

Location: Lesmahagow

Hollandbush Golf Club

Impact: Growing an Inclusive Economy



Background

In 1958, Hollandbush Golf Course welcomed its first round of golfers. In 1957, a ladies' section was formed, and in 1963, the course was passed into the hands of the District Council. An additional nine holes and a new clubhouse were soon added. The present Clubhouse was opened in 1993. This long history of the club meant that the closure of the Hollandbush Course sparked strong reactions from the community.

It's always powerful when local communities unite to voice their opposition to such decisions, as it shows how much the course means to them. The club organised a petition, attended a rally, and had a powerful social media campaign. The council quickly reached out to us to offer a community asset transfer.

What did the support from Accelerate help you achieve?

The advisors from the Accelerate programme played a crucial role in helping us navigate such a complex process! They supported us in creating a business plan and putting together sustainable cash flows; they provided insight and ideas for revenue generation that we might not have considered ourselves.

They also encouraged us to clarify the vision and strategy for the course's future. That kind of support and encouragement felt reassuring, especially when dealing with something as important as saving the course for the community.

Thanks to our advisors at the Accelerate programme, we have also been able to build connections with Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire and the Community Ownership Support Service and key partners at the local council and within the Third Sector. Engaging with these organisations provides not just financial support but also networking opportunities and valuable advice.

The economic and social impact of the Support

We are focused on creating a strong, sustainable future for the club. As we grow the membership, this will generate local economic growth through increased job opportunities.

The club used to be a hub for local people, joining us for community events and family gatherings. We want to reignite that and make it a place for the community to come together. When a community is connected it can help encourage more pride in the area and hopefully lead to more community ownership projects.

