



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meetings – November 2025

Reports from all our meetings can be found on [this page](#) of our website under the heading ‘Summaries of our Board Meetings’

We had two meetings in November. The first on 4 November was a business meeting and the second on 11 November was to make decisions on applications received in the autumn funding round.

On the 4 November meeting, the key issues covered were a follow up on the work discussed in August to plan and ensure we have robust and effective governance and administrative arrangements in place to enable us to meet future demands and challenges.

First, however, we noted that Matthew Shedden is now the Representative for Crossmichael and District Community Council rather than an Independent Trustee. This means that there are now two vacancies for Independent Trustees.

Fiona Smith, as Chair, continues to engage with the numerous developers in the area with a view to ensuring that, as the developments progress, community benefit monies are paid, and the community remains at the heart of the decision making on their utilisation. We noted that until the outcomes of (a) the Judicial Review on the proposed new transmission between Kendoon and Tongland and (b) the review of transmission arrangements by the National Energy System Operator are known, the timing and likelihood of a number of developments is uncertain.

The terms of a draft Memorandum of Understanding between GDT and developers have been finalised and the Chair is engaging with developers with a view to entering into this for individual developments. This step is encouraged in the Good Practice Principles. This also recognises the division of responsibilities between the Community Councils and GDT. GDT maintains a neutral position on developments. Its goal is to ensure that any community benefit funds coming into the area are maximised for the long-term benefit of the local communities, through good stewardship and positive partnership working.

We continue to monitor the two recent consultations by the Scottish Government and the UK Department of Energy Security and Net Zero and the Chair is a member of the Advisory Group set up by the Scottish Government.

We also agreed the following: -

- A proposed change to the Purpose of GDT in our Constitution to reflect the evolution on community benefit arrangements. Approval will now be sought from the Office of the Charity Regulator and from Members at our AGM.
- The current Chair, Fiona Smith, who has served in the role for seven years, will step down next November as her term of office concludes under the organisation's Constitution. The role profile and process for recruiting her successor was discussed and agreed. The process will start in earnest early next year and will be led by a committee of trustees chaired by Stephen Connelly, the Deputy Chair.
- As the funds we manage grow, we have recognised the need to strengthen our financial skills within the Trustee group and will also be looking to recruit an Independent Trustee with financial experience and skills. We agreed what this role would cover and the terms of the key financial controls we need to have in place.
- We have made a lot of decisions over the last seven years or so and some are critical underpins to how we operate. To assist current Trustees to develop these but, more importantly, to inform new Trustees about them, we agreed that we should finalise a document setting out Key Principles and Past Decisions: Guidance for Trustees. A final version is now in hand and will be published on our website when available.
- Sam Bramwell in Foundation Scotland will undertake a Fund Review looking at how we operate and at areas of potential improvement. She will liaise with GCAT who are carrying out an update of the Community Action Plan at the same time to coordinate and ensure we avoid duplication.
- We agreed that the support we receive from Foundation Scotland is critical and that they have been instrumental in giving us the confidence to carry out our activities in innovative ways. As we move through this process of transition, we will review the terms of our contractual arrangements with them to ensure they reflect the way we both operate and our respective expectations.
- We also discussed how we would progress an event to celebrate what has been achieved across the community through utilisation of community benefit monies.
- Terms of Reference for an Education and Learning Committee to provide oversight of the Education and Learning Fund were agreed.

On 11 November at our decision-making meeting, we considered thirteen applications and one request for a variation. We faced some difficult decisions due to the amount of funding available and as a result we had to scale back the awards to some projects. Ten awards totaling £80,072 were made and three declined. A list of awards is attached. We were again very grateful for the work Foundation Scotland had done to support this process.

Once again, we were impressed by the efforts made by individuals and groups across our area and the quality and thought that had gone into the applications. We made an award to Loch Ken Trust towards the costs of the Ranger service. In addition, we recognised the value of educating people, particularly young people on water safety and made an award to Loch Ken Trust to support their Water Safety activities, including their Family Water Safety Day for the next three years.

Providing good experiences and facilities for our children and young people was another area where we had a number of applications. We made awards to contribute towards the costs of play equipment in both Crossmichael and New Galloway and to enable the valued CatStrand Young Creatives - Creative Sparks to continue.

Moniaive Folk Festival also received an award to support this very important weekend for the community.

The impacts of climate change are being felt across our area, and we again supported Galloway Fisheries Trust to enable them to continue with their riparian planting and Crossmichael Community Council to enable them to enhance their ability to deal with potential flooding.

ROKPA a therapeutic community based at Lothlorien in Corsock received an award to enable them to carry out some much-needed work on their greenhouse and associated garden equipment. This will support the work they do support and help people achieve a positive approach to their mental health.

A small variation to an existing award was also approved.

Awards between meetings

As previously reported the Community Action Plan Steering Group and Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) are planning to update the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan. This plan is a critical underpin to our Fund Strategy and is recommended under the Scottish Government Good Practice Principles on Community Benefit arrangements. We had budgeted £15,000 for this work and made an initial award of £6,000 to GCAT to enable them to carry out the first research phase of the work. This will build on the recent work done on Local Place Plans.

Areas of focus over the next quarter

We will start the process to appoint a new Chair designate and an additional Independent Trustee with financial expertise.

We will seek OSCR approval to the change to our Constitution before asking for Member approval at our AGM.

We will continue to actively engage with the numerous developers in the area and maintain up to date information on their status and develop our plans to address this and seek to get them to enter into Memorandum of Agreements for their developments.

We will progress the actions from this meeting.

We will progress arrangements for the Celebration Event.

Applying Organisation	Offer Statement	Awarded Amount
Loch Ken Trust	To contribute towards the salary costs of a ranger post in the Loch Ken Community Ranger service for one year.	£8,000.00
Crossmichael and District Community Council	To buy a second hand storage container to provide a secure weatherproof place to store vital flood management equipment for the village, ensuring a faster response time and minimising damage to property during weather events..	£2,472.00
ROKPA Trust	To fund capital project costs associated a nature-based mental health programme in the Glenkens.	£3,423.00
Galloway Fisheries Trust	To contribute to the cost of riparian tree planting, removal of non-native species, and volunteer engagement to enhance climate resilience, improve habitats, support sustainable land use, and foster local community involvement in environmental restoration	£15,000.00
Crossmichael Primary Parent Council	To contribute to the cost of purchasing outdoor equipment, planters, seating, bins, and durable tarmac painting to create an engaging, educational, and inclusive outdoor space for community and school use.	£4,818.00
Loch Ken Trust	To support Loch Ken Trust's Water Safety Programme in order to raise awareness of the risk of open water and train people in how to safely access open water and other waterways.	£13,943.00
LING (Local Initiatives in New Galloway)	To contribute to the cost of upgrading the play area with accessible pathways and modern equipment, ensuring an inclusive, safe, and welcoming space for children, families, and residents, while supporting community wellbeing and sustainability.	£10,000.00
Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited	To contribute to the cost of delivering a year-long creative arts programme for children aged 2?12, including workshops, community events, and skills development, addressing social isolation and limited access to cultural activities.	£17,646.00
Springholm Playgroup	To fund the purchase of four tablets that will be available to nursery attendees and the wider community in order to develop digital skills and awareness.	£620.00
Moniaive Folk Festival	To contribute to the costs of festival infrastructure, to accommodate increased visitor numbers, replace the loss of a venue, and to maintain affordability, ensuring the festival's sustainability and its economic and community benefits.	£4,150.00
	Total	£80,072.00