

## **Community Environment Challenge Fund opens for applications**

Community groups and organisations around Perth and Kinross will have the opportunity from this week to apply for financial support from the Council's new Community Environment Challenge Fund. The initiative will provide £100,000 a year for the next five years for projects to physically improve the environment of local towns and villages.

Set up as part of the Council's 2011/12 Capital Budget, the Fund is intended to build on the success and experience gained through Placecheck and other community-led, Council-supported initiatives.

The Fund opens this week with a first deadline for submitting applications on 11th November with a decision expected on 13th December. There will be a second deadline on 27th January 2012 with a decision expected on 28th February. Community groups will have further opportunities to apply as deadlines will be regularly announced.

Environment Convener, Councillor Alan Grant encouraged communities to apply for support: "The Fund is designed to give communities the chance to address key environmental issues in their local area. We want to see projects designed to improve the quality of life and I would urge groups and organisations to come forward with their proposals."

Funding will be administered through Perth and Kinross Grants Direct. For further information or to obtain a copy of the single grants application form, please call 0845 605 2000 or go online to [www.pkgrantsdirect.com](http://www.pkgrantsdirect.com)