



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting – September 2024

We met on 25 September for a Trustee Meeting. The focus of the evening was to update on what had occurred over the summer, review the grant-making report and to consider our approach on support for ‘anchor’ organisations.

Trustees

Graham Walker, who was the nominated trustee from Dunscore Community Council, notified us of his intention to stand down as a trustee. The trustees thanked Graham for his insights and support over the years. Dunscore Community Council have nominated Allan Todd as their replacement trustee. Allan was a trustee a few years ago and we welcomed him back to the meeting.

Statements and Grant-making Reports

We reviewed reports prepared by Foundation Scotland setting out information on the current position on awards and funding. We also reviewed the monitoring reports received and found them a useful means to understand how the projects had gone and lessons to be learned. We appreciate that this reporting can sometimes feel like another task for already stretched volunteers so we wanted to reassure you that we do read and discuss them!

The Education and Training Fund is proving very popular. We are developing some case studies to give more insights on what this fund can support to ensure there is awareness of the breadth of support available.

Next Funding Round

The closing date for applications in the next funding round is Wednesday 2 October. Foundation Scotland will then carry out their usual assessment process. Our budget for this round is c£85 000.

The decision meeting on awards will be held in the last week of November. This will enable our member Community Councils to hold their first meetings following the election and induction of trustees to take place.

Support for ‘anchor’ organisations

The Board has been progressing its intention, as set out in the report from our last meeting and in the funding strategy last year, to provide core funding proactively to key community organisations which not only provide significant impact (as many groups do successfully in the area) but also leverage in significant other funds and provide support to their communities and groups in the area. Our aim is to proportionately provide some stability in a turbulent funding landscape and ensure the additional benefits these organisations bring are secure for the benefit of the wider community. We had an in-depth discussion, which provided us with confidence to move forward with this intention, having agreed a definition and criteria for how these organisations will be selected, and detailed guidance for the trustees when considering making any such investment. We expect to revise our funding strategy accordingly in October and then to take the necessary steps to implement this approach.

Other issues

CoDeL have been working hard on the Education Research project and spent a couple of days in the area in early September. It is hoped that the final report will be available by mid-October.

Engagement continues with the various wind farm developers within the area. The Chair attended the recent Glenkens Developers meeting and was pleased to see the collaborative approach between them.

We have received feedback from Red Rock Power Ltd on the agreement re Benbrack and will follow this up with a discussion shortly with a view to getting the agreement finalised in a timely manner. This will involve an annual payment of c£112k which will probably become payable mid 2026.

We are still awaiting a response on our request to Temporis Capital to increase the payment from Blackcraig Wind Farm.

The publication of the Report from the Department of Energy and Net Zero in relation to new transmission lines and community benefits is still awaited. In the meantime, we have submitted a detailed response to the latest consultation by Scottish Power Energy Networks on community benefit from transmission works and one of our Trustees attended an online consultation event. A copy of the response can be found [here](#).

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 are also holding a trustee strategy discussion at the end of October to review where we are and our key issues and focus for the future.

On the Galloway National Park proposal, we, as a funding body, will maintain a neutral stance but will keep abreast of how the matter develops. We noted that the proposed boundary splits the area covered by GDT.

Community Council Elections

We have circulated the new Community Council Handbook to Community Councils and it is available [here](#).

Steps are in hand to ensure the appropriate decisions are made at the first CC meeting to deal with GDT governance issues.

Richard Middleton is stepping down from Crossmichael and District Community Council so will no longer be a trustee in GDT. Richard has played a pivotal role in the evolution of GDT during his nearly eight years of his role as a trustee and will be missed by his fellow trustees who thanked him for his wise counsel and support.

Areas of focus over the next quarter

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

We will ensure all appropriate actions are taken to cover the CC elections etc.

Foundation Scotland will carry out their usual assessment process to enable us to make decisions at our November meeting on allocations in this funding round.

We will continue to liaise with developers.

We will finalise the approach re anchor organisations.

We will prepare for a detailed strategy discussion in October.