

Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund



Year 4 Fund Report: 1st June 2022 to 31st May 2023



1 Introduction

The Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund is provided by Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd, owner of the 23-turbine 52.9MW Blackcraig wind farm. It was established in 2019 to benefit the residents of ten Community Council areas, eight in the geographic area surrounding Loch Ken in the northern part of the Stewartry, Dumfries and Galloway, known as the Glenkens, including: Balmaclellan, Balmaghie, Carsphairn, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael & District, Dalry, The Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Parish and Parton, and two Community Council areas bordering on the Glenkens in the adjacent area of Nithsdale; Dunscore and Glencairn.

The Fund is based on the Scottish Government's recommended good practice level of £5,000 per MW, resulting in an annual fund of £264,500, non index linked.

Foundation Scotland provides governance and administrative support to the Fund, under contract to Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd. The costs for this service are shared by the wind farm owner and as a direct cost from the Fund capped at 5% of the annual Fund value.

The decision-making body for the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund is the Glenkens & District Trust (GDT). The Board of Trustees is chaired by an independent Chair and currently comprises ten Trustees - two Independent Trustees and eight drawn from all of the benefitting community council areas except Carsphairn and Glencairn. These two community councils have opted not to join as GDT members at the current time.

This report provides a record of the fourth year of the Fund's operation and covers the period of 1st June 2022 up until 31st May 2023.

2 Fund Governance

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. Foundation Scotland, with its extensive charitable fund management expertise, established and administers the Fund, with GDT bringing deep knowledge and understanding of the area and a clear commitment to ensuring maximum benefit for the local communities. The respective roles and responsibilities of Foundation Scotland and GDT, in relation to the Fund, are outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed in June 2019.

GDT consolidated its governance arrangements during 2020-2021 and these have been operating successfully in the past year. There are currently two independent Trustees to the Board, and fifteen Associate Members. Independent trusteeship enables GDT to recruit Trustees from a wider pool, and with specific skills or experience in mind. Associate membership ensures GDT is accessible to the wider community without individuals or groups having to be community councillors, trustees or grantees - this reflects GDT's aim to be open and accountable and to support a sense of community ownership of the valuable resource that community benefit monies represents.

Throughout this fourth year the GDT and Foundation Scotland have continued to keep the communities of Carsphairn and Moniaive (Glencairn Community Council area) updated with its work, press releases have gone out to local newspapers in Moniaive, and Foundation Scotland staff have continued to work to foster good relationships with key local anchor organisations, such as Moniaive Initiative and Carsphairn Community Council and Community Trust.

3 Fund Strategy

As indicated in our previous report, the fund strategy was reviewed during the year 2022-2023. There have been no changes to the fund priorities, which mirror local communities' action plans as per the guidance in the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Developments.

The Fund priorities are:

Priority 1: A Connected Community

This will support 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 will support 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 will support activity which maximizes 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 will support 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.

While there have been no changes in **what** the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund supports, there have been two important changes to **how** the fund supports these priorities and this is reflected in the latest iteration of the Fund strategy.

The first change to process is the introduction of multi-year awards of up to three years. The Trustees hope that through providing multi-year awards it can provide a level of stability to projects, particularly where staff costs are involved. It is also hoped that, through multi-year awards, projects will be able to leverage greater sums into the community by demonstrating local confidence in and support for key local organisations to national bodies and funders. This was enabled by the Agreement held between Blackcraig Windfarm (Scotland) Ltd and Foundation Scotland being put on to a longer term footing than the previous year to year arrangement.

With this longer term arrangement, the Fund was also able to plan further ahead, setting up two rounds of funding per year and advertising those dates in advance, giving potential applicants greater ability to develop their funding strategies.

An exercise was also undertaken to understand how existing grantees were being impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and whether there was any risk of funded projects not completing due to rising costs. The majority of funded projects reported minimal impacts on their projects with one exception, which then led to an out of cycle funding enquiry (see below

for more information.) Given the results of this exercise the Trustees made no amendments to the Fund strategy relating to inflation. It did however clarify that the Fund will support core costs and included clearer information about expectations around demonstrating need and how sums were calculated.

The second significant change in how funds are distributed was through the introduction of the Glenkens & District Education and Training Fund - The overall outcome sought is to improve access to opportunity and to improve livelihoods. In the context of this Fund, this is primarily through enabling people to access skills needed to enter into or retain employment.

The Fund Strategy also maintains the distribution mechanism of targeted awards and commissioning to support best possible outcomes for the communities served. In this Fund year, this type of distribution was not used, however the option has been maintained for future years.

4 Making a Difference

During assessment, applications are aligned to the existing Fund priorities and additional criteria. This helps Foundation Scotland to monitor the extent to which the Fund is meeting the needs of the community as reflected in the Fund Strategy. The table below shows alignment of awards to the primary Fund Priority they are contributing to.

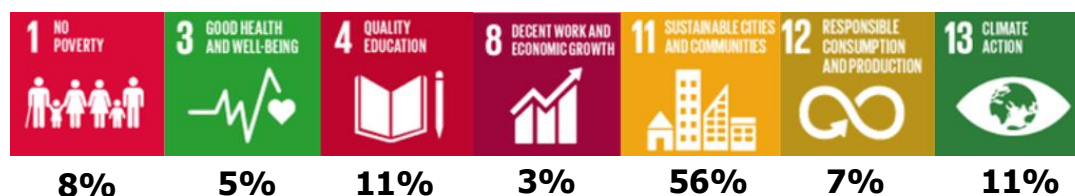
In the application, applicants are asked to identify which priority the project addresses. Where multiple priorities are described, Foundation Scotland allocates a primary priority. The Community Council small grant awards account for 10 of the Connected Community awards. Education and Training awards have been included for completeness and attributed to the strand "An economically flourishing community". This is the reason for the significant increase in the number of applications within this theme.

Fund Priority	No. of awards	Amount awarded	% of Total Awarded Sum
Priority 1: A Connected Community	7	£66,276.20	15.0%
Priority 2: An Asset Rich Community	17	£184,206.98	41.8%
Priority 3: An Economically Flourishing Community	30	£160,623.20	36.5%
Priority 4: A Carbon Neutral Community	2	£29,560.00	6.7%

Sustainable Development Goals

During the report period Foundation Scotland extended its impact reporting to align awards with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs are the internationally recognised approach to gauging and guiding progress towards a more sustainable future. By aligning with both a national and global agenda, Foundation Scotland hopes to drive more urgency, relevance and connection in our work – both internally between colleagues and Trustees and externally amongst stakeholders.

Like most Community Benefit funds the majority of grants fall within “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, but grants this year have met a number of Goals.



End of Grant Reporting

At the time of compiling this report, only five projects funded via the Community Fund and one Community Council in Year 4 had reported back on what their grant had helped them achieve. Community Councils will typically report on how their previous grant has been used as part of the process for accessing the next year’s instalment which creates a lag on the provision of information. Grantholders report at the end of the grant term which for standard grants is 12 months. The table below for Community Fund Awards reflects End of Grant reports received within the reporting period but awarded in previous fund years.

Organisation	Awards	Purpose of Grant	Achievements & Outcomes
Community Council Awards			
The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Community Council	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	<p>Dragon Boats on Loch Ken £500.00 towards flooring and roof repairs to our horsebox which is used for storage of paddles; buoyancy aids; drums; dragon heads; ropes.</p> <p>LING £300 for additional Christmas lights for the Burgh and towards the cost of gifts for the children.</p>

Community Fund Awards				
Organisation	Awards	Awarded Date	Purpose of Grant	Achievements & Outcomes
Local Initiatives in New Galloway	£25,000.00	21/10/2019	To contribute to the costs of installing a lift in New Galloway Town Hall.	The asset transfer for the building was significantly delayed due to the discovery of dry rot on the premises which was luckily caught before the transfer was

(LING) (A521490)				completed. The lift has been installed and, while larger renovation works are still ongoing, the applicant reports a lot of anticipation around the improved accessibility, with several members of the community specifically enquiring about the lift.
Auld Alliance Twinning Association (A522617)	£600.00	21/10/2019	To pay for coach hire costs to support a visit from 40 French guests to mark the 25th anniversary celebrations of a twinning arrangement.	Despite having to be rescheduled due to Covid, the visit and Ceilidh eventually took place in August 2022. 48 individuals took part in the trip, including hosts, French visitors, and two additional Ukrainian refugees. Between 80-90 individuals attended the anniversary Ceilidh.
Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited (A629515)	£11,840.00	09/03/2022	To create an activity programme throughout 2022 for the Glenkens community.	The Connecting in Communities (CiC) team interacted with over 400 individuals during June 2022 – March 2023. The total reach including repeat persons was approximately 1,300. The team were keen to engage with people that had not engaged with the project previously. There was a drive to reach minority groups, including the LGBT community, those with disabilities, those who had become isolated through the Covid 19 pandemic and those recently moved to the community. Activities included : Music and Arts workshops, Yoga, Tai Chi, Photography, LGBT Café, Menopause network, walking group and many other activities.
Crossmichael Memorial Parish Hall (A594699)	£17,515.00	07/09/2021	To contribute to the costs of improving drainage around the Hall, in order to prevent further water damage to the new floor and keep the Hall in use.	See Case Study 2
Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited (A644800)	£5,000.00	26/04/2022	To contribute to the salary costs of a key staff post with responsibility for community development strategy within the organisation.	The strategy is in its final draft stage having been submitted to GCAT Board for endorsement at their May Board meeting. It will then be a key contributor to the GCAT Board's 'Strategy Day' in June, where the Board will determine the strategic focus of the organisation for the coming 5 years. It represents an important insight into the direction of travel for GCAT in 2023 onwards, and taking it together with our learnings from 2022 / 23 about CAP delivery, we will be able to formulate a holistic plan for our role in the community development of the Glenkens with some confidence.

Making A Difference - Case Studies



Image: Loch Ken Trust staff delivering an education session for local young people

Priority 1

A Connected Community

Organisation funded:

Loch Ken Trust

Purpose of Award:

To contribute towards the salary costs of a 20-hours per week permanent ranger post in the Loch Ken Community Ranger Service for 3 years.

Award: £ 60,000

Loch Ken Trust promotes the natural, cultural and recreational assets of the Loch Ken area. Historically, the area was supported by a dedicated Ranger Service provided by Dumfries and Galloway Council, but this service was cut in 2019. With the loss of this service Loch Ken Trust began to receive increasing complaints of noise, littering, fouling, and damage to the Loch's environment, which only intensified during 2020.

In April 2021, using match funding from Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund, Loch Ken Trust were able to launch the Loch Ken Ranger Service, one of the very first community-led Ranger Services in Scotland.

In 2022 the service responded to more than 1,000 incidents including fly-tipping, wildlife crime and dirty camping, although the Ranger's work goes beyond just mitigating short-term harms - they see their role as "Looking after today, for the sake of tomorrow". The Ranger has been working to repair and revive paths and walkways to improve access around the loch, and has been delivering a range of education sessions, both in partnership with schools and for the wider community.

In recognition of the unique and vital service the Loch Ken Ranger is providing for the community, Glenkens District Trust recently chose to make its most significant award to date - £60,000 over three years, to continue the post. Early funding provided Loch Ken Trust the ability to demonstrate the impact of the Ranger's role and this new period of funding will provide stability to the staff role going forward and potentially a base for work to grow even further. In response to the award, Mungo Bryson, Chair of Loch Ken Trust, said:

"Loch Ken Trust is absolutely delighted to receive such a strong show of support from the Glenkens community and the Blackcraig Windfarm Community Fund...From this firm foundation, we will be looking to develop Loch Ken Ranger Service over the next three years into a service that we can all be proud of."



Image: Crossmichael Memorial Parish Hall before works to improve exterior (Left) and after (Right)

Priority 2

An Asset Rich Community

Organisation funded:

Crossmichael Memorial Parish Hall

Purpose of Award:

To contribute to the costs of improving drainage around the Hall, in order to prevent further water damage to the new floor and keeping the Hall in use.

Award: £28,015 (Total)

In many rural areas the local hall is the beating heart of the community - Crossmichael Memorial Parish Hall is one such hall, providing space for a regular youth club, youth theatre group, various fitness and dance groups, as well as regular dances, gala days, coffee mornings, and an annual flower show. Over an average year, the hall committee advises that between 70-80% of the district's 721-strong population will attend at least one activity at the hall.

Like many community halls, activity entirely stopped during Covid. It was only upon returning to the hall in late December 2020 that the committee discovered slippage of the banking at the rear had resulted in significant water ingress, damaging the flooring which had only been renewed 14 months previously (also through a grant from the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund). While insurance would cover the repairs to the floor, funds were requested for necessary works to improve the drainage both to the rear and front of the building, preventing further damage.

Unfortunately, it became apparent during the work to install the drainage that further, urgent work would be required to secure the banking itself. Utilising the Out of Cycle process, the Glenkens and District Trust were able to respond quickly to this need, awarding a further £10,500 for the construction of a retaining wall consisting of steel gabion baskets filled with reclaimed dyking stone which stabilised the banking.

As a volunteer-run community hall with a small rural population, there is no way that Crossmichael Memorial Parish Hall could have met these additional costs from earned income. The flexibility afforded by the Out of Cycle process meant the board was able to respond quickly to support the grant holder at a difficult period, and safeguard previous grant investment in the hall but the decision was not taken lightly - Trustees took steps to ensure that any learning was incorporated in how GDT approached future capital awards.

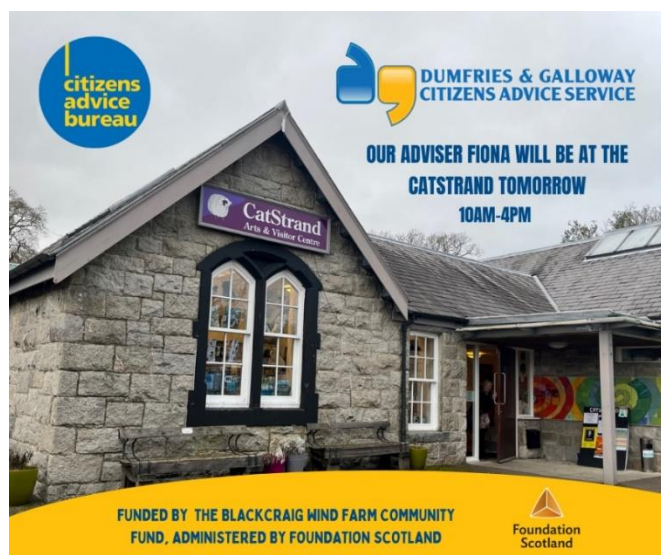


Image: D&GCAS Promotion of Glenkens area service

As the full impact of inflationary pressures became clear, there were growing concerns around how those who may be at risk of falling into hardship might struggle to find support. Given the particular remoteness of the Glenkens region, in-person advice services are hard to access, and in October of 2022 the closest weekly Citizens Advice Outreach service was located in Castle Douglas. This would require a round-trip journey of between 30 to 50 miles, depending on where in the region a client lived.

The Glenkens and District Trust had been discussing an optimal approach to addressing the cost of living crisis. It was aware that hardship funds had been established by various funders, but felt that the Trust was constrained by a relatively limited funding pot in relation to population size and wished to ensure that ongoing community demand on the Fund could continue to be met. Further, there was a view that hardship funds were 'downstream' in their approach to resolving financial hardship. GDT agreed to provide targeted funding to a body who could provide specialist support and advice. Foundation Scotland brokered a conversation with the local Citizens Advice Bureau about service provision in the area. Dumfries and Galloway Citizen's Advice (D&GCAS) had recently undertaken demand analysis in the area that provided a strong evidence base for demonstrating local unmet need. This led to a targeted award.

The grant will enable D&GCAS to provide a face-to-face outreach clinic once a week for the next two years at community venues in the Glenkens, providing generalist welfare and debt advice and signposting to other sources of help and support. In addition, D&GCAS will promote the outreach service through an active programme of community engagement that will ensure people know about the service and are able to use it. In receiving this award Phil Stewart, CEO of D&GCAS, said:

"Our objective in growing our service reach into the Glenkens is to ensure that no-one is left behind when it comes to accessing the advice, support and assistance that they need during these very challenging times. This valuable piece of funding from Glenkens & District Trust will enable us to deliver a service where and when it is needed to the benefit of the community."

Priority 3

An Economically Flourishing Community

Organisation funded:

Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service

Purpose of Award:

To fund salary and promotional costs to provide a weekly outreach Advice service in the Glenkens, improving access to generalist welfare and debt advice in the context of the cost of living crisis.

Sum: £34,912 over 2 years



Image: GCT minibus

Priority 4

A Carbon Neutral Community

Organisation funded:

Galloway Community Transport

Purpose of Award:

To contribute to staff costs for an Administrator role for the next two years, to support GCT's ongoing work and future developments.

Award: £25,000

Started in 2001 as Glenkens Transport Initiative and re-named in 2019 as Galloway Community Transport, GCT is a subsidiary SCIO of Glenkens Community & Arts Trust that whose services include a community bus service, demand responsive transport, group transport hire (self-hire or driver provided), patient transport service, school transport, weekly shopping services to Castle Douglas and Newton Stewart, and excursions to places of interest. The group also manages an e-car and e-bike hire service. On average, between 500 and 600 people benefit from GCT transport services each month. GCT also provides volunteering opportunities and paid casual employment to between 20 and 30 people, as well as permanent part-time employment for two staff.

The services GCT provide, in providing accessible alternatives to car journeys, are key to moving towards a more carbon neutral community, but following an Energy Savings Trust Fleet Review GCT is working to go the extra mile to reduce its carbon footprint. They have expanded their fleet to include a wheelchair accessible electric car, e-bikes, and a new electric minibus. Through this two-year grant, securing the future of the Administrator post GCT will be able to increase its work with local partnerships, increase knowledge and skills in carbon neutral transport solutions, secure funding for future projects, and transition towards a zero emissions fleet.

Talking about the impact of the grant, the GCT Manager said:

"Thanks to the funding from Blackcraig, we have been able to employ our Administrator, Sue, who deals with much of the day to day running of GCT's operations. This includes handling all the patient transport requests and many of the membership bookings. These bookings have enabled children and adults in the Glenkens to get to various events and undertake lots of exciting activities! Sue has also helped produce a funding bid to help us procure a new low-emission diesel bus (decision pending) which we hope will further enable GCT to become carbon neutral in the very near future."

Case Study: Education and Training Sub Fund

Due to the Sub Fund only being established in-year, only three end of grant reports have been completed, but already the feedback received is incredibly positive. Below is an extract from one of the recent End of Grant reports.

"I requested funding to cover travel expenses whilst I undertook a Return to Practice nursing course with Glasgow Caledonian University. This was because having worked in third sector and social care services since I originally graduated 10 years ago, I had let my nursing registration lapse as I hadn't required it. I decided that now as my children were older I would like to pursue my original plan to work within the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS).

The return to practice course at Caledonian University arranged for me to do my required 450 practice hours in a mixture of CAMHS in Dumfries and Ward C4 in Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary. As a single mum, with no other means of income, the drop in wages I needed to take in order to complete this training was significant and was jeopardising my ability to undertake the course. However the funding I received via Foundation Scotland meant the heavy burden of travel expenses throughout the course was significantly alleviated enough that it meant I could afford to do it.

I am now delighted to say I completed all the required academic and practice elements of the course and have re-registered as a mental health nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. I was also, subsequently offered, a full time position within the CAMHS team which I started at the end of February. I could not have done this without the kind financial assistance I received."

5 Fund Distribution

During this year the following arrangements for distributing money from the Fund applied:

1. An allocation to each Community Council for local distribution.
2. A Main Grants programme, with advertised funding rounds widely promoted across the Fund area (the 'Community Fund').
3. 'Out of Cycle' applications for urgent funding requests.
4. Education and Training Fund Awards, open to individuals on a rolling basis.

Total Awards in Year 3		
Community Council payments	10	£22,000.00
Community Fund Awards	18	£303,827.53 ¹
Out of Cycle Awards	5	£82,150.08
Commissions	1	£2,500
Education and Training Grants	22	£30,188.77
TOTAL	56	£440,666.38

A full list of awards made is provided in Appendix 1.

¹ This total includes 10 multi year awards, i.e. sums that will not be drawn down until future years. See Financial Overview for more information.

5.1 Community Council Awards

The total amount awarded to 10 Community Councils in this period was £22,000.

During Year 4, each Community Council received a direct 'small grant' payment from the Blackcraig Community Fund. The grant can be used at the discretion of the Community Council towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.

The project or projects may be run by the Community Council itself or any another local community organisation. In other cases a Community Council may invite applications from the community on a rolling basis or on identified closing dates.

Nine of the community councils received £2,000 and one, Balmaclellan, received £4,000 in recognition of the fact that the wind farm is sited in their Community Council area. The Community Councils are expected to report back on distribution of their 'local' funds in the interests of transparency and accountability, completion of these reports is required in order to release the following year's payment. Due to the timing of this process, at the time of writing only one of ten reports for the use of the 2022-2023 payments had been received. What is available is included at Section 6, Making A Difference. A full report on the Community Council payments 2021-2022 usage is included in Appendix 1 for completeness.

5.2 Main Grants Programme

In this reporting period, two rounds of funding were delivered, making 17 awards. A deferred application from a previous round was also awarded meaning a total awarded sum of £303,827.53 (2021-2022: £253,460.84)

Decisions on the Autumn 2022 round were discussed and approved in mid-November 2022. The GDT considered **12 applications in this round of funding**. Ten grants were awarded and two were rejected. GDT gave detailed feedback to each of the organisations where grants were not awarded, to provide advice for any future applications to the Fund.

The total amount awarded in the November 2022 round was £141,501.53.

Year 3 Funding Round November 2022	
Applications received	12
Awards made	10
Total amount awarded	£ 141,501.53
Total project costs for awarded grants	£ 208,775.49
Value of additional leveraged funding	£ 67,273.96
Average award value	£ 14,150.15

Decisions on the Spring 2023 round were discussed and approved in May 2023. The GDT considered **9 applications in this round of funding**. Of the 9 applications that were received, 7 grants were awarded, 1 was deferred and 1 rejected. GDT gave detailed feedback to each of the organisations where grants were not awarded, to provide advice for any future applications to the Fund.

The total amount awarded in the May 2023 round was £158,966.00.

Year 3 Funding Round May 2022	
Applications received	9
Awards made	7
Total amount awarded	£158,966.00
Total project costs for awarded grants	£363,173.00
Value of additional leveraged funding	£204,207.00
Average award value	£22,709.43

5.3 Out of Cycle Applications

Five awards were made in this category in Year 4 with a total value of £82,150.08 (2020-2021: £33,339.40)

The Fund Strategy allows for the availability of 'Out of Cycle' funding, to be considered at any point in the Fund cycle, where the project could be considered time-sensitive or deemed to be an emergency. Foundation Scotland uses an enquiry process to ensure potential applicants do not spend disproportionate time developing full applications that the Trustees might not consider a fit for the urgent funding criteria.

In this funding period, five enquiries were received outwith a funding round under the 'urgent fund criteria' and were awarded. One was related to supporting a key capital project with the inflation in materials and unanticipated essential work (£14,713.58). A second grant of £6,727.50 secured staff costs for a key local organisation after their own funds had to be redeployed to meet unexpected costs related to flooding, while a third (£5,821) offered a bridging grant to ensure a valued project did not need to cease activity while it awaited the outcome of a subsequent application.

The two remaining grants were not responding to emergency need but allowed the GDT board to respond quickly where opportunities to invest in work that both met the needs of the community and progressed the objectives of the Community Action Plan arose. The first grant of £19,976 created the role of Community Spaces Network Facilitator for two years, to support groups and volunteers involved in managing community spaces to work together and share learning. This post built on the findings of a piece of work previously

funded by Blackcraig and closely linked to the Community Action Plan priorities. The second grant of £34,912 supported face-to-face outreach clinics delivered by Dumfries and Galloway Citizens' Advice Service - further information on this is in section six below.

Overall, the Out of Cycle process is felt to be a successful use of the flexibility offered by the Fund Strategy in meeting urgent funding requests and also builds goodwill in terms of the community's perception of the Fund as a locally responsive and enabling funder, however it is notable that this process makes a significant and increasing financial demand on the Fund; Trustees intend to review this process in the 2023-2024 fund year.

5.4 Education and Training Grants

Twenty-Two awards were made under this heading, with a total value of £30,188.77

In 2022, GDT introduced an Education and Training Fund to the Fund structure - initially providing a budget of £20,000 from Blackcraig funds to support this. In future years this fund may be contributed to by other donors.

The Education and Training Fund aims to improve access to opportunity and to improve livelihoods. In the context of this Fund, this is primarily through enabling people to access skills needed to enter into or retain employment. A wide range of costs are eligible for support, such as travel, equipment, childcare, accommodation, and direct course fees. Awards are capped at £1,000 per year for those enrolled in ongoing education at college or university, or through apprenticeships. Multi-year awards of up to three years can and have been made. The Fund operates on a rolling basis, with applications being submitted at any time for a decision advertised to be within six weeks, but often far quicker.

During the Fund Year, 26 applications were received, 22 were awarded, 1 was rejected, and 3 were withdrawn. The sole rejected application was unsuccessful because the training need identified emerged from an employer's desire to add responsibilities to an individual's job role - on balance it was considered the employer's responsibility to meet these costs. Of the three withdrawn applications, one had secured funding elsewhere, a second had decided not to continue studies. The third withdrawn application related to driving lessons - driving lessons can be supported within the fund "where the course is distant from your residence and public transport is not viable, or where you are seeking a driving qualification related to employment, such as contribution to HGV licence, construction cards or trailer test". Unfortunately following the application being submitted, the applicant was released from their apprenticeship, making the application ineligible.

6 Fund Promotion & PR

Ongoing fund promotion is important to ensure the community is aware of the opportunity to apply for Funds and the different routes by which this can be done, and to promote the positive impact of the awards made. **Routine fund promotion** was carried out in a number of ways:

- Physical posters promoting availability of Funds in each community
- Social Media posts about the availability of Funds and awards made on @glenkenstrust and @FoundationScotland
- Maintenance of the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund page on Foundation Scotland’s website
- Press Releases to all local media outlets on awards made, with pick-up in all outlets approached
- Articles placed in two local newsletters - the Glenkens Gazette and the Glencairn Gazette
- Via Glenkens & District Trust website

7 Financial Overview

Live financial details for both the Community Fund and the Education and Training Fund are now available through our donor [Portal](#)

The summary for the Community Fund for 1st June 2019 to 31st May 2023 is as follows: £1,058,000 has now been donated to the Community Fund, of which £20,000 has been transferred to the Education and Training Fund established in autumn 2022. £52,900 has been paid (5% per annum) towards the administration of the Fund and a further £6,328.28 spent on running costs such as meeting venue hire, the fund event and printing. £895,681 has been paid out in grant awards, with £228,610.33 pending in grants still to be drawn down.

The closing balance at the end of the Fund Year was £80,846.82 but the available balance, taking into account the commitments made in the spring decision making round, was -£147,763.51. The Education and Training sub fund Blackcraig contribution ended the year with a closing balance of £7,400.81.

The list of grants pending (grants to be released) has been included in Appendix 3. These are allocations being held for awards made, where grant conditions are still to be fulfilled. Four of these relate to the round of decisions made in early March 2023 (in bold). It is normal for awards to still have outstanding grant conditions at this early stage post award.

Now that Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund awards multi-year grants, there will also be allocations, currently 10 (in italics), not released until future years.

8 Conclusion

The fourth year of funding saw ongoing successful distribution of funds, underpinned by strong collaborative working between Foundation Scotland and Glenkens & District Trust. Key successes included:

- An increase in the level of funding distributed via the Community Fund.
- Increased stability for valued community projects, through the provision of multi-year funding.
- The successful delivery of a popular Education and Training Fund.

Looking ahead to Year 5, the Trustees in conjunction with Foundation Scotland and the Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd have agreed, with permission of Blackcraig Windfarm (Scotland) Limited, in the light of further community benefit funding coming into the area, to establish a 'pooled' fund under the name *The Glenkens and District Community Fund*.

The establishment of a pooled fund will not only provide a simplified process for applicants, avoiding the need for two separate application processes, but also futureproof arrangements for the distribution of any further funds secured through future community benefit arrangements associated with the significant medium term pipeline of developments in the area.

The GDT Trustees will also be working to evolve the Fund Strategy in response to the changing economic context and constraints, with the aim of ensuring that the strategy maximises the Fund's impact. The Trustees also intend to refine Fund distribution mechanisms to that they can prioritise spend. This work will be delivered based on ongoing dialogue with the communities, Trust membership and other key stakeholders.

Foundation Scotland

For more information contact:

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Appendix 1 – SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORTS 2021-2022 (Yr 3)

Community Council	Sum Paid	Purpose of Payment	Usage
Balmaghie Community Council	£2,000	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community of Balmaghie.	The grant was spent as follows: £1,659 Balmaghie Community Council, Notice boards; £330 Balmaghie Community Council, purchase of a laptop.
Carsphairn Community Council	£2,000	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community of Carsphairn.	Grants awarded were as follows; £39.58 Carsphairn Community Council, Defib Pads; £120 Carsphairn Community Council, Banners; £228.08 Carsphairn Community Council, Lights for the community garden; £384 Carsphairn Community Council, Maintenance of the community garden, £2086.39 Carsphairn Community Council, Part funding a community notice board. Total Spent £2,858.05. Still to spend £858.05.
Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council	£2,000	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community of Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham.	Grants awarded were as follows: Corsock Hall £220 for website maintenance, KPDRA £460 for insurance, Upper Urr Environment Trust £440 for Environmental Monitoring Project, Knockvennie Hall £460, Bathroom, kitchen + passageway, Corsock Art Club £460 running costs
Crossmichael and District Community Council	£2,000	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community of Crossmichael.	Grants awarded were as follows: £500 Crossmichael & District Community Council, memorial plaque to a local community activist; £500 Crossmichael & District Community Council, landscaping. Total spent: £1,000. Still to spend £1,500.
Dalry Community Council	£2,000	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community of Dalry.	Grants awarded were as follows: £230 Michele Owen, business training; £270 DCC Christmas tree; £500 Dalry Ex Servicemens Institute, improving heating systems; £500 Dalry Flower Group, Floral Decorations; £500 Wild Flowers Dalry, to plant wild flowers around Dalry. Total Spent £2,000 Still to spend 0.00.

Dunscore Community Council	£2,000	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community of Dunscore.	The Community Council grant was spent as follows: £100 Lower Nithdale Red Squirrel Group, Red Squirrel Project; £1000 Dunscore Playpark Project, Rejuvenation of the village park; £400 DCC Easter Egg Hunt, Children's Easter Egg hunt; £750 Dunscore Wednesday Club, OAP Club; £100 Dalgarno Singers, Village Choir; DCC Garden Group £300 Bulbs and Bedding plants; £731.20 Jubilee Party. Total Spent £3381.20. Still to spend 0.00.
Glencairn Community Council	£2,000	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community of Glencairn.	The grant was spent as follows: £300 Moniaive Evergreens, online classes £225.00 David Cooper -Youth Football, Football nets; £490 towards a one person play; £57.58 Stephen Sparrow -Litter Picking Group, Equipment and supplies for the village litter picking team; £325.42 Glencairn WRI Contribution to costs of meetings; £477.00 Moniaive Gala, Part funding of alternative Lockdown Gala; £125 Sue Grant, VE Day Sign. Total spent 2,000. Still to spend:0.00.
The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Community Council	£2,000	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community of New Galloway & Kells.	The grant was spent as follows: £500 to LING towards a new kitchen for the town hall; £475 towards a Jubilee celebration coordinated by a network of key groups. Total spent £975. Still to spend £1,996.94.

APPENDIX 2 – SUMMARY OF AWARDS MADE IN YEAR

Organisation	Award	Purpose of Grant
Community Fund September 2022		
Balmaclellan Community Council - FR-0065213	£9,349.20	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.
Crichton Carbon Centre - FR-0065203	£3,026.00	To promote Biosphere Explorers resource packs that will help increase primary school pupils' understanding of climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.
Crossmichael and Parton Playgroup Nursery - FR-0065442	£1,000.00	To hire a minibus once a month to enable the children to explore their local area and natural environment.
Galloway Community Transport - FR-0065294	£25,000.00	To contribute to staff costs for an Administrator role for the next two years, to support GCT's ongoing work and future developments.
Galloway Fisheries Trust - FR-0064971	£45,000.00	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.
Glenkens Community and Arts Trust - FR-0065307	£25,000.00	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.
Scottish Childminding Association - FR-0065490	£12,965.93	To recruit, train and support five new childminders, thereby increasing local childminding provision and early learning and employment options for local families.
Springholm Playgroup - FR-0065501	£350.00	To purchase a laptop to assist in an outdoor education project on natural materials and the natural environment
Springholm School (Parent) Council - FR-0065326	£1,310.40	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.
Loch Ken Trust (A653167)	£18,500.00	To fund 50% of the Loch Ken Trust Officer salary costs for 12 months, to enable the Trust to secure longer term funding and deliver priority projects.
Community Fund March 2022		
Balmaclellan Village Hall Trust - FR-0069225	£5,425.00	To contribute towards the costs of refurbishment of the toilets in Balmaclellan village hall.
Dalry Town Hall SCIO - FR-0068430	£12,673.00	To contribute towards a wider refurbishment project of the town hall to move towards net zero carbon, including improving hall heating, solar panels, led lighting and improved insulation.
Glenkens Community and Arts Trust - FR-0069995	£22,333.00	To contribute towards the costs of employing a Youth Worker and Youth Assistant to run the non-directed youth activities in the wider Glenkens area.
Kirkpatrick Durham Community Hall Committee - FR-0069166	£4,560.00	To fund the replacement of the community kitchen's flat roof.

Loch Ken Trust - FR-0069472	£60,000.00	To contribute towards the salary costs of a 20-hours per week permanent Ranger post in the Loch Ken Community Ranger service for 3 years.
NGCE Ltd - FR-0069223	£30,000.00	To contribute towards staff costs to enable NGCE to continue to provide flexible employment experience and opportunities while they continue to work towards self-sustainability.
Propagate (Scotland) CIC - FR-0070000	£23,975.00	To continue to develop the Glenkens Food Hub as it grows its work towards a more sustainable business model.
Out of Cycle Awards		
Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service - FR-0066206	£34,912.00	To fund salary and promotional costs to provide 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.
Moniaive Playcare- FR-0064577	£14,713.58	To contribute to the renovation costs of a community-owned early years childcare facility in Glencairn.
Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited (A651040)	£19,976.00	To create the post of a free-lance fixed-term role with a remit to create and facilitate a Glenkens Asset Network over the next 2 years.
Moniaive Initiative (SCIO) - FR-0068148	£6,727.50	To part fund the existing post of part-time Volunteer & Retail Coordinator (VRC), working in the community shop and hub to support and manage volunteers.
Community Council Awards 2022-2023		
Balmaclellan Community Council (A611401)	£4,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.
Balmaghie Community Council (A611402)	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.
Carsphairn Community Council (A611403)	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.
Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council (A611404)	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.
Crossmichael and District Community Council (A611405)	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.
Dalry Community Council (A611406)	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.
Dunscore Community Council (A611407)	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.
Glencairn Community Council (A611408)	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.
New Galloway & Kells Com Council (A611409)	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.
Parton Community Council (A611410)	£2,000.00	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.

Education and Training Grants 2022-23		
Local Resident - FR-0064326	£2,000.00	To support travel and subsistence costs related to an HND over two years.
Local Resident - FR-0064555	£150.00	Towards a one-day Wordpress training course to help build skills.
Local Resident - FR-0064845	£1,000.00	To part fund the cost of a Prince2 short course to help build project management skills.
Local Resident - FR-0064883	£660.00	To support travel costs associated with a 15-week course "Return to Nursing Practice".
Local Resident - FR-0065541	£1,000.00	Towards the course fee costs of a BSc (Honours) Psychology with the Open University.
Local Resident- FR-0065600	£2,000.00	Towards subsistence costs to support study over the next two years.
Local Resident - FR-0066868	£2,568.77	towards the cost of attending day schools related to your Open University course as well as IT costs.
Local Resident - FR-0068606	£1,000.00	Towards the cost of HETAS Access training, including H003 and H006.
Local Resident - FR-0068720	£1,000.00	Towards the costs of a Strategic Emergency Management course.
Local Resident - FR-0068926	£1,000.00	Towards the costs of a HGV Driving Training and Test.
Local Resident - FR-0069090	£1,000.00	Towards course costs for Nutrition in Culinary Practice.
Local Resident - FR-0070109	£1,000.00	Towards accommodation costs to support your studies.
Local Resident - FR-0070216	£1,000.00	Towards driving lessons to support access to education.
Local Resident - FR-0070221	£3,000.00	To support travel costs to attend Midwifery Bsc at UWS.
Local Resident- FR-0070699	£560.00	To support living costs during the last months of your study.
Local Resident - FR-0070786	£2,000.00	Towards the cost of rent over two years while you study.
Local Resident - FR-0070787	£1,000.00	To support the cost of rent in your 4th year of study.
Local Resident - FR-0070881	£1,000.00	To support rent costs related to the period of study you are in the UK.
Local Resident - FR-0071303	£250.00	To support the cost of your first aid course and associated access costs to support your future employability.
Local Resident - FR-0071519	£1,000.00	Towards travel costs to support access to ASDAN Courses.
Local Resident - FR-0071696	£3,000.00	To part fund accommodation costs to support your studies at SRUC.
Local Resident - FR-0071778	£3,000.00	To part fund accommodation costs to support your studies at Heriot-Watt University.

APPENDIX 3 – GRANTS TO BE RELEASED

Awarded	Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Allocation
07/06/2021	Glencairn Memorial Institute	To fund electrical inspection and related emergency remedial work to enable the Institute to fulfil its roles as the only large events venue and as an emergency Resilience Centre for the community.	£3,025.45
07/06/2021	Mossdale Village Hall	To replace the outdated heating system with air source heat pumps and to insulate and larch-clad the remaining hall walls.	£16,728.88
27/06/2022	Parton Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£2,000.00
15/11/2022	<i>Galloway Fisheries Trust</i>	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.	£15,000.00
15/11/2022	<i>Galloway Fisheries Trust</i>	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.	£15,000.00
15/11/2022	<i>Galloway Community Transport</i>	To contribute to staff costs for an administrator role for the next two years, to support GCT's ongoing work and future developments.	£12,500.00
18/10/2022	<i>Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service</i>	To fund salary and promotional costs to provide 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.	£16,637.00
09/08/2022	Loch Ken Trust	To fund 50% of the Loch Ken Trust Officer salary costs for 12 months, to enable the Trust to secure longer term funding and deliver priority projects.	£8,750.00
12/05/2023	Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited	To contribute towards the costs of employing a Youth Worker and Youth Assistant to run the non-directed youth activities in the wider Glenkens area.	£10,449.00

12/05/2023	Propagate (Scotland) CIC	To continue to develop the Glenkens Food Hub as it grows its work towards a more sustainable business model.	£23,975.00
12/05/2023	Dalry Town Hall SCIO	To contribute towards a wider refurbishment project of the town hall to move towards net zero carbon, including improving hall heating, solar panels, led lighting and improved insulation.	£12,673.00
12/05/2023	New Galloway Community Enterprises Limited	To contribute towards staff costs to enable NGCE to continue to provide flexible employment experience and opportunities while they continue to work towards self-sustainability.	£15,000.00
12/07/2022	<i>Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited</i>	To create the post of a free-lance fixed-term role with a remit to create and facilitate a Glenkens Asset Network over the next 2 years.	£9,988.00
12/05/2023	<i>Loch Ken Trust</i>	To contribute towards the salary costs of a 20 hours per week permanent ranger post in the Loch Ken Community Ranger service for 3 years.	£20,000.00
12/05/2023	<i>Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited</i>	To contribute towards the costs of employing a Youth Worker and Youth Assistant to run the non-directed youth activities in the wider Glenkens area.	£11,884.00
12/05/2023	<i>New Galloway Community Enterprises Limited</i>	To contribute towards staff costs to enable NGCE to continue to provide flexible employment experience and opportunities while they continue to work towards self-sustainability.	£10,000.00
12/05/2023	<i>Loch Ken Trust</i>	To contribute towards the salary costs of a 20 hours per week permanent ranger post in the Loch Ken Community Ranger service for 3 years.	£20,000.00
12/05/2023	<i>New Galloway Community Enterprises Limited</i>	To contribute towards staff costs to enable NGCE to continue to provide flexible employment experience and opportunities while they continue to work towards self-sustainability.	£5,000.00