



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meetings – November 2022

November has been a busy month with two trustee meetings.

Trustee Meetings

The first meeting on 8 November was a short one and focused on ensuring we were well prepared for the longer meeting the following week to make decisions on the winter funding round.

We expressed our thanks to Des Hadnett, the trustee appointed by Balmaghie Community Council who recently stepped down as their appointed trustee, for all his help and support. Des was a trustee from the outset and played an important role in the development of GDT. Balmaghie Community Council have now appointed Geoff Monk as their trustee and we welcomed him to the board.

In preparation for the decision-making meeting, we reviewed Declarations and Conflicts of Interest and the sum available for distribution. The assessment reports prepared by Foundation Scotland had all been received by trustees and we agreed that we would raise any points of clarification in advance of the decision-making meeting to ensure we had all the necessary information on which to make decisions.

We also noted that we have received positive responses from wind farm developers on our proposal that joint meetings with the relevant bodies should be held to discuss community benefit arrangements. There are currently no scheduled meetings on community benefit arrangements with developers but Red Rock Power have indicated that they plan a consultation event shortly, as construction has now started.

It has not yet proven possible to arrange a meeting with the Glencairn organisations and this is not now likely until into 2023.

A short report on the Education and Training Fund was noted. Five bursaries have been awarded since the scheme launched in August.

An existing grantholder, LING, had been in touch requesting a reallocation of a portion of an existing award to another aspect of their project and this was approved.

The response to recent correspondence with existing grantholders was discussed. This sought to understand how the cost-of-living crisis was impacting on organisations' ability to successfully deliver their projects. It was noted that most funded projects were looking likely to complete successfully, despite some delays and change in costs and that no action across the portfolio of grants was currently required. It was agreed to review this regularly. It was agreed that one project identifying possible challenges to completion would be contacted by Foundation Scotland to find out more.

Funding Round

The primary purpose of the meeting held on 15 November was to consider the applications received in this funding round. Fourteen applications were received by the closing date for applications with one withdrawn before assessment.

At the meeting we made decisions on the applications and were ably supported by Foundation Scotland who administer the application and award process. The process followed is set out in the footnote for information. ¹

Following on from the decision-making meeting the applicants are notified by email of the decision in relation to their application and successful applicants then need to confirm their acceptance of the grant and satisfy any conditions to enable payments of the awards to be made. As part of our aim to be a capacity building funding partner, applicants are given constructive feedback on the application submitted.

Following careful consideration ten awards totalling £126,362 were made.

Applications spanned the full range of the Fund's strategic priorities but in this round there was a notable concentration of applications focused on providing benefit to the youngest members of our community which felt particularly vital to trustees as the impact of the cost of living crisis starts to impact on family budgets and opportunities - including £12,965.93 to support Scottish Childminding Association to recruit, train and support five new childminders in the Glenkens, increasing local childminding provision and early learning and employment options for local families; £1,000 to Crossmichael and Parton Playgroup to hire a minibus once a month for a year, enabling nursery children to get out and explore their local area and natural environment; £350 for Springholm Nursery to buy a laptop to assist with an outdoor education project photographing natural materials and putting them under the microscope; £1,310.40 for Springholm Parent Council to enable primary children to access ranger-led outdoor education sessions at Loch Ken; and finally £3,026 for Crichton

¹ Every application goes through an eligibility check, due diligence, and an assessment process by Foundation Scotland. This also involves discussion with the applicant. Based on this a written report is prepared. All the reports are reviewed within Foundation Scotland at a senior level to ensure quality and consistency and they are then provided to the Trustees well in advance of the meeting to enable the Trustees to make decisions. Trustees are given the opportunity to raise points of clarification in advance of the meeting to ensure they have sufficient information in order to make decisions at the meeting.

Carbon Centre to promote 'Biosphere Explorers' resource packs that will help increase local primary school pupils understanding of climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.

On this crucial issue of climate change, the trustees were also pleased in this first round of fund where larger and multi-year grants were available, to make an award of £45,000 over three years to the Galloway Fisheries Trust, to contribute to a project delivering tree planting around streams in the upper Urr area. The project aims to protect waterways from the impact of rising temperatures, enabling habitats to remain viable for instream species through shading, helping to maintain good water quality, as well as preventing erosion and encouraging biodiversity by helping to connect fragmented landscapes by acting as wildlife corridors. This project builds on the first phase which the fund also supported.

Once again trustees were pleased to see that the priorities identified in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan (CAP) published in 2020 are now starting to come to fruition in the shape of developed projects which are being taken forward by a range of local community organisations. To enable the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust to continue their role in relation to the CAP they received an award of £25,000.

A table setting out the decisions made is attached.

Decisions made outwith the Board meeting cycle:

On the 11th October Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service was awarded £34,922.00 over two years to fund salary and promotional costs to establish a one day a week outreach Citizens' Advice service in the Glenkens, improving access to generalist welfare and debt advice in the context of the cost of living crisis.

Some press coverage related to this can be seen here:

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/local-news/glenkens-residents-benefit-dumfries-galloway-28332115>

<https://www.dgwgo.com/community-focus/bringing-the-citizens-advice-service-to-the-glenkens/>

On 30th September Moniaive Playcare was awarded £14,713.58 to contribute to the increased renovation costs of the community-owned early years childcare facility in the village.

Areas of focus over the next quarter

We will continue work with Foundation Scotland to take forward the work on the development pipeline.

Continue to inform and build relationships with developers.

We are planning to have our AGM on 24 January 2023 in the Smiddy, Balmaclellan.

We want to encourage new applications for Associate Membership to widen our membership base and will also be encouraging applications to the three current vacancies for independent Trustees.

Table of Awards

Organisation Name	Purpose of Grant	Awarded amount
Galloway Fisheries Trust - FR-0064971	Towards costs over three years associated with a climate resilience project involving tree planting around streams in the upper Urr area, providing increased shelter which will protect waterways and fish from rising temperatures.	£45,000.00
Crichton Carbon Centre - FR-0065203	To promote Biosphere Explorers resource packs that will help increase primary school pupils' understanding of climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.	£3,026.00
Balmaclellan Community Council - FR-0065213	To contribute towards the restoration of the Old Mortality sculpture by John Currie, thereby preserving local heritage and an important local landmark for future appreciation.	£9,349.20
Galloway Community Transport - FR-0065294	To contribute to staff costs for an administrator role for the next two years, to support GCT's ongoing work and future developments.	£25,000.00
Glenkens Community and Arts Trust - FR-0065307	To contribute to the salary of the Executive Manager supporting the successful delivery of GCAT's operations and the implementation of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan.	£25,000.00
Springholm School (Parent) Council - FR-0065326	To deliver three ranger led outdoor education sessions to give local school children an exciting, fun experience and equip them with skills for a lifetime respecting the natural world.	£1,310.40
Crossmichael and Parton Playgroup Nursery - FR-0065442	To hire a minibus once a month, to enable the children to explore their local area and natural environment.	£1,000.00
Scottish Childminding Association - FR-0065490	To recruit, train and support five new childminders, thereby increasing local childminding provision and early learning and employment options for local families.	£12,965.93
Springholm Playgroup - FR-0065501	To purchase a laptop to assist in an outdoor education project on the natural materials and the natural environment.	£350.00
Glenkens Community and Arts Trust - FR-0065511	To engage a freelance worker to conduct a study on the feasibility of steps highlighted by recent pro bono consultancy work, which aimed to help GCAT maximise earned income.	£3,360.00
		£126,361.53