

Who are Avonbridge Community Association?

Avonbridge Community Association manages the village hall which serves the communities of Avonbridge, Standburn, Candie and surrounding outliers (Upper Braes, Falkirk).

Before lockdown they hosted a daily community cafe, weekly fitness classes and kid's clubs. Through school holidays they organise kids/teens holiday clubs and provide age-specific and all-community events throughout the year.

How was the grant used?

- Care packs were provided to local residents who were required to socially isolate and shield. The care packs allowed residents to leave the house safely and to use public transport where required. These activities had been impeded as the residents could not procure face masks for themselves.
- 10 volunteers delivered 160 care packs and high teas to residents aged 60 years and over.

Care packs contained:

- 2 x face masks
(1 x disposable, 1 x reusable)
- 1 x 50 ml bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1 x information sheet with useful contact details (e.g. health services, local shops and emergency telephone numbers)

What had to change due to Covid-19?

- Covid-19 forced the organisation to cancel their over-60's day out; a coach trip to Ayr on 20th June 2020. The alternative idea to safely deliver a 'high tea' treat supplemented with a care pack was developed in partnership with Avonbridge and Standburn Community Council and two local church congregations. Funding for the high tea was secured from an alternative source.

What difference has the grant made?

- The project seems to have helped boost local morale and was featured in the Falkirk Herald.
- Residents have mentioned that they were reminded of a 'war like sense of community' where people took time and shared.
- The organisation noted more people out and about in the community and local shops reported a slight increase in trade as people ventured out.

'Adversity always brings out the best in people; It was a lovely gesture and very much appreciated at this time.'

(Care pack recipient)

Avonbridge Community Association received a phone message from one 80 year-old, thanking everyone involved and saying 'I didn't have a face mask, now I have two!'

One of the volunteers who helped deliver the packs said 'It took me pretty much all day to deliver 20 care packs; everybody was that keen to chat!'

One resident commented to the volunteer that 'he hadn't been past his front gate for 14 weeks and was delighted to be out and about.'

