projects (and Annandale and Eskdale Grassroots Events Budget projects) is appended to this press release.

The previous DGC Events Toolkit was published in 2016.

The new Community Events Toolkit provides accessible helpful information on all key aspects of events planning in Dumfries and Galloway and includes downloadable risk assessments that can be modified for local events.

Major Festivals and Events Strategy 2018-2021 Fact File

Financial year 2021/22 is the final year of the existing MFES 18-21. On February 9 2021 the Council approved an Interim Action Plan with funding of more than £350k to take forward events development until March 2022.

In the first two years of its operations the Dumfries and Galloway Major Festivals and Events Strategy 2018-2021, which is managed and delivered by Dumfries and Galloway Council:

- Made 28 grant awards to 19 different events projects
- Was directly responsible for close to 50,000 visitors being attracted to Dumfries and Galloway to attend the funded events (this does not include 1000s more we could not record visiting free to view events)
- Funded four events that generated more than £1m for the regional economy – Wigtown Book Festival (2018 and 2019), Spring Fling (2019), Skiffieworlds – the 2019 World Coastal Rowing Championships and Electric Fields 2018
- Attracted two World Championships to Dumfries and Galloway – Skiffieworlds and the International Ice Hockey Federation's Women's Under 18's World Championship Division II Group A and the first Stage of the Tour of Britain 2019. The Galloway Hills Rally became the final Round of the British Rally Championship in 2019
- Created a new process to identify the best smaller scale events with the best chance of sustainable growth – the Regional Growth Events programme – the four events identified by this process and now receiving three year funding are Annan Harbour Festival, Castle Douglas Food Festival, D-Lux Festival of Light and NithRaid River Festival