



**south ayrshire**  
health & social care  
partnership

# GIRVAN & SOUTH CARRICK DECISION DAY EVALUATION REPORT

2018/19

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May 19



## **South Carrick Decides: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019**

Girvan & South Carrick Locality held a decision day on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 in Girvan Academy. As the Locality Planning Group (LPG) work around an agreed set of local Health and Social Care priorities which have been identified as important to the community of South Carrick. The application criteria were set out to enable direct correlation with successful projects and the LPG's key priorities.

These six key priorities are as follows:

- Tackling Social Isolation and Loneliness
- Support, Deliver and Influence Work Among Local Older People
- Promoting Good Mental Health
- Tackling Drug and Alcohol Issues
- Support, Deliver and Influence Work Among Local Young People
- Access to Service and Information About Local Health and Social Care Provision

To be eligible to apply the group/project had to demonstrate that they met at least one of the following criteria:

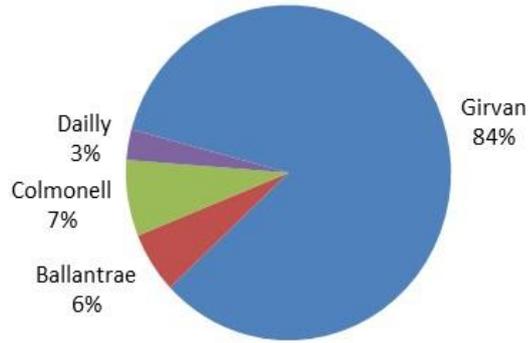
- Promoting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Promoting Rural Connectedness and Reducing Social Isolation and Loneliness
- Alcohol and/or drug prevention, harm reduction or diversionary work

In total, 24 organisations applied originally however some did not meet the criteria and 1 group withdrew their application after the initial stage, leaving 16 community groups pitching on the day for up to £1,000. 14 were successful; 1 partially funded; 1 not funded. Participating groups were invited to speak about their project proposal to an audience of local people and to outline how this funding would benefit the community. Participating groups were allocated two minutes to speak about their project with two minutes of question and answer from the audience afterwards. Electronic voting buttons were used to record the votes after each pitch. There were a total of 74 active participants using the voting pads, and 69 evaluation forms.

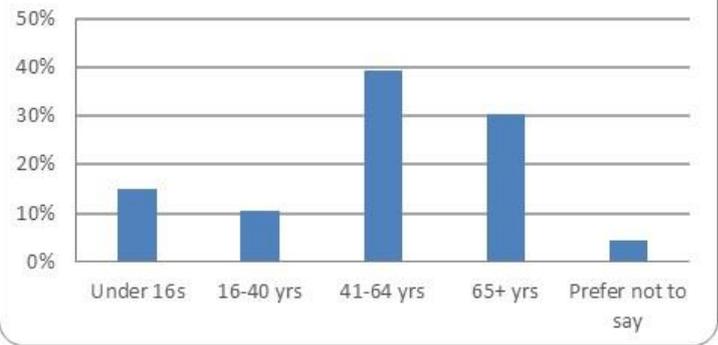
### **Summary of Event**

- The majority of participants (84%) lived in Girvan.
- The next most popular place was Colmonell (7%) followed by Ballantrae (6%) and Dailly (3%). No one registered to vote from Pinwherry, Pinmore, Lendalfoot, Barrhill or Barr.
- The highest percentage of people were aged between 41-64 years of age (39%). 1 in 3 were aged over 65 years.
- Most of the groups were applying for funding for equipment or running costs. Other applications were for transport, trips or hire of venues/bands.
- Girvan Youth Trust received the most votes overall and a table showing the most popular group by age category is shown below.

**Where do you live / work / volunteer ?**



**Age Group**

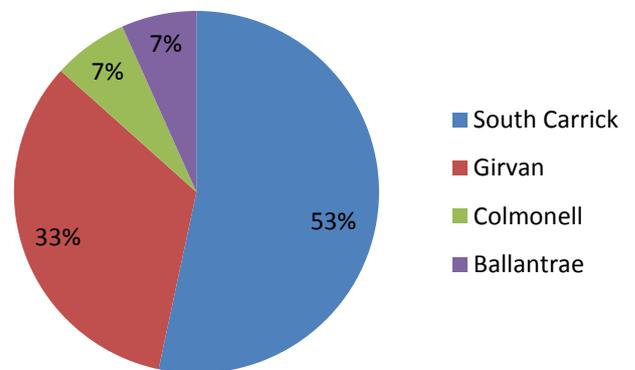
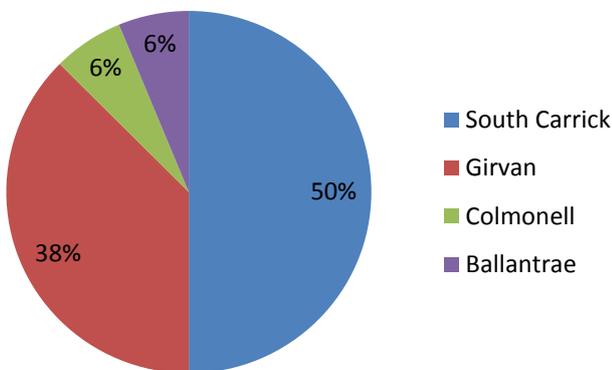


Age Group	Highest scored group (vote of 5)
Under 16 years	1st Girvan Girl Guides
17 - 40 years	Girvan Youth Trust
41 - 64 years	Girvan Youth Trust
65+ years	Girvan Youth Trust
<b>Overall</b>	<b>Girvan Youth Trust</b>

An analysis of the event has shown that the majority of successful applications were awarded to groups with projects that covered the locality as a whole. In terms of the surrounding villages who participated, there was an even spread of successful groups however some outlying communities such as Barr, Barrhill, Pinwherry, Pinmore, Lendalfoot and Dailly were not represented at the event.

Applications per participating neighbourhood

Funded applications per neighbourhood



Detailed below is an overview of the breakdown of money distributed and the types of activities that received funding on the day.



## Overview

69 completed evaluation forms were received

- The majority of participants (71%) said they were happy to vote, and almost a third thought that this was a fair way of voting. 1 in 5 people said they were not happy about the voting or did not think it was fair.
- Over three quarters of participants (78%) thought that the day was well organised, and 1 in 3 said that they were given enough information about each of the groups applying for funding.
- A high percentage of respondents (45%) liked the venue and thought it was suitable for the event.
- Almost two thirds of those who took part said that all of the project would be good for the area, and 28% said some of the projects would be good for the area.
- 1 in 4 participants said they felt inspired by what they had seen and heard on the day, and 1 in 3 said they had found out about projects which took place in their area.
- The majority of respondents (81%) said they would do this again. 1 in 5 said they felt they had a real say in what happens to the money and would tell others about this type of event. A small percentage (10%) said they would not do it again or did not feel they had a real say in what happens to the money.
- Most of those who attended the event said they had heard about it by word of mouth (62%). 1 in 5 said it was through social media, and 1 in 4 through local press or a poster.

Additional comments included:-

- Amount of supporters should be controlled
- Don't think you should be able to vote for your own group. Only that way it would be truly what the public want.
- Extend presentation time 50%
- Not sure if the voting system biased in favour of wherever event is held

- Not very well attended by wider community - mostly representatives of groups. Stalls would be better to give people time to talk to groups and ask appropriate questions. Pitching too quick
- Plenty of questions about P.B as a way of allocating money. Why are SAC-run organisations included?
- Slightly more speaking time would be beneficial - say 2 1/4 minutes. Event is less well attended than in the past. The amount asked for is not much more than the amount available making me wonder if it is all a lot of work for nothing
- Some groups that are here today have pitched before and got the money but know of other groups that have never had a chance.
- Sound. Could have been better with help for the pitchers as most were not heard properly.
- The one concern is that this method does not engage directly with the community favouring groups who can bring along the most people rather than reflecting the community opinion
- Use of questions good during pitches
- Voting not always fair as depends on how many supporters a project has. I think all groups should get at least some money.
- Well organised and co-ordinated. A good cross section of community groups represented.
- Well organised funding event

## **Reflections**

There seemed to be a sense of community engagement and participation from those in attendance however as the majority of people in attendance were directly aligned to groups/projects it would seem that there was not a high rate of participation from the general public in the decision day.

The participating groups all utilised the opportunity to network and share knowledge/experience.

The venue works well for a pitching event for the numbers attending.

Groups were allowed to bring a maximum of 5 supporters each; however anyone who works, lives, studies or volunteering within South Carrick is entitled to attend and vote.

The majority of projects received funding. Some negative comments around why every group cannot receive a share of the funding were recorded, however, due to the ethos of Participatory Budgeting there does have to be that element of decision making/competition.

Considerations should be given to the sheer demand in time required of the Community Engagement officer to support the delivery of such an event given the extensive time required for planning, organising, delivering the event and subsequent follow up work required for evaluations and report writing.

Working in partnership Community Development, Community Learning & Development as well as the support received from the Chair/Vice-Chair and members of the LPG with the planning, preparation and promotion of the event was crucial to the successful delivery and running of the decision day.

Lack of application and representation from some of the rural communities in South Carrick was disappointing and should be an area to consider in the future. As should, the hard to reach communities who may not have fully bought in to the PB process as yet.

The knock on effect from the last round of PB events in 2017 – 2018 should be considered also as there were exceptionally high amounts of funding available within this financial year. Feedback around this suggests that some groups were still using this funding pot and did not require any further financial assistance at that time. It should also be noted that a local PB event organised and delivered by Girvan Youth Trust on 21st Feb 2019 was carried out

where 12 local groups were successful in securing funding of up to £2,500 each from this event in order to carry out work which comes under one (or all) of the three headings; Dementia, Additional Support Needs and/or Intergenerational Work. £25,000 in total was available during this event. Two PB events delivered within such a short period of time within the South Carrick locality could have seemed as an overload to local groups and community members.

The pitching style adopted for the event may have been a factor around the low attendance rate from the wider community as a marketplace event lends itself better to those who require flexibility of their time at a weekend. This should be reviewed prior to any future events taking place.

Promotion of the event was carried out via various routes which include: posters displayed in prominent locations within each locality throughout South Carrick and Social media posts. This will be reviewed to establish where the gaps in promotion may lay for future events.

The Table of Awards for South Carrick Decides 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 can be found here <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/locality-planning/participatory-budgeting.aspx>

