

BLACKCRAIG WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND

UPDATE REPORT
OCTOBER 2019-2021



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Foundation Scotland and Glenkens & District Trust would like to acknowledge all those who have assisted or supported the development of the Blackcraig Wind Farm community benefits arrangements to date, including:

- Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd
- The Community Councils of Carsphairn, Dalry, Balmaclellan, Corsock & KPD, Dunscore, Glencairn, Parton, Crossmichael, Balmaghie and New Galloway & Kells.
- Community Enterprise
- All who took part in the community consultation events which supported development of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan
- The current Trustees of Glenkens & District Trust, Fiona Smith (Chair), Des Hadnett, Richard Middleton, Willie Dickson, Denise MacDonald-Kiernan, John McGaw, Matthew Shedden, Tom Marshall, Julie Garton, Andrew Mellor, Graham Walker; and former Trustees Gavin Creaney, Paul Hodson, Alistair Nelson, Alan Rumble, Caroline Pridham, Ros Hill, Graham West, Ian Mair, David Maclsaac and Craig Millar.

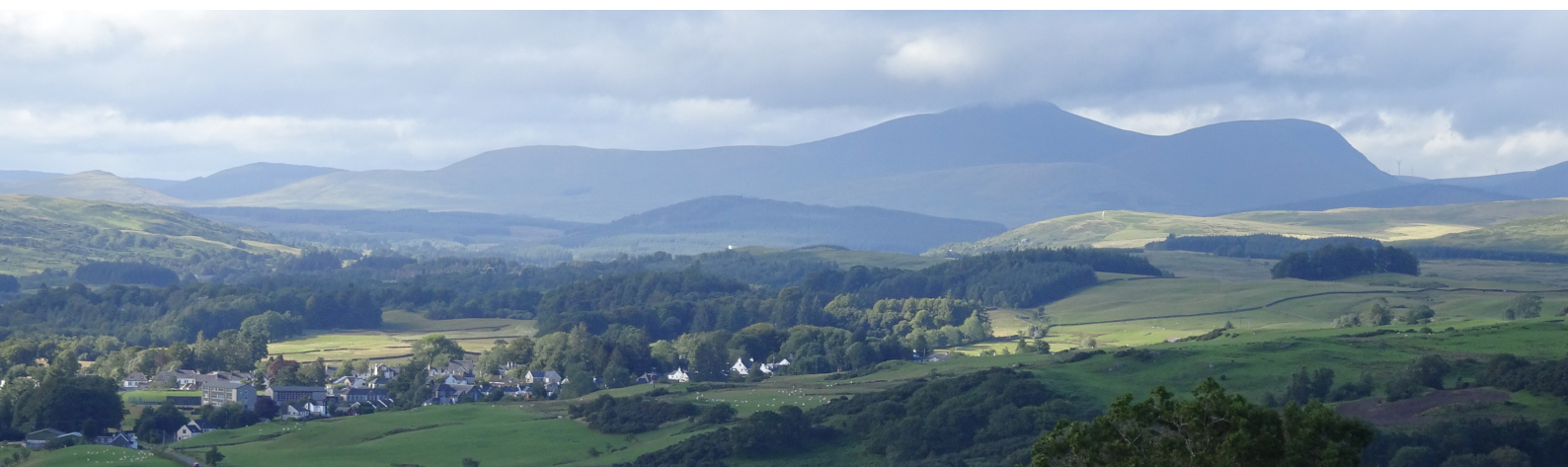
Cover image: Crossmichael & Parton Playgroup Outdoor Learning Space

ABOUT THE FUND

Blackcraig Wind Farm is a 23 turbine wind farm in the Glenkens, Dumfries and Galloway. It is owned by Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd, which provides an annual sum of £264,500; an amount based on the Scottish Government's recommended good practice level of £5,000 per installed megawatt. The Fund benefits the community council areas of Carsphairn, Dalry, Balmaclellan, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham, Dunscore, Glencairn, Parton, Crossmichael and District Balmaghie and the Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells.

The Fund is delivered as a partnership between Foundation Scotland and the Glenkens and District Trust (GDT). Foundation Scotland is a national independent fund-distributing charity which has local presence in Dumfries and Galloway; it is responsible for the operational management of the fund arrangements, bringing longstanding experience of community benefit and fund distribution from across Scotland; GDT is a SCIO established in 2011, which exists to resource, enable and stimulate community development in the Glenkens and surrounding areas. Glenkens & District Trust brings local knowledge and expertise to develop fund strategy, funding priorities and to make decisions on awards which together aim to create the most positive impact, or community benefit, for local residents.

The Fund made its first awards in October 2019. In the two years since then the Fund has distributed a total of £572,163.32 to initiatives bringing benefit to the local community. This reports provides some highlights from the Fund's development and spotlights some of the projects funded.



BLACKCRAIG WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND AREA OF BENEFIT



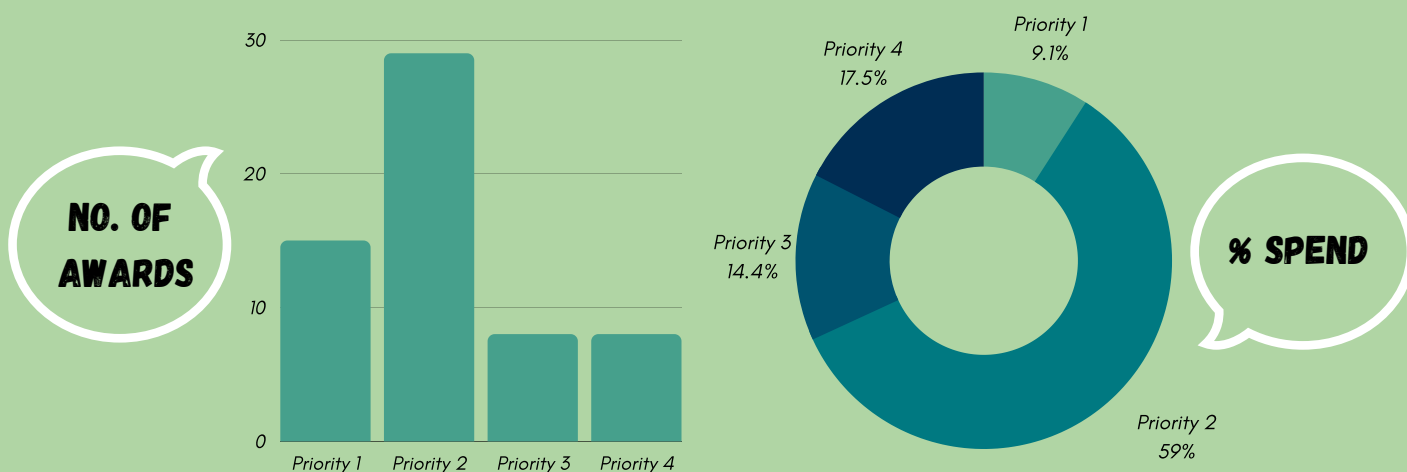
FUND STRATEGY

The Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund Strategy was developed during 2019, and set out broad priorities for the Fund opening. This was revisited in early 2021, following the completion of the Glenkens & District Community Action Planning process, which was commissioned by the Glenkens & District Trust and part funded by the wind farm owners.

The revised Fund Strategy brought the priorities of the Fund fully into line with the priorities articulated by the community and captured in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan (CAP) – see opposite. Work was also done to ensure that action plans that existed in the communities not covered by the CAP (Dunscore, Carsphairn and Glencairn) could also be served by the revised Fund Priorities. This report gives a snapshot of how the money has been spent against these priorities – but it's worth bearing in mind that many awards will meet more than one Fund priority.

During the period covered by this report, 60 grants were awarded by GDT through the Community Fund main grants, out of cycle awards and targeted grants (for more information on distribution, see overleaf). Awards made to date against the four priorities look like this:

PRIORITY	SPEND	AWARDS	% SPEND
1 A CONNECTED COMMUNITY	£42,310.44	15	9%
2 AN ASSET RICH COMMUNITY	£274,145.49	29	59%
3 AN ECONOMICALLY FLOURISHING COMMUNITY	£66,742.64	8	14%
4 A CARBON NEUTRAL COMMUNITY	£81,285.84	8	18%



FUND PRIORITIES



Priority 1: A Connected Community

This supports activity which helps us to become more connected, for example through projects which promote effective communication, collaboration, sharing of information, skills and assets and which bring people together.



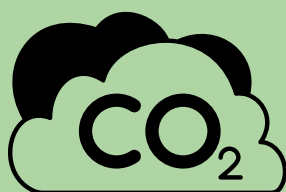
Priority 2: An Asset Rich Community

This supports activity which aims to make best use of our assets – people, the natural and built environment – and sustaining them for the future. For example this could include affordable housing or energy efficient community spaces; opportunities for young people which support their development; projects which enable people to share skills, knowledge or heritage; supporting biodiversity or improving access to the landscape.



Priority 3: An Economically Flourishing Community

This supports activity which maximises our ability to flourish economically; for example, ensuring equity of access to services, training and opportunities; and focusing on sustainable best use of local skills and resources such as tourism, food and farming.



Priority 4: A Carbon Neutral Community

This supports activity which supports communities to become carbon neutral. For example, through developing initiatives which seek to reduce carbon footprint such as the production of local energy plans, sustainable transport initiatives, energy efficiency measures, renewable energy initiatives and zero waste projects).

FUND DISTRIBUTION

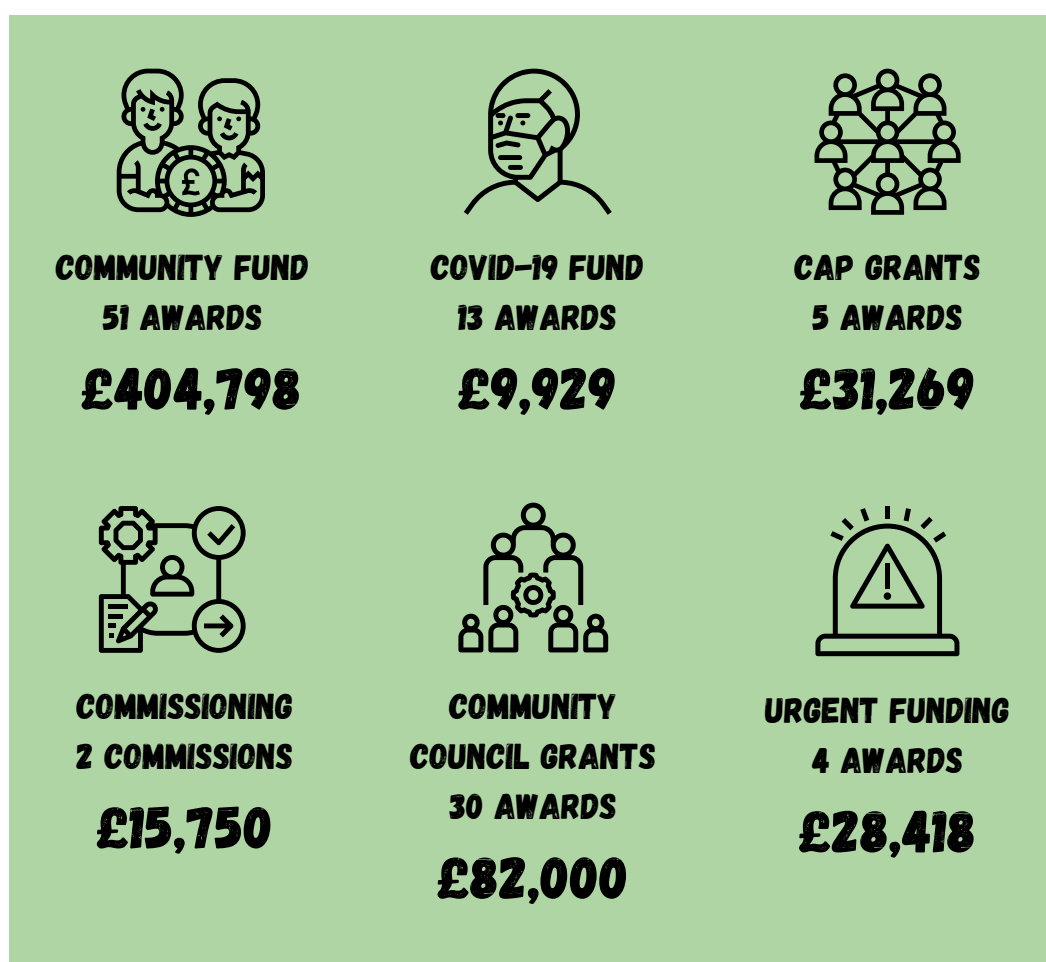
In the first two years of operation, the Fund has been distributed via 105 awards, using these different ways:

- An **annual grant** to each Community Council for local use. The grant can be used at the discretion of the Community Council towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community. The projects can be run by the Community Council itself or any another local community organisation. A Community Council may also invite applications from the community
- A **main grants programme**, with advertised funding rounds with deadlines, known as the Community Fund. Grants of between £500 and £25,000 were available. Eligibility Criteria applied and these are set out in the Fund Strategy. Three rounds of Community Fund grant-making were delivered in the timeframe of this report
- **Urgent Funding** awards, made out of cycle with the Main Grants programme deadlines. As the Fund only makes awards up to twice a year, depending on funds available, GDT's Board of Trustees were keen to ensure there was flexibility within the fund design to respond to urgent or crisis needs within the community
- **Targeted grants** to support the implementation of the Community Action Plan. In the period of this report, four priority projects had been identified in the short term priority strand of the CAP and were supported by community development specialists Community Enterprise to develop and bring an application forward to the Fund. This activity embodies GDT's approach to resource, stimulate and enable community development in the Glenkens & District area
- **Commissioning** is used by the Fund only in very specific circumstances and follows Foundation Scotland's Value for Money policy. It is a tool that enables GDT to obtain either specialist expertise or to stimulate activity where the Fund is unlikely to receive a proactive traditional grant application. Two organisations were commissioned in the reporting period, both by open competitive tender, and

- An **Emergency Covid-19 Fund** with a ringfenced budget of £20,000 was set up in March 2020 to create a rapid response fund to support community resilience and other Covid-19 needs. Decisions were made within 72 hours of application submission. After six months the Fund was no longer in demand; the decision was taken to un-ringfence the remaining monies and return them to the Community Fund pot.

Using these different tools, community organisations have delivered a fantastic array of projects in the first two years of funding, ranging from the small but vital to the ambitious and long term. Even as the pandemic challenged groups' ability to deliver and created new and unforeseen needs, community action has been visible and more valuable than ever. Playgroups have planted seeds, sports equipment bought and shared, people have played music together, made the most of the outdoors in many different ways, fixed and improved community buildings, celebrated local food, held community events, brought visitors to the area, enhanced the treasured local landscape and planned for the future. All of this has been underpinned by the sharing of knowledge and a mutual aspiration to make our communities connected, resilient places where people want to live, work and visit. A full list of grants can be found at tinyurl.com/blackcraigawards.

Figures up to 30 Sept 2021



GOVERNANCE & FINANCE

Foundation Scotland and the Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) have worked in partnership since 2019, when Foundation Scotland was appointed by Blackcraig Wind Farm Scotland Ltd to administer the Blackcraig Fund. GDT and Foundation Scotland hold a partnership agreement which sets out our respective responsibilities in relation to the fund.

Glenkens & District Trust is the decision making body and guides the strategic priorities of the fund. GDT's Trustees are drawn from the community councils forming the wind farm's area of benefit, along with up to five independent Trustees who may be recruited for their connection to the area or their specialist skills.

Foundation Scotland handles all the grant-making for Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund and also supports GDT with governance and fund development. The Fund's grant making processes are based on Foundation Scotland's experience as a national grant-maker, distributing funding on behalf of a wide range of different donors. This includes many other place-based funds provided through community benefit arrangements from renewable energy projects. Fund deadlines are promoted and supported by roadshows or one to one sessions where possible. Pre application enquiries are actively encouraged. Every application to the Fund goes through eligibility checks, due diligence and an assessment process before it goes to the GDT Board of Trustees for a decision.

Decision making rests with GDT Trustees, based on the robust assessing process Foundation Scotland uses. Trustees bring their local knowledge and expertise to the decision making table, but all awards are made on merit and alignment with the Fund Strategy. Trustees are not part of the decision on any applications where there is a conflict of interest and any conflicts are declared ahead of time.

The financial summary overleaf shows the current position of the Fund. The balance held at 30th September 2021 will be used to make awards from the round closing in January 2022. The next payment from Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd is due in the summer of 2022.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 1 MAY 2019 TO 30 SEPT 2021

INCOME

BWFSL PAYMENTS (YEARS 1-3, £264,500 PER YEAR)	£793,500
RETURNED AWARD BALANCE	£799.00
	£794,299.00

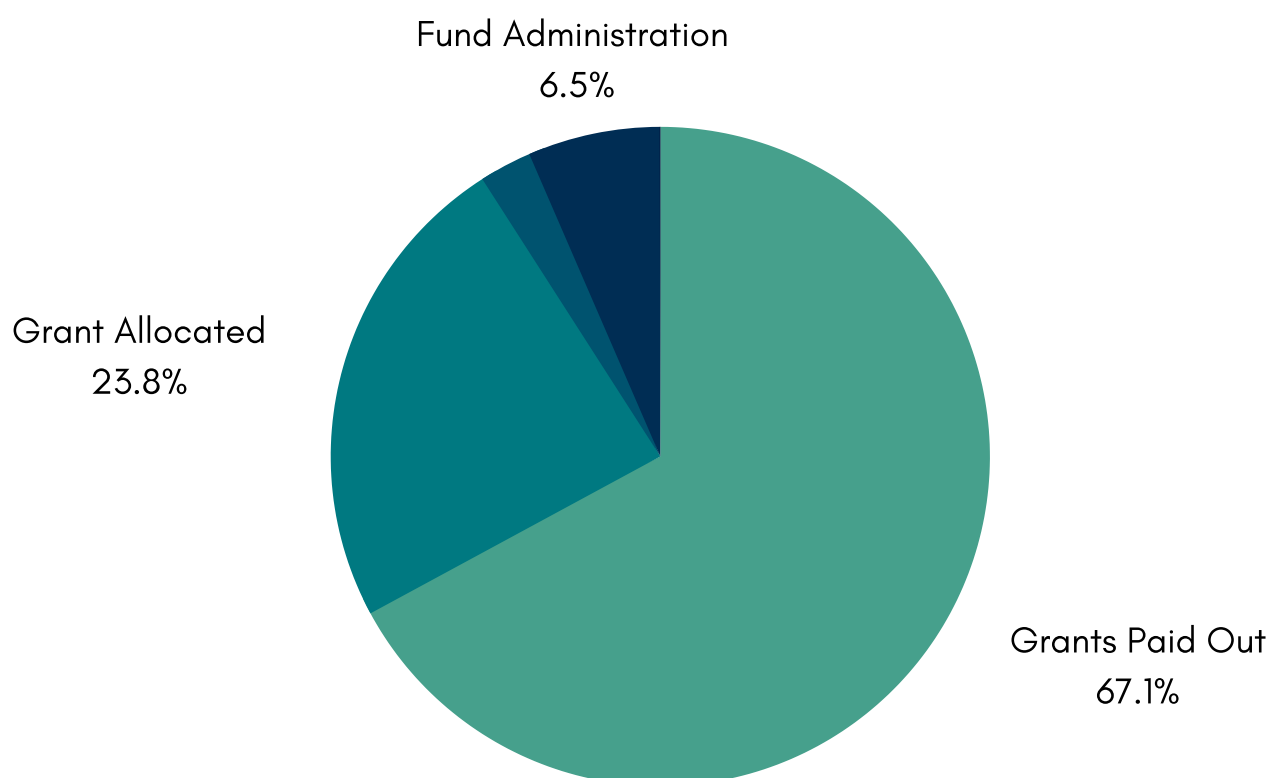
EXPENDITURE

GRANTS PAID OUT TO 30 SEPT 2021	£410,774.68
GRANTS ALLOCATED (CONDITIONS STILL TO BE FULFILLED)	£145,788.64
COMMISSIONS	£15,750.00
FUND ADMINISTRATION COST (YEARS 1-3, £13,225 PER YEAR)	£39,675
FUND EXPENSES (HALL HIRE, PRINTING)	£166.02
	£612,154.34

SPEND

BALANCE HELD 30TH SEPT 2021 £182,144.66

EXPENDITURE



CASE STUDIES

Priority 1: A Connected Community

Project funded: New Galloway Community Enterprises - Glenkens Hogmanay

Sum Awarded: £1,500

During 2020 the Fund had responded to the pandemic by setting up an Emergency Fund which provided financial support for a range of local community resilience efforts. As the year progressed and the immediate and pressing needs for funds to secure essential items subsided, other needs started to emerge, including those relating to isolation and wellbeing.

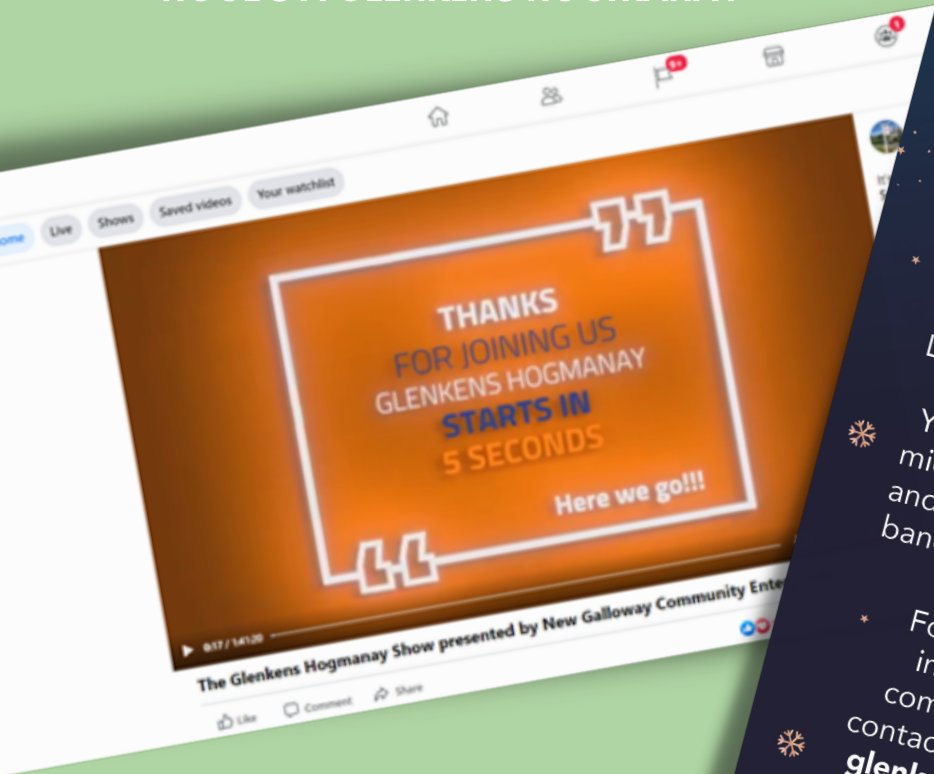
As we moved towards the festive period in 2020 it became starkly apparent that the normal celebrations would not be taking place. In late November, NGCE put in an urgent Blackcraig funding application via the 'out of cycle' process to support an online New Year's community event, building on their experience with an online ceilidh delivered as part of Glenkens Food Month earlier in the year. A rapid assessment took place and the Trustees approved an award of £1,500 which enabled NGCE to put together an innovative and creative response to the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic - which proved to be timely, as a second lockdown was announced, with restrictions in place from Boxing Day.

The event was a free online and interactive celebration, filling the gap where the usual events would have been, but also providing an opportunity for people to get involved who might not have had the opportunity to attend a traditional face to face celebration for a wide variety of reasons such as ill health, family commitments or lack of transport. NGCE also knew a partner organisation had been doing work to support digital inclusion and hoped to provide an opportunity for those people to try out their new digital skills and connect in.

The event was hosted by a local volunteer and incorporated a mix of live compèring, interactive messaging on social media, along with pre-recorded segments featuring local musicians, writers and photographers; and video messages pre-recorded by residents at pop up locations; all of which was put together at short notice and in line with the restrictions then in place. The successful event was both livestreamed and recorded so that people could watch again later; to date it has received over 1,500 views and attracted over 100 comments .

The event was successful, not only because it responded to a clear need within the community for people to stay connected during restrictions, but also because it was able to build on NGCE's experience and strengths; strong community relationships, partnerships with other organisations and a track record of delivering successful and popular community events.

NGCE'S A GLENKENS HOGMANAY



A Glenkens
HOGMANAY

This year's celebrations are going to be a bit different, but we can still come together as a community.

Let's celebrate Hogmanay across the Glenkens over Facebook and YouTube. It'll be a festive run-up to midnight, hosted live by Brian Edgar and featuring the Shore Road ceilidh band as well as lots of familiar faces!

For more details and to keep informed, follow your local community Facebook page or contact Sam on glenkeshogmanay@gmail.com



THE LOCH KEN TRUST RANGER ON PATROL

Priority 2: An Asset Rich Community

Project funded: Loch Ken Trust - Seasonal Ranger

Sum Awarded: £5,000

The Loch Ken Trust had started to notice an increase in anti-social behaviour in the Loch Ken area, following the loss in 2019 of the dedicated ranger service provided by Dumfries & Galloway Council.

Issues were being reported by local community members relating to weekend visitors and wild camping, particularly noise, littering, fouling and damage to the loch's environment; and this intensified during 2020 as people increasingly sought outdoor space due to the restrictions in place relating to Covid-19.

The Loch Ken Trust identified that reinstating a ranger's post could help tackle some of these issues whilst also playing an educational role to highlight the valued natural asset that Loch Ken represents - both to local communities and to increasing numbers of visitors and that it would be a good fit with LKT's purposes to host this position.

The Loch Ken Trust had already successfully secured some funding towards a post but needed match funding to make piloting a ranger's post over the summer season viable. The GDT Trustees agreed an award of £5,000 which enabled LKT to go ahead with recruitment for a Loch Ken ranger. LKT recruited initially for the summer season in 2021 but with the ambition that the post would become a permanent year round post if it proved to be successful.

The Ranger post has already proven to be very popular within the community. The Ranger undertakes regular patrols to help identify any issues occurring on and around the loch and liaises with partners accordingly, including the local authority, police, water bailiffs and landowners around the loch. The Ranger also works to raise awareness of the loch as a natural asset that should be valued and cared for; by facilitating learning visits from schools and colleges, by supporting community events and by ensuring the loch's visitors receive friendly guidance and messaging relating to sustainable tourism, such as leave no trace and shop local.

The Ranger's regular updates on social media alongside positive coverage in the press have helped build the role's profile, engagement with the community and buy in from stakeholders on and around the loch.

The initiative has gone from strength to strength and LKT has already secured most of their funding package to cover the Ranger's continued employment through the winter (on reduced hours) and into next summer season, leveraging support from NatureScot, DRAX and an anonymous donation through the Charities Aid Foundation, the latter demonstrating the positive impact of the post and its visibility in the community and beyond.

Priority 3: An Economically Flourishing Community

Project funded: SKS Consulting - Childcare Feasibility Study

Fee: £5,460 (£3,990.00 invoiced to date)

In rural areas such as the Glenkens, the availability of childcare impacts parents' ability to gain paid work, provides an important developmental opportunity for young children and offers equity of access to basic services and economic opportunity that, in the main, families have elsewhere. Childcare was also identified as a concern relating to depopulation, given that the Glenkens has a significantly older population. Covid appears to have stimulated some inward migration but to maintain this, the right services and care need to be in place.

The Glenkens & District Community Action Plan (CAP) captured the challenges being faced by local families relating to childcare. This was identified as affecting particularly families with one and two year olds but also those needing wraparound care or holiday provision in order for parents to work. A short term (year one) priority in the CAP identified that a feasibility study into local childcare and overcoming barriers to delivery would then enable the medium term aim of investing in community based childcare provision to take place.

Some work was done bottom out whether or not there were any local agencies or groups who would be likely to seek grant funding to take this issue forward. It rapidly became apparent that local providers were understandably focused on frontline delivery, still coping with the impacts of Covid-19 and had no capacity to take this forward.

In order to move this important topic forward, GDT commissioned the feasibility study through an open tendering process and appointed SKS Consulting to take the work forward. SKS undertook research and in depth interviews in the community with a clear message that the aim of this work was to come up with solutions rather than just capture the challenges.

The resulting report delivered in Autumn 2021 identified three key things:

- The lack of childminders in the north of the area was a key barrier to early years care and there was an opportunity for investment in this area, with strong support from the community for this
- That outdoor learning and outdoor provision was a popular concept and an under-developed sector in the area; and one which would build on assets, of people and place, already held in the community but not currently exploited
- That sustainability is a huge challenge in the context of a fluctuating population; and that existing community led provision across the area is the foundation on which all other identified models complement and therefore should not be allowed to fail.

The research has offered some possible routes forward and helped clarify the investment needed in this area, both from Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund and other funders. GDT plans to take this forward with a ring fenced budget to support this area in 2022.



Glenkens & District Trust

GLENKENS CHILDCARE WORKSHOP

HELP INFLUENCE PLANS FOR
FUTURE CHILDCARE IN THE AREA

TUESDAY 8 JUNE @ 10AM & THURSDAY 10
JUNE @ 1.30PM

email clairewhyte@sksscotland.co.uk for more info and/or
to register

WE NEED YOUR INPUT:

Help us:

Clarify the issues
Look at solutions



email clairewhyte@sksscotland.co.uk for more info
and/or to register

FLYERS FOR THE GLENKENS CHILDCARE WORK



THE MEN'S SHED ROOF BEING INSTALLED

Priority 4: A Carbon Neutral Community

Project funded: The Glenkens Men's Shed Building Improvements

Sums Awarded: £15,500 (2019) and £16,380 (2020)

In 2014, the Glenkens Men's Shed became the first set up in Dumfries and Galloway. The Shed comes under the umbrella of GCAT but has its own constitution, management committee and membership.

When GCAT applied for support from the Fund for the Men's Shed workshop in Balmaclellan, the asbestos roof urgently needed replacing. It was leaking, it wasn't insulated and it hadn't been replaced since the shed was put up in the 1950s.

The Shed used knowledge gained from GCAT's training from Community Energy Scotland and also worked closely with Zero Waste Scotland's (ZWS) Resource Efficient Scotland service (a Scottish Government funded initiative focused on helping organisations reduce waste and save energy) to identify what was needed to make the building as energy efficient as possible.

Their independent report identified the need for a new roof and insulation; replacement of the existing electric and LPG heating in the workshop; and recommended the installation of a solar PV system on the workshop roof. GCAT and the Men's Shed considered the report and decided to phase the work, and apply for funding to a range of sources to support each of the phases. In addition to applying to the Fund, their match funding mix included contributions from CARES, SPEN Green Economy Funding and a private donation.

A grant of £15,500 in 2019 enabled the Men's Shed to install a modern, insulated roof and contributed to the costs of installing a 12kW PV system which supplies energy to the Men's Shed building as well as the neighbouring Smiddy building. Any unused excess energy generated is fed back into the grid and the Shed benefits from the Feed-in-Tariff payments and the PV infrastructure also supported the later installation of EV chargers at the site. A further award of £16,380 in 2020 enabled the Shed to install external wall cladding and energy-efficient heaters.

These awards helped the Shed significantly reduce running costs save energy and reduce its carbon footprint, as well as providing a sustainable source of energy. They also highlight the value of getting independent advice and support, which has gone on to become a Fund policy.

So now if a group is applying to the Fund for a project which involves energy efficiency measures or energy generation, applicants will be expected to have used the free and impartial Zero Waste advice service, which strengthens the funding application - not only to Blackcraig but also to other funders too - and benefits the project's intended outcomes.

WHERE NEXT?

The Fund was only established in 2019 but is already having a positive impact, with over half a million pounds being distributed across 105 awards – resourcing, enabling and stimulating community development right across the area of benefit.

The first two years have seen rapid progress – the Fund arrangements set up, production of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan and new Fund priorities developed, delivery of three rounds of both the Community Council small grants scheme and the Community Fund main grants programme – as well as face to face funding roadshows, online application surgeries, local PR, networking and a new online presence all aimed at making sure as many people as possible know about this new local funding opportunity and how to make use of it.

Community organisations have used the Fund to deliver a fantastic array of projects, fulfilling local people’s ambition to make Fund communities connected, asset rich, economically flourishing and sustainable places to live; places where people want to live, to work, to bring up their families and to grow old.



As the Fund has bedded in, the value of supporting local 'community anchor' organisations has become very apparent. These key organisations directly deliver activities and often own community assets - but they also provide support and advice to many other smaller local groups in their areas of operation. Investing in these organisations clearly creates a huge return - not only through other funds leveraged but also through the capacity built in smaller groups and initiatives being taken forward. GDT recognises this and hopes to build on this as the Fund evolves.

As part of this increasing recognition of the role of community anchor organisations, leadership of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan is transitioning to local community development organisation, GCAT, keeping GDT's own role as a fund distributing body clear. The communities of Moniaive and Carsphairn have also been busy updating their Community Action Plans and GDT will make sure that the next evolution of the Fund Strategy incorporates priorities identified through all of those action planning processes.

GDT and Foundation Scotland's partnership underpins all of the Fund arrangements and together we aim to deliver the most possible impact from the Fund for local communities. From the inception of the Fund, GDT has been forward-thinking in its use of the opportunity to the Fund represents and together with Foundation Scotland aspires to create an ambitious and innovative funding strategy which will stand local communities in good stead, particularly in the context of a significant potential pipeline of community benefit monies coming into the area.

The coming years will demonstrate the success of that approach - but in the meantime, the communities in the Fund area of benefit will continue to be served by the grants programmes and use these to deliver the wonderful range of diverse community activity that makes the area a great place to live, work and visit.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this report. More information on the Fund can be found online at:

www.glenkenstrust.org.uk

www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/blackcraig

www.facebook.com/glenkenstrust

For more information on the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund,
Glenkens & District Trust or Foundation Scotland, go to:

www.glenkenstrust.org.uk

www.foundationscotland.org.uk

info@glenkenstrust.org.uk

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