

**APPENDIX 1**



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	09	2024	To	31	08	2025

**Reference and administration details**

<b>Charity name</b>	Community Roots SCIO
<b>Other names charity is known by</b>	
<b>Registered charity number</b>	SC051963
<b>Charity's principal address</b>	53A Main Street
	West Kilbride
	Postcode KA23 9AW

**Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fi Thorburn	Chairperson		
2	Ian Noble	Treasurer		
3	Isabella McTaggart			
4	Barbara Sharp			
5	Keira Riley			
6	Toni-Ann Fitzpatrick			
7	Kris Pentleton			
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## Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

## Structure, governance and management

**Type of governing document**

The charity is governed by a 2 Tier SCIO constitution.

**Trustee recruitment and appointment**

At each AGM, the members may elect any member (unless he/she is debarred from membership) to be a charity trustee.

The board may at any time appoint any member (unless he/she is debarred from membership) to be a charity trustee.

At each AGM, all of the charity trustees elected/appointed under shall retire from office – but shall then be eligible for re-election

## Objectives and activities

**Charitable purposes**

The organisation's purposes are to benefit the community of the KA23 postcode and surrounding district, through:

The organisations charitable purposes are the advancement of education, the advancement of citizenship or community development and the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life  
for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended by/through: organising gardening, growing food, a community larder and food preparation advice, prescription, and food deliveries.

**Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects**

Community Roots operates the Village Larder in collaboration with North Ayrshire Council's Fairer Food initiative. Located at the West Kilbride Community Centre, our mission is to offer an affordable range of food and essential items. Through regular use, our aim is to help people avoid poverty.

The Community Roots Garden in Main Street West Kilbride is being developed by our social gardening group SHED (Social Horticulture for Experts and Dummies) for food growing. The food produced primarily is for use in the Village Larder. SHED also promotes good physical and mental health wellbeing by bringing people together to socialise and exercise. We are currently building a Garden Haven building in the Community Roots Garden which will be a multi-functional space used for events and activities relating to wellbeing, environmental and gardening practices.

Community Roots provides occasional prescription delivery and errand running support as required.

We have supported Age Well (local charity) in running events for older people.

### Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

#### Village Larder

Based at West Kilbride Community Centre, the Village Larder continues to provide subsidised essential food and household items to individuals and families experiencing financial pressure.

During the reporting period, membership remained strong following growth from 86 to 127 households in the preceding year, despite the opening of an additional North Coast Larder in Largs. Community Roots continues to support members from surrounding areas, reflecting work patterns, transport links and established support networks.

The Larder supported an average of 221 visits per month, including:

- 88 families
- 69 individuals living alone
- 64 couple households without children

The service relies on a dedicated volunteer team. Particular recognition was given during the year to Dawn Williamson, who retired from her role as volunteer Larder co-ordinator after several years of service. A new co-ordinator has since been appointed, ensuring continuity of operations.

Community support remained strong, with regular donations from individuals, West Kilbride Parish Church and St Bride's Chapel, alongside fundraising events including The Rural Fashion Show, the Village Ceilidh, the Christmas Craft Fayre and the Reverse Advent Calendar. The Larder also continued to receive Fairer Food payments from North Ayrshire Council.

Customer payments and donations met approximately 65% of operating costs during the year, with the remaining costs covered through grant funding and donations.

#### Community Roots Garden and Haven

Community Roots Garden, located at 115 Main Street, West Kilbride, with additional growing space at No. 53, continued to operate as an inclusive community space focused on food growing, wellbeing and social connection.

The volunteer group remains diverse and multi-generational, with participants contributing to a wide range of skills, experience and motivations. Volunteers support both food production for the Village Larder and the ongoing development of the garden.

Funding from the Community Mental Health and Well-Being Fund enabled retention of the Garden Co-ordinator role and employment of two part-time Gardening Assistants. These roles support horticultural activity, volunteer wellbeing, and the practical development of the site.

Support from West Kilbride Community Trust remained vital. During the year, a terraced growing area was created on a sloped section of the site, improving safety and productivity. An arbor structure was also constructed, strengthening a vulnerable boundary fence while supporting vertical growing. Environmentally sustainable practices continue to guide development, including no-dig growing methods, permaculture and food forestry principles.

Storm damage resulted in the loss of the original polytunnel at the secondary site. This was replaced with a steel-framed polycarbonate structure, which will be fully productive in the coming growing season.

Three-year funding was secured through the National Lottery Community-Led Fund for the Garden Co-ordinator and Gardening Assistant posts. This funding also contributes to the development of the Garden Haven project, for which plans were agreed during the year. Further fundraising is required to complete the build, which will enhance accessibility, inclusivity, and year-round use of the garden. In partnership with the local Environmental Group and through participatory budgeting, Community Roots refurbished growing beds at amenity flats on Halfway Street and supported a community "grow your own" initiative, providing resources for local residents to grow potatoes and other vegetables.

**Summary of  
the main  
achievements  
Contd.**

## **Partnership Working and Age Well West Kilbride**

Community Roots continued to work collaboratively with Age Well West Kilbride on a number of grant-funded initiatives supporting older residents.

Joint projects enabled older Village Larder customers and residents of local retirement housing to attend a Christmas lunch and participate in social outings. Collaborative working also supported the development of raised growing beds at the Headrigg retirement complex.

Community Roots and the Village Larder had a strong presence at an Age Well West Kilbride Open Day, alongside guided local walking tours incorporating visits to the community garden. These activities increased awareness of Community Roots' work and generated new volunteer interest.

The Craufurd Simson Park project is now independent of Community Roots and has its own charity status.

## Financial review

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

Untied reserves are used according to the need across the organisation.

**Details of any deficit**

**Donated facilities and services (if any)**

## Other optional information

## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

<b>Signature(s)</b>	Fi Thorburn	
<b>Full name(s)</b>	(Fi) Fiona Thorburn	
<b>Position (e.g. Chair)</b>	Chairperson	
<b>Date</b>	05/01/2026	