

Towns & Villages Amenity & Improvement Fund 2023 – 2024 – Update on Projects

Aberchirder Community Association – Aberchirder – Self Watering Planters	Award £750.00
<p>The funds will be put towards the purchase of 8 self-watering black planters to be situated in different areas within the village. We currently have 30 of these planters but at least 8 are in desperate need of replacement. Plants to fill these planters are supplied by Aberdeenshire Council and local residents to add colour and beauty to the general appearance of the village. An order costing a total of £4,564.09 has been placed with Amberol Ltd, a specialised company in Derbyshire on 8th January.</p> <p>In October 2023 a successful application was made to Aberdeenshire Council's Area Initiative Fund to assist with any shortfall in this purchase. The Association is expecting further funds of £2,970 on producing the relevant invoices/receipts once they become available. The remaining £844 will stem from general fundraising from within the Association.</p>	
Banff & Macduff Community Council – Banff and Macduff – Various Projects	£2,400.00
<p>Banff and Macduff in Bloom have repaired the bowser brakes for the watering of the hanging baskets and purchased two additional planters.</p> <p>New brackets have been purchased to hang the Christmas lights on to the streetlamps.</p> <p>Funding was provided to Home-start, to purchase outside play equipment such as wheelbarrows, and gardening materials to encourage the children and also their parents to grow vegetables alongside the Men's Shed.</p> <p>All the projects cover Banff and Macduff.</p>	
Fordyce, Sandend & District Community Council - Sandend	£500.00
<p>The fund was returned as their original project could not take place.</p>	
Fraserburgh Community Council - Fraserburgh - Various Projects	£1,200.00
<p>Compost for the planters and plaques for the “adopt a planter” initiative have been purchased. The Community Council continue to look at further projects for the fund.</p>	
Invercairn Community Council – Inverallochy and Cairnbulg – Purchase of Tools ad Equipment for Upkeep of area	£750.00
<p>Various tools and equipment purchased to better enable the upkeep of the area in and around Cairnbulg and Inverallochy.</p>	

Equipment to be used either by volunteers or those given a small stipend from the remaining funds.
Additional equipment may be purchased as a need presents itself. For example, good quality garden waste bags or small gardening tools.

Given that it is the winter months and that the weather, there has been very little opportunity to put things into actual practice/ use.

New Aberdour, Tyrie & Pennan Community Council – New Aberdour – New Bin

£500.00



The village car park in New Aberdour has been done up by Aberdeenshire Council with improved surfacing and edging. We decided it needed a new bin as part of the regeneration of the area. It helps our future plan for getting a noticeboard and seating for the area as we try and make it more inviting for members of the public.

New Aberdour, Tyrie & Pennan Community Council – Tyrie – Noticeboard and Planters

£500.00

Tyrie members decided they would replace the noticeboard at Boyndlie Hall with a sustainable composite made one. One of our community councillors made it and a few helped install it.

The second item was made for putting plants in for Tyrie School. Again, the Community Council made composite planters and presented them to the school.

New Aberdour, Tyrie & Pennan Community Council member, Brian Irvine, kindly made new planters for our school using funds awarded to the Council. We will also receive plants for these once the better weather arrives.

We cannot thank Brian and the Community Council enough for the support they show us. These will really brighten up our playground. 🌸🌺🌻🌼
Many thanks!!



New Aberdour, Tyrie & Pennan Community Council – Pennan – Historical Interpretation Board

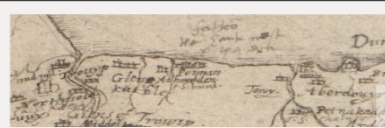
£500.00

Pennan used to have a historical interpretation board located at the harbor that provided images and text for visitors to learn more about the village and its long history. Sadly, this board became weathered and was ultimately removed in the early 2000's. Our Community Council thought that it was time that there was a new board designed, manufactured, and placed at the harbour once again. As you know, Pennan is a major visitor destination for this area, and it only seems appropriate that our community tell the long and rich history that Pennan provides.

The timing of the Towns and Villages Amenities and Improvement Grant from Aberdeenshire Council was perfect for this project which enabled us to research, design and ultimately manufacture the historical interpretation board for Pennan.

On behalf of our Community Council and the volunteers behind the research and development of the board, we would like to thank Aberdeenshire Council for all their support of this project.

PENNAN THROUGH THE YEARS



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1580 – 1600

The name Pennan is in the earliest maps of Scotland, made by Thomas Puc in 1580 – 1600. Notice to the right is a little line of houses – is this the Burgh of this village? In records the village is often known as the Stearvon of Auchmohill, as it was then part of the larger Auchmohill Estate.

People

In the 1696 Poll Tax records the surname of Wain, Watt and Watt dominate the population of the village. In 1873 a school was established at the top of the hill, and ten years later the Auchmohill Church was built near the top of the hill. By 1891 the population had grown to be almost 300 people. During the early 20th century some women enough work as many people had to leave – with some emigrating to New Zealand, America and Canada.



Auchmohill Church, 1887



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910

At the end of the 19th century the Pennan Boat Club was formed. It was the first club of its kind in the district and was the only one of its kind in the district at that time.

The Pennan Boat Club was formed in 1891 and was the first club of its kind in the district and was the only one of its kind in the district at that time.

The Pennan Boat Club, 1910



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910

Earning a Living

Historically the sea has provided a living for the people of Pennan – as boatbuilders, fishermen and fish curers. In the 17th and 18th centuries the village was known as the town for the Mills and Quay, just along the cliffs. The 19th century census records show other occupations as domestic accountants, millers, shoemakers, bakers, grocers, carpenters, cooper, drapery, tobacconist, gun signaller, school teacher, musician, iron worker, iron worker, mason, woad, boatman and washer. By the 20th century there was a Post Office, a public house, which was later relocated to its present position.



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910



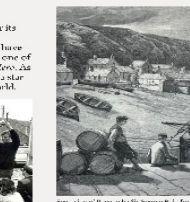
The Pennan Boat Club, 1910

Artists and Local Hero

The village has long been appreciated for its beauty. Artists such as Sir George Russell, William Crockett, and Sir William Gill have painted here and in 1992 the village was one of the locations for the feature film 'The Edge' as a result, Pennan is now a popular attraction for visitors from across the world.



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910



1911



1911

Storms and the Sea Wall

Damage from the sea is an ever-present threat for Pennan. Storms in the past have destroyed piers and property. In the great storm of 1953, most streets on the south side were destroyed but thankfully there were no lives lost. New buildings, the concrete sea wall, started in 1985, and extended in the years that followed, gives the village some protection from the worst of the stormy weather.

To the Accounts of the Damage done by the late Storm, we have to add, That the Inhabitants of Pennan, a Fishing Town in the Parish of Aberdeur, have suffered very considerably. Their Boats and a Fishing Sloop are wrecked; Casks of Oil and Fish and many Pieces of Furniture carried off by the Violence of the Waves, which flowed over the Tops of their highest Houses, and entirely broke down the Pier; but, we have the Pleasure of adding, no Lives were lost.

1817



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910



The Pennan Boat Club, 1910

Opening of the West Pier 1904

There have been many plans for the Harbour. The laying of the foundations stone for the 'new' pier, that you can still see today, was widely celebrated. In August 1904 the *Barrhead Journal* reported that:

"A large number of the people of Pennan, including the representatives of the various trades and all the residents of the town, were present on the occasion. The pier is a fine structure and it is hoped for the benefit of the district that the pier will be taken up by the school children, many of them carrying baskets, and all in the neighbourhood, which will be a very profitable business."



The West Pier, 1904

The West Pier, which was built in 1904, was the first pier to be built in the district and was the only one of its kind in the district at that time.

Portsoy & District Community Council- Portsoy- General Town Improvement Scheme

£750.00

The money from the Fund is supporting the Portsoy Scout Group in a general town improvement scheme. Much of this relates to identification and dealing with litter hotspots and general tidying up of verges and other areas. The major effort will be expended in the summer months when the Town tourist season is at its peak. They anticipate working through for a full 12-month period since receiving the award.

Rosehearty Community Council – Rosehearty – Improvements to Shelter

£750.00

Rosehearty Community Council decided to spend the £750 village improvement grant on decorating and generally improving a sorely neglected shelter. The shelter is next to the swing park on the Main Street and was in dire need of repair and repainting.

The money has been used to buy paint, rollers, brushes, safety equipment etc.

We had to repair a hole in the roof, repaint the walls and floor, fix the benches and the edge of the roof which is corroded. In addition, we have bought some planters to place beside the shelter. The supplies have been bought and we will start the work, hopefully around April, when the weather begins to improve.

Sandhaven & Pitullie Harbour Trust – Improvements to Beach Area**£750.00**

I am delighted to share the improvement made to the beach area. With the £750 we have been able to clear the beach of boulders and rocks, leaving a safer sandy beach. The introduction of small rockery at the upper end, allows any wash or sea motion energy to be dispersed, reducing erosion and potential for wash to reach the road.

The works completed was at low water, so the area and sand under the water in these photos was cleared too, we cleared roughly 12T of rock and rubble from the area. We completed this work in conjunction with a local contractor who will crush and reuse the rock, meaning it was also a sustainable project. The ability to crush and resell what was removed, allowed us to do so much with the £750 budget.

The great results from the clearance allows the whole width of the inner beach now being family friendly. This will increase the harbour footfall, increase opportunity for family memories and social experiences to be created at the harbour, continuing to put community at its heart.

**Whitehills & District Community Council - Whitehills****£750.00****Whitehills (Project 1) – Whitehills Harbour to steps to Grant Street.**

This project is completed. Local specialist contractor Colin Smith moved first to re-grade an area of raised bank that had slipped, and then dug out and filled with new gravel stones an area of path from Grant Street to the village's flag pole, including a popular viewpoint area. Volunteers supplemented this work with weeding and tidying, plus maintained the viewpoint seat. An extension of the project saw the stone plinth of the flagpole repaired. The pole was one of those chosen to display the new Banffshire Flag.

In the spring/summer, the 'Green Fingers' group will look at adding some decorative plants, although it is challenging in such an exposed spot.

Whitehills (Project 2) – The Red Well

This project has progressed, but can't yet be completed due to adverse weather conditions. Work has been completed by volunteers to weed and tidy the exterior, and a long-running issue with a blocked field drain was resolved by the landowner after negotiation with the CC.

Jet-washing and maintaining drains within the well building has now been completed by specialist contractor, Stanley Smith.

A meeting was held mid-February with the contractor appointed to re-paint the building's interior. It is a historic lime-mortared structure. The extraordinary amount of recent rain coupled with low temperatures, mean the fabric of the structure is way too wet for the special paint required to stick. Higher temperatures are required too. The contractor is geared-up to check the moisture level of the stone regularly and complete the work as soon as possible.

Whitehills & District Community Council – Boyndie - Visitor Centre to former RAF site**£500.00**

This project has been completed. Local specialist contractor, Ewen Fraser, worked with volunteers and Boyndie Trust's garden team, to do a major cutting and pruning exercise along the full length of the path, which has widened it considerably and should future-proof it for some time to come.

A small number of potholes were found and addressed and volunteers have pruned and shaped more sensitively some of the better trees and bushes along the length of the path. Public feedback has been extremely good.

Later in the year, an extra project will be undertaken to renovate an old bird spotting hide that is sited at the start of this popular walk.