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Small Grants Funding 2023/24 Report

The Small Grants Scheme successfully supported 89 groups to deliver green-up projects in their area, to a value of £113,760.00

Mid Ulster District Council investment for 2023/24 provided funding for 7 community groups through the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme:

LHLH Code	Council	Amount Offered	Amount Paid	Group name
MU-241	Mid Ulster District Council	1645	1645	Desertcreatives
MU-243	Mid Ulster District Council	1614	1556.09	Killyman Community Playgroup
MU-252	Mid Ulster District Council	540.46	540.46	The Loup Womens Group
MU-262	Mid Ulster District Council	2900	2891.66	Friends of Little Woods
MU-272	Mid Ulster District Council	950	950	St. John's Primary School Kingsisland
MU-275	Mid Ulster District Council	599.7	540	Dungannon Swifts Charitable Trust
MU-289	Mid Ulster District Council	550	550	Loughshore Community Services

Desertcreatives

Project Summary: Our aim is to redesign an unused grass area at the rear of the main hall to use as a community garden meeting space. The garden will be for general visitors & for those who take part in activities at Desertcreat activities.

Funding for: Perennial and wildlife friendly plants, fruit bushes and planters

Impact

We have created a space to reflect enjoy nature learn a new skill make new friendships and help to rebuild our rural community

- **No of Volunteers: 40**
- **Volunteer Hours worked: 60**

- Land area improved: 0.5 acres

Killyman Community Playgroup

Project Summary: We are hoping to create a planting/growing/ pollinating area for the children to use on a daily basis during outdoor play. We would aim to create an area that enables the children to grow a mixture of pollinating plants and vegetables.

Funding for: Planters, trugs, tools, vegetable seeds/plants

Impact

This project means that the children in this setting now and in the future can engage in learning about growing, looking after and eating their own food. They can also learn about planting and growing flowers which will benefit pollinators in their local area.

- No of Volunteers: 3
- Volunteer Hours worked: 3
- Land area improved: 0.007 acres





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The Loup Women's Group

Project Summary: The Loup Women's group wish to build a number of small raised beds near the community orchard area in The Loup. These raised beds will be planted with a variety of annual and perennial wildflowers as well as a number of pollinator shrubs and perennials. The women will build the raised beds with the guidance of a staff member of TCV who will teach basic woodwork skills and tool use. The group will also learn how to sow and look after a wildflower area and how to maintain perennial and shrub beds. The project will enhance the local area both aesthetically and environmentally. The group will learn new skills, improving their health and well-being by being part of a group and in turn improving their local space.

Funding for: Raised beds, wildflower mix, perennials and shrubs

Impact

This small project has helped transform a disused space to a place that will benefit both the local community and the local biodiversity.

- **No of Volunteers: 6**
- **Volunteer Hours worked: 25**
- **Land area improved: 10 acres**

Friends of Little Woods

Project Summary: Catherine's Wood access is a project to allow the public to access Catherine's wood. Catherine's wood is a mix of sensitive wet woodland and sphagnum bog that is at risk from drying out. Bog and wet woodland habitats degrade quickly when walked on. A new boardwalk will limit the impact of public access. The grant will fund the materials to install a section of boardwalk from roadside to the bog. This will transform the underused space by increasing access to visitors. Habitats and increasing access to visitors.

Funding for: Boardwalk, access and piling

Impact

The live here love here grant has made a substantial contribution to the ecological value of Catherine's wood and has engaged volunteers in 2003 hours of community action. The border fence work has secured the site from fly tipping. The second phase of the work was to block drains



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which was drying out the bog. The grant has funded piling to block the drains in 3 locations. This has raised the level of ground water in the bog by 5 cm and ensures permanent water habitats in these locations. This will provide homes for macro invertebrates and reptiles.

Finally, the grant funded a 6m stretch of boardwalk. This will allow us to provide limited access to the site for wheelchair board visitors. Originally designed at 1.2 m wide, the boardwalk is now 1.6 m wide which is the standard for wheel chair users accompanied by an assistant. This will enable people to come and enjoy the wet woodland, bog-land and water habitats at Catherine's wood.

- **No of Volunteers: 27**
- **Volunteer Hours worked: 2003**
- **Land area improved: 0.61 acres**

St. John's Primary School Kingsisland

Project Summary: We would like to sow a plot of wild flowers, as well as an area with perennial herbs and flowers. We want to develop a mobile sensory garden using pots containing herbs and grasses, and develop a small rock garden with perennial alpines. We have already established an area of raised flower beds for vegetables and would like to compliment this with potted fruit bushes and dwarf root stock fruit trees.

Funding for: Fruit trees, bushes, alpine plants, perennial planting, herbs/grasses, garden tools

Impact

Through practical demonstration and involving the student body of our school children and their families we have already improved the awareness of our local biodiversity and the importance it holds in the local community and area. The project has become an important part of our curriculum, integrated into the World Around Us. We have improved our outdoor learning area and all the children are keen to get involved (see pictures). We have purchased perennial plants, fruit bushes and fruit trees to be added in springtime as we continue to highlight the journey from seed to plate our food takes, all the while decreasing our carbon footprint and sowing the seeds for future gardeners. Our bug area is extremely popular and the number and variety of pollinators will only increase as we increase the biodiversity of our school site. It has given us a chance to interact with parents, grandparents and the wider local community as people share their skills and knowledge, and it offers a sanctuary and place of respite for students, staff and visitors to our school. We hope that vibrancy brought about by the funding of the Live Here Love Here Project and the colour, sounds, scents and tactile experiences created by our planting will continue to increase



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our local biodiversity and serve the whole community in the future through the interactive and engaging activities it fosters.

- **No of Volunteers: 15**
- **Volunteer Hours worked: 100**
- **Land area improved: 0.025 acres**



Dungannon Swifts Charitable Trust

Project Summary: We are hoping to plant silver birch trees alongside Stangmore Terrace. This is an area which sees relatively heavy traffic of lorries moving to and from Moy Park. These trees are said to be good at removing carbon and other pollutants from the atmosphere. It will improve the environmental health of the area and benefit those living in the area. The Charitable Trust are intending to supply and fit a 'Chatty Bench' at our own cost once the trees have been planted. Road traffic here has times when it is not as heavy and we would provide locals with a pleasant environment to chat in at these times. As a charity we are involved in mental wellbeing projects and consider this to be important.

Funding for: Silver Birch Trees

Impact

Provided a screen for our line of sight to the football club (local resident). Provided Co2 store to compensate for heavy traffic to Moy Park.



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- **No of Volunteers: 6**
- **Volunteer Hours worked: 18**
- **Land area improved: 24 acres**

Loughshore Community Services

Project Summary: Planting of pollinators in Moortown Village area and at the Sports Complex owned by Moortown St Malachys adjacent to the village. This will add to the beauty of the village, will encourage community pride and involvement and will make the area more attractive to visitors

Funding for: Wildflowers

Impact

It brightened up the local area

- **No of Volunteers: 5**
- **Volunteer Hours worked: 20**
- **Land area improved: 0.5 acres**

“It’s been a great pleasure to deliver the Small Grants Scheme for another successful year. With support from the grant partners, we are delighted to provide funding to so many community groups. The Small Grants Scheme is a fantastic opportunity for grassroots organisations to access the funding they need to create and develop green spaces that forward solutions to our pollution, nature and climate crises.Lynda Surgenor, LHLH Manager

The LHLH & KNIB team look forward to your continued support.