



The Glenkens & District Trust

SC042489

Report from meetings of Trustees -November 2020

We welcomed Gavin Creaney as a Trustee appointed by Dunscore Community Council and thanked Allan Todd, who had recently resigned, for his hard work on behalf of GDT.

As reported, following our last meeting, a lot is going on as we move forward with the work of GDT and the focus of the November meeting was on the following areas.

Community Action Plan

We have now moved into an implementation phase. As a result of COVID-19 and other factors and variables, we felt, as previously reported, that there was a need for a 'set-up' year and are delighted, following an open tender process, that Community Enterprise were appointed to take forward this work. They will use the valuable experience they gained from working on the Community Action Plan and from working on community development with other rural communities right across Scotland. They are supplementing this by working with Sleeping Giants, a social business rooted in this area with extensive experience in community work.

The group of Trustees overseeing this process is having regular contact with Community Enterprise and Sleeping Giants to provide input and support. We are still looking for further people to join this group as we want this to be a mix of trustees and other people from the community so if you know of anyone who may be interested please ask them to get in touch.

The immediate focus of Community Enterprise is to move forward the priority items highlighted in the Community Action Plan. They have already had discussions with people and groups across the community and have Zooms arranged on a variety of topics to identify local groups/organisations who can deliver on these priorities. We agreed at our meeting to ring fence £20k from the Fund to facilitate the development of these projects by local organisations. Approval of any payment towards these projects will be subject to the usual scrutiny and in line with our Fund Strategy and agreed processes.

We are all working towards a Glenkens Summit in late February with the publication of an updated implementation plan after the work is completed.

Social Media

We now have a Facebook page and Twitter Account and are developing our plans to make more use of them. Over time we want to use this as a means to let people know what we are up to as well as to demonstrate the great projects and work that funding from Blackcraig has enabled. We will also provide regular updates on how the work on the Community Action Plan is progressing.

Funding Round

While, as reported in our last update, the Fund is still open for 'urgent funding', we discussed when it would be appropriate to open the Blackcraig Fund to another open funding round. We decided that we would open a funding round in early February with a deadline for applications of late March with decisions in early June.

In early January we will carry out a review of our Fund Strategy to address issues highlighted by the work on the Community Action Plan as well as learning from the last two funding rounds so that this is all available and updated for the opening of the Fund. We will also set out the amount of funds available during the award process. We currently have around £108k unallocated in the fund and available for distribution and we anticipate a further payment of the annual amount from Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd in late May 2020.

Constitution and Governance

Following approval by the Scottish Charity Regulator to the proposed changes we are now moving forward to get approval from our Members (the Community Councils) to the new Constitution. We hope to achieve this at our Annual General Meeting on 9 December.

Subject to obtaining that approval we will, early next year, move forward with the work to invite individuals and organisation across the area to become Associate Members. We are currently working up the application form etc and will be looking to invite people to join in early 2021.

We will also be looking to appoint further Trustees to work with the current Trustees appointed by the Community Councils. Over the next few weeks we will be identifying what skills we need and asking people to express an interest in becoming a Trustee.

We also considered in some detail the work required to meet our strategic objectives and to ensure we fulfil all our legal and regulatory requirements and were well governed. We are developing our plans to address these and to ensure we have the appropriate support going forward to achieve these.

Potential further developments

We continue to engage with wind farm developers and are careful to ensure we only discuss their approach to Community Benefit Payments, in the event of their projects proceeding. We do not discuss the merits or otherwise of the developments as this is a matter for the Community Councils. We have had discussions with Vattenfall, Energie Kontor and Falke Energy over the last few weeks with a particular focus on presenting the Community Action Plan to them to demonstrate the ambition of this community.

Awards and Extensions

We have granted 12-month extensions to Local Initiatives in New Galloway and to Springholm Parent Council in respect of awards made in the first funding round. Both organisations have been delayed in taking their projects forward

We awarded

- £3 402.50 to Glenkens Community and Arts Trust Ltd as a contribution to the cost of the purchase and installation of battery storage to improve the efficiency of the existing solar PV panels at the Men's Shed in Balmaclellan.
- £1 500 to New Galloway Community Enterprises to contribute to the costs of developing and delivering a live streamed online Glenkens Hogmanay Celebration.

These applications were considered 'out of cycle' - the Fund strategy gives GDT the flexibility to respond to urgent funding needs outwith the set grant making fund cycle and deadlines. For more information, please see

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/blackcraig/>