



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting of Trustees – November 2021

The focus of the November meeting was on the following areas:

Event on 6 November

We discussed the event on 6 November in Dalry Town Hall. The aim of the event was to share learning and celebrate the work supported by the Fund to date and to provide support for potential applicants in the current open funding round. **Remember the closing date for applications in this current round is 10 January 2022.**

We also launched a new report providing an update on how the Fund has been used in its first two years of grant-making, which you can view at <https://tinyurl.com/blackcraigat2> .

There were great stalls present representing funded projects - for example, the impressive range of energy efficiency measures installed at the Glenkens Men's Shed which have enabled reduced running costs, shared energy supply and a reduced carbon footprint; the Loch Ken Trust, who received an award to help pilot the incredibly successful Ranger's post, which helps protect and promote our community's natural heritage; the work led by Corsock Village Hall to survey the community owned assets in the area and their facilities and needs so that local halls and other facilities can join forces to optimise use of these buildings; Propagate CIC came along with their recent [report](#) which proposes food education, a hyper local supply chain for local produce and a community farm as vital next steps to having a more joined up local food system and increased local food production. Dalry Town Hall Committee showcased their funded film 'The Glenkens Rising' which was commissioned to promote our local heritage and help attract visitors interested in Covenanted history into the Town Hall and the village's facilities. GCAT projects Ken Words & the Glenkens Gazette highlighted the value of connected communities and some of the innovative ways these connections are being made and supported locally.

We were also lucky to have support organisations on hand whose role is to help people build ideas into projects, and projects into successes - such as Community Land Scotland, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, Home Energy Scotland, the Moniaive Initiative, GCAT and South of Scotland Community Housing. Suzy Mercer from Foundation Scotland was also there and able to assist potential applicants considering applying to our current funding round.

The consensus was that it was a very valuable event and that the networking and opportunity to discuss ideas was very useful. We will take the learning from this forward into future events.

Community Action Planning

Now that Helen Keron has been appointed as the Executive Manager in Glenkens Community & Arts Trust Ltd we are working with her and Community Enterprise to transition the leadership on the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan to GCAT. This is taking forward the position reported from our previous meetings.

Douglas Westwater has produced a Report pulling together the results of the projects awarded funding during the set-up phase and this will be used to support the transition and also to inform how the CAP will evolve. The CAP Steering Group will oversee this process, working with GCAT.

We have now commissioned South of Scotland Community Housing to do a Housing Needs and Demands Assessment (HNDA) which was a short-term priority in the CAP.

This process will include gathering the views of local community members, as well as employers, other stakeholders and where possible, people who have sought to move into the area but not been able.

The first step to SOSCH compiling this high-level report will be an survey of people's views on what the local housing needs picture looks like, which requires as many people as possible to take part.

Could you please encourage people to fill in the questionnaire and here are **four good reasons why they should take part** in the online survey:

1. Lots of people have an informed view that this is an important local issue – but creating change takes **evidence** and gathering all those views together
2. An HNDA is the **key that unlocks the door** to strategic and funding support for community led housing initiatives – without one, no local project will be able to kick-start any serious action
3. This HNDA will cover all 10 communities covered by the GDT area of operation – **the more people take part, the more meaningful the data will be** and the more chance there is of good data when chunked up by community – so if Dalry or Crossmichael or Carsphairn wanted to use the HNDA to start its own housing project, you need lots of people from those communities to have taken part in the research.
4. It will also **inform important local organisations** such as the Pamela Young Trust to shape their response to the evolving housing need in our area, within the boundaries of their specific purpose.

Finally, the COVID Learning Report has also been finalised and feedback sessions held with Ward Officers, Locality Hubs and Community Councils. The Report has been well received and a means to take forward the suggested actions is under consideration.

The COVID Learning Report together with Reports from the other projects (Childcare, Assets, Communications and Food) funded during the CAP set-up phase can be seen on our website at this link <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/community-action-plan>

Fund Statement and Grant Making Report

We reviewed the Fund Statement prepared by Foundation Scotland to inform us on the monies received, awarded, repaid and therefore available for new awards. We are still projecting around £108,000 being available for the next funding round.

We also reviewed the detailed Grant Making Report prepared by Foundation Scotland. The focus on these discussions was to assure ourselves that the monies had been used in accordance with the award, so we reviewed the status of the completion reports and discussed the reasons for any delays in drawdown or completion of the works funded by the awards.

It is important that we satisfy ourselves on the use of the monies as well as identify where there are any issues. As we become more mature and have more data available on the impact of the Fund, we are also planning some additional work with Foundation Scotland to give further reporting on the impact by utilising the data we receive in the applications and completion reports. This is reflected in some changes to the application form which will support this work.

Governance Issues

We approved the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021 and these will now be filed with OSCR. We have decided to hold the AGM on 18 January 2022. The hope is that we will be able to have an in-person event - but we will make that decision in early January when we send out the formal Notice of AGM to Members and Associate Members.

We also approved a Procurement Policy covering both purchases made directly by GDT and also commissions from the Fund. This is available on our web site at <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/gdt-corporate-information>

New Trustees

We welcomed Matthew Shedden, our new Independent Trustee, as well as the new Trustee nominated by New Galloway and Kells Parish Community Council, John McGaw, to their first meeting. We also thanked Ros Hill for her contribution as the previous New Galloway nominee.

Potential further developments

We continue to engage with wind farm developers with plans in our area. Attached is an updated summary of the pipeline setting out estimated timelines etc.

We are at the early stages of the internal development work we reported on at our last meeting which aims to ensure effective management of any pipeline funds to maximise the benefit to our communities.

Awards and Commissions

No new awards have been made since the last report. We have commissioned South of Scotland Community Housing to do the Housing Needs and Demands Assessment as set out above at a cost of £5k.

Areas of focus over the next quarter

As highlighted above we plan to do some detailed work to progress how we address the potential pipeline of community benefit payments, and we will be seeking input on these in due course.

On the CAP we anticipate that time will be spent discussing and agreeing future Community Action Plan arrangements with GCAT.

In March 2022 we will hold decision-making meetings in relation to the next funding round that closes for applications on 10 January 2022

Pipeline of possible wind farms

2022	Statkraft (>Greencoat)	Windy Rig
2023	Falck	Mochrum Fell
2024	Fred Olsen Renewables Red Rock Power Ltd	Windy Standard 3 Benbrack
2025	EDF	Troston Loch
2026	Energie Kontor	Glenshimmeroch Margree Cornharrow Fell Garcrogo
2027	Vattenfall	Quantans Hill Whiteneuk

2022 Statkraft

Site: Windy Rig

Capacity: 48 MW

Community Benefit: £216k pa (across 9 Community Council areas)

Current Consent Status: All consented and construction nearly complete

Estimated commissioning date: October 2021 (Payments start 6 months later)

2023 Falck

Site: Mochrum Fell

Capacity: 29.4MW

Community Benefit: £147K pa

Current consent status: Falck Renewables lodged an Appeal for Non-Determination to the Planning & Environmental Appeals Division of the Scottish Government in relation to the Mochrum Fell Wind Farm. The planning application comprises 7 x 149.9 m tip turbines, access tracks, borrow pits, substation, anemometry mast and is approximately 4 km north of Parton near Castle Douglas. Following submission of the planning application for Mochrum Fell to Dumfries & Galloway Council in October 2020, the project application had not been determined to date and therefore Falck lodged an Appeal for Non-Determination on 20th July to secure greater certainty on the timetable for a decision. The application will now be determined by the Scottish Government's Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA). No timescale has been issued for the appeal however based on previous appeal timelines they would hope it would be determined by either the end of this year or start of next.

Estimated commissioning date (if approved) : Earliest would be summer 2023 but this is dependent on getting consent to enable construction to start next summer. There is a 12- month construction period.

2024 Fred Olsen Renewables

Site: Windy Standard 3

Capacity: 67.5MW

Community Benefit: In line with Good Practice

Current Consent Status: Consent granted 23 March 2021

Estimated commissioning date: 2024

2024 Red Rock Power

Site : Benbrack

Capacity: 72 MW

Community Benefit: In line with Good Practice

Current Consent Status: s36 Consent granted in 2017 but varied since

Estimated commissioning date: 2024

2025 EDF Renewables

Site: Troston Loch

Capacity: 67.2MW

Community Benefit: £336k pa

Current Consent Status: S.36 consent granted in December 2020.

They're still working with other developers in approaching a joint access route to sites and are looking to bid the project into the upcoming CFD auction, which has been pushed back to early 2022. Until these are clarified they will not be deciding on the project.

Estimated commissioning date (if it proceeds): Earliest date is October 2025

2026 Energie Kontor

Site: Glenshimmeroch

Capacity: 36MW

Community Benefit: £180k pa

Current consent status: Consent granted after Appeal but amendments being sought to blade sizes from D&G Council. They needed to submit a new planning application for this. This variation application has been appealed and is currently being considered by the DPEA. They anticipate a decision by the end of 2021.

Estimated commissioning date (if approved): 2026

Site: Margree

Capacity: Up to 50MW

Community Benefit: In line with good practice. The Good Practice Guidance from the Scottish Government would say that this is therefore up to £250k pa.

Current consent status: The planning application to D& G Council was validated on 4 February 2021 and EK have appealed to the Scottish Government for non-determination by the Council within the statutory 16-week period from application. They anticipate a decision in early 2022 but possibly by the end of the year.

Estimated commissioning date (if approved):2026

Site: Cornharrow

Capacity: 38.4MW

Community Benefit: £192k pa

Current consent status: Original application refused Sept 2019. EK applied for revised wind farm which validated 19 February 2020.

EK appealed to the Scottish Government as a result of the non-determination by the Council within the statutory 16-week period from application and this was approved on appeal in June 2021. EK has very recently submitted a further application to increase the heights of the turbines from 150m to 180m and remove the most contentious turbine, making it a 7 turbine project.

Estimated commissioning date (if approved): 2026

Site: Fell Farm

Capacity: Up to 50 MW

Community Benefit: In line with good practice. The Good Practice Guidance from the Scottish Government would say that this is therefore up to £250k pa.

Current consent status: This was approved on appeal for 35 years , subject to conditions, on 2 November 2021

Estimated commissioning date (if approved): 2026

Site: Garcrogo

Capacity: Up to 50 MW

Community Benefit: In line with good practice. The Good Practice Guidance from the Scottish Government would say that this is therefore up to £250k pa.

Current consent status: The planning application was submitted to Dumfries and Galloway Council on 22 February 2021 and validated on 24 March 2021. They have recently submitted an appeal for non-determination and have stated that a decision is likely towards the end of Q1/early Q2 in 2022.

Estimated commissioning date (if approved): 2026

2027 Vattenfall

Site: Quantans Hill

Capacity: They have indicated they are reducing the turbines from 21 to 14 but we still await information on the new MW of the site.

Community Benefit: In line with Good Practice.

Current Consent Status: They are finalising their application for s 36 consent to the Consent Unit at the Scottish Government

Estimated commissioning date (if approved): 2027

Site: Whiteneuk

Capacity: They have indicated that they are reducing the number of turbines from 35 to 27 and information on the new MW is still awaited

Community Benefit: In line with Good Practice

Current Consent Status: They are finalising their application for s 36 consent to the Consent Unit at the Scottish Government

Estimated commissioning date (if approved) ;2027