

Name of building / venue / facility

Molendinar Community Centre

Name of your organisation

St. Paul's Youth Forum

Please provide details of the legal status of your organisation

Charity *(please provide Charity No if applicable)*

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

Company Ltd by Guarantee

Community Club/ Sports Club

Other *(please specify)*

Do you have a formal constitution/ governance documents?

(please provide a copy)

YES NO

Tell us about your proposal for the building/ venue/ facility and how you see this operating. Provide some detail as to why your organisation is well placed to deliver the benefits that will flow from the proposal.

Our main aim is to alleviate the worst effects of poverty through the provision of activities and resources, free at the point of contact, to the community of Blackhill/Provanmill and beyond. Our project was part of the original local design team for the centre. We worked with ASSIST for the initial consultation and design, and then working with the Glasgow City Council architects to get the best facility for our community. There are a number of features that SPYF have designed into the building including being able to restrict use of corridors to enable activities to take place safely.

We envisage continuing all aspects of the community centre which operated prior to Covid, including current lets where possible, to maximise the use of the facility. Opening from 9am – 9pm Monday to Saturday, and 11am – 5pm on Sundays. We would then bring in additional resources as part of our community's improvement plans, as guided by the community surveys that we have carried out, including working with Glasgow Kelvin College to use the foundations of learning as a starting point for the development of the Centre and community. We would help train local people to run many aspects of the Centre, from supporting Modern Apprentices in Youth and Community Work, to promoting local businesses wishing to use the space for sports, hospitality and the arts.

By April 2022 we would hope to have the facility running as a centre of learning and wellbeing.

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One of SPYF's main projects (Blackhill's Growing) has health and learning as its primary focus. We work in partnership with our local community to run two weekly community meals (a sit-down three-course homemade meal and a weekly pizza night), a weekly pop-up community larder, regular cooking classes, and twice-weekly growing sessions during the growing season. We also work with 3 primary schools and nurseries across the wider area where we are assisting in the establishment of new growing spaces. We work with Nourish Scotland on their 'Dignity in Practice' project, where we mentor organisations who are interested putting dignity at the heart of their community food provision.

Our Diversionary Youthwork project strand also works closely with young people from throughout the Blackhill/Provanmill area, and our youthworkers have a thorough understanding of the needs of this group.

Tell us about the benefits that you expect to generate from this proposal and how these might meet an existing need. Will your proposal benefit the local community, a community of interest or both?

As our core work is to support the community of Blackhill/ Provanmill this proposed use is at the heart of our work. In order to have a thriving community and help move the area around the Molendinar Community Centre out of poverty we need to have a functioning community centre that is led by people from the community, for the community. St. Paul's Youth Forum, as the anchor charity in the area, has both the respect and support of the community to ensure that fairness, dignity and success are part of the asset. So our proposed use will benefit our community, therefor fulfilling our aims and objectives.

With the SIMD's for health, education and employment in our community at one of the lowest in the country we would use the Community Centre as a base to continue the development of our 5 year plan to improve these:

Health - this would be improved through more access to sport, whether through the gym or by attending classes, including the introduction of walking football, seated aerobics and circuit training. Many of these activities would be provided by local coaches.

External lets, who have created many opportunities for families outside the community to take part in gymnastics, dance and martial arts, would help create a scholarship programme where a percentage of free places would be made available to local residents ensuring equity for all, and high standards of training would be possible for gifted students.

Food - this has been at the centre of our programmes at SPYF, and by using the café to provide a free healthy meal every day, we would ensure that no one in our community goes hungry. The café would be a training venture, with the café manager delivering accredited qualifications in hospitality, front of house and business management through Glasgow Kelvin College. Through our partnerships with local secondary schools, we would give students real life experience of hospitality on their doorstep. We would continue to develop our free community larder and the cost of this would be offset by selling community favourites like rolls and sausage etc. The café would also provide facilities for our holiday food program which has seen demand rise by 200% of our capacity this year.

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Education – we will partner with Glasgow Kelvin College to use the IT suite as the base for community learning. Local adults have struggled to get access to training courses due to limited transport infrastructure, so by bringing the courses that are needed into the community, we aim to have 200 qualifications within the first 6 months. Over the first year we would work with the college to replace all the computers to bring them up to a standard for people to access other online courses, with tutors assisting in the Centre to provide additional support. Throughout the pandemic, people have struggled to access both benefits and learning, and despite St. Paul's Youth Forum distributing 60 electronic devices, there is still a need for in-person support.

Employment – over the first year, our bid would provide employment to 5 local people on a part- or full-time basis. Through the training offered through education we would expect that 20 people per year would use their learning at the Molendinar Community Centre to get them either into work, or into a better position in employment.

As the sole third sector anchor organisation in the community surrounding the Molendinar Community Centre, we run a varied 7 day a week programme for all ages. Our main base is St. Paul's Parish Church halls in Provanmill, however we work in a number of community venues across the area, including previously the Molendinar Centre.

Our Diversionary youthwork project runs drop-in groups 6 nights a week, including weekly issue-based groups (e.g. on gender-based violence, young women's support), two football clubs for primary school children, two dance sessions, holiday clubs including food provision, annual residentials, a Girls Group and four drop-in diversionary youthwork sessions. This work has resulted in a 97% reduction in youth crime over the last 10 years (Police Scotland figures).

Our On Bikes project strand runs three outreach projects in our local primary and secondary schools, setting up bike hubs, and running Bikeability classes and maintenance sessions. From our base in Blackhill we run a bike swap-shop, bike loan service, and maintenance classes. We also fix local people's bikes for free.

With our youth radio project strand (Bolt FM) we run radio workshops with children and young people to enable their voices to be heard. We work with ten schools and youth groups around the north-east of Glasgow once a week, and also run an annual broadcast on FM radio.

What are your plans to generate sufficient income/ grants to be able to sustain the ongoing operating costs of the building/ venue/ facility?

Initially the small amount of capital costs will come from existing revenue. We are aware of the long-term issues around the inverted roof and this will become part of the funding bid for any asset transfer bid. The main area for development of income will come from 2 main areas. Firstly the ability to provide quality birthday parties and facilities for marking other life events will bring a large amount of income to the budget. This would increase gradually year on year as awareness of this opportunity both for local community members and beyond is built up. Secondly we would look to gain grant funding from the National Lottery towards the café trainer, which would then create additional income over the next three years through sales in the café.

Alongside the traditional hall lets, birthday parties and other celebrations would provide an income, including charging £150-£200 for a party (with the potential to pay it up in instalments).

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The party package would include a bouncy castle, buffet and party bags, with the additional option to include an entertainer/Fortnite-style nerf gun battle. There would be the option to apply to a support fund to ensure that all children have the opportunity to have a birthday party at the Molendinar Centre.

We would look to utilise the Bob Marshall room for a long term let for either office space or a small business (e.g. hairdresser/beauty therapist) or for Glasgow Kelvin College to use as a learning hub. We know that there has been a long-term demand for this facility which has not been realised. We would use one of the office spaces for small meetings including elected member surgeries, financial advice and other support services.

By integrating bookings (using Skeeda Bookings software) across several local community assets, we would be able to provide numerous spaces in our community to suit everyone's needs at an affordable price. By marketing the close transport infrastructure including car, bus and cycle routes we would enable the venue to be used for conferences and meetings.

We would want to ensure that if there were unbooked sessions in the main hall, that local people would be able to access the space for a reduced/free price in order to support the community, ensuring that it isn't a venue that is rarely used by the community, but one that everyone in the area feels a part of.

Tell us about any experience you have in managing a building/ venue/ facility.

Our trustees and staff team have decades of experience of facilities management, including managing the current St Paul's church buildings. We are fully competent at dealing with all aspects of health and safety, maintenance and improvements, compliance with building regulations, and monitoring and evaluation. We have worked with all relevant authorities (including national bodies for sport, youthwork, community development and beyond) to ensure that food safety and public liability have operated in line with current guidance throughout the pandemic and during the subsequent relaxing of restrictions.

Please provide us with any other information that you feel is relevant to your proposal.

Almost all of our work involves partnership. From supporting local groups like Molendinar Tots and Teens through to the Blackhill/Provanmill Lunch club for pensioners, we work with all the local third sector projects.

We work very closely with the education department, including senior management at St. Philomena's Primary, the Molendinar Family Learning Centre and Smithycroft Secondary. We also have a long-term partnership with Glasgow Kelvin College who provide learning support to our community.

We also have partnerships with The Royal and Ancient Golf Club, Glasgow Local Food Network, Locavore, Glenmill Medical Practice, Sustrans, Glasgow City Council and

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Royston Youth Action.

Beyond our community we are working in partnership with projects as far away as Iceland, Turkey, Spain, The Gambia, India and Zambia to give our community the best opportunities to learn, share and flourish.

90% of our organisation's trustees all live within a mile of the Molendinar Community Centre. We are a locally-run charity which believes in supporting the community to thrive. Almost 50% of the staff team are local, with many being former young people who have participated in our youth clubs. We hold regular consultations with the community, including the most recent one which was carried out from November 2020 to February 2021, supported by Glasgow University's Community Development Team.

Finally, many of our staff team who live locally are part of the Molendinar Community Council.

With a history of providing quality youth and community work to over 750 people from our base in Provanmill, we are at capacity. Many of the areas of education, health and employment are not able to be carried out. We have carried out a number of largescale community-based surveys looking at the needs of the community, including the most recent in January this year. This highlighted the need for more activities for primary school-aged children, the need for a community meeting space like a café and the need for local bingo provision. There are a number of coaches for sports and classes that have contacted us to offer their services once the Community Centre has reopened.

Our call to arms social media research was seen by over 4500 people. This has gone on to deliver a short life working group of 16 people (75% live within the community). This group has fed into this application process and are looking at ways of continuing to gather input from as many local residents as possible.

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