



## **Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)**

### **Report from meeting – July 2024**

We met virtually on 9th July for a Trustee Meeting. The focus of the evening was to review the grant-making reports and budget; and to carry out our annual review of our key governance documents.

#### **Grant-making Reports**

We reviewed reports prepared by Foundation Scotland. We were pleased to note that, on the whole, end of grant monitoring reports were being received on a timely basis and provided useful information on the difference made by the award. It is very useful for Trustees to get feedback to assist them in their work going forward. We also reviewed the status of pending grant payments and the available balances on the funds.

Foundation Scotland had prepared a report collating feedback from the Community Councils on their small grants for year ended June 2023. This gave some useful insights into the approaches across the area and we were pleased to see the variety of work being funded from them. One point noted was that there needed to be more transparency from applicants on whether they were also applying to other Community Councils or the main fund for an award. It was agreed that Community Councils would consider adding a question to address this in their application form. For Community Councils operating their small grants as a 'micro grants' scheme to which local projects can apply, an upcoming information session being run online by Foundation Scotland on running a micro grants scheme may be of interest. Community Council can register by emailing Niome Lucjan, [niome@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:niome@foundationscotland.org.uk) or calling on 07554695152. The event is on Thursday 29 August, online from 7pm – 8.30pm.

#### **Budget**

We reviewed and discussed the Trust's budget projection for the period 1 June 2024 to 31 May 2025. The opening balance of available funds is c.£18,200 with projected income of c.£320,000. This may change slightly as we are waiting for donors to confirm what, if any, escalation will be applied to these monies. Expenditure on administration, communications and professional services is c.£15,000 giving us a net fund for distribution for the year of c.£305,000. As reported previously the amount available to us is not increasing in real terms so we are increasingly needing to make difficult judgments on allocation.

A key consideration relating to this is how we support longer term approaches that create impact. The Board discussion encompassed both how we support the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan delivery, and how we support 'anchor' organisations in the area.

The unique model (resourced and stimulated by GDT and further developed in partnership with GCAT and the Community Action Plan Steering Group) to support delivery of the Community Action Plan is delivering results and is being looked at as an exemplar both regionally and nationally and requires ongoing support.

We also discussed our approach to longer term funding of key initiatives. As discussed at the AGM, and referenced in our current Fund Strategy, we have been considering how we can best fund local initiatives to create the greatest impact - by investing in activities that in turn enable other groups or individuals within the community to thrive, and holding highly valued local services steady, through the provision of core funds which provide stability and lever in other money.

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust Ltd is key to the objectives set out above and to the delivery of the Community Action Plan and in recognition of this we have allocated £25,000 to them towards their core costs in their current financial year. This award will be made when we receive the monies from Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd.

However we also agreed that we should develop our approach to ensure we have criteria that can be applied consistently across the fund area; further work will be done on this to discuss at our September meeting. This needs to be done in cognisance of the available funds and this position should be clearer in September.

In terms of other budget commitments outwith the open grant-making processes, £10,000 has been committed to the Education Research Commission and £24,000 is committed to the Community Council's small grants scheme. After discussion we also agreed to designate £40,000 to the Education and Training fund which is in line with last year's budget, and £18,000 to continuation of Community Action Plan projects.

We have also been prudent to ensure that there is an appropriate sum available in the main open grant making rounds. Our current budget leaves c £185,000 available over the two rounds.

### **Other issues**

Engagement continues with the various wind farm developers within the area.

We have sent detailed comments on the Community Benefit Agreement from Red Rock Power Ltd for Benbrack to them and await their response.

We have also contacted Temporis Capital who manage Blackcraig Wind Farm to request an increase in their monies to reflect the fall in real terms of the value over the last six years. They would not agree to any escalation when they agreed to make funds available but we hope that by demonstrating how we have effectively used their monies and the difference they have made to this community that they will reconsider this.

The General Election delayed the publication of the Report from the Department of Energy and Net Zero in relation to new transmission lines but this is expected shortly.

We continue to try to keep abreast of what is happening in relation to community benefit arrangements and to ensure that the community remains at the heart of any future decision making on community benefit arrangements. This is challenging in view of the many groups showing an interest in this topic and the tendency for them to overlook what communities are doing in this area.

We let the contract for the Education research work to CoDel (<http://codel.scot>) , a community-based research organisation from Uist, and information can be found <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/news> .

### **Governance Review**

We carried out our annual review of all our key governance documents which needed minimal change.

### **Community Council Elections and Impact on Funding decisions**

We discussed the process for this and its impact on GDT. A new version of the Community Council Handbook will be issued shortly setting out the steps that will be needed to be taken after the election. We have also been in touch with the Ward Officer so we can work with them to support the first meeting of the new Community Councils.

Looking at the dates we decided it would be prudent to delay the Decision-Making Meeting in November to ensure that the Community Councils had been able to hold their first meetings and also to ensure sufficient time for a suitable induction process for new trustees. This will lead to an extension on the fund closing date. We will publish new dates shortly.

### **Areas of focus over the next quarter**

We will continue our work to ensure we evolve as an organisation to meet the challenges we face and to engage with other groups and regional and national bodies as appropriate.

We plan to finalise the Community Benefit Agreement with Red Rock Power Ltd.

We will continue to liaise with developers.

We will prepare guidance to address the actions needed by Community Councils after the elections.

We will prepare criteria etc on longer term funding for the September meeting.