



## **Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)**

### **Report from meetings – March 2022**

March has been a busy month with two trustee meetings and our AGM.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

We held our AGM on 2 March and were delighted to welcome a number of our Members and Associate Members to an in-person meeting. We gave a short presentation on what we had been doing and the challenges and opportunities going forward. There was a lively and positive discussion, and we want to express our thanks for the support and encouragement we received from our Members. We have a shared goal: local control of decision making so that Community Benefits are maximised for the long-term benefit of the local communities, through good stewardship and positive partnership working.

The draft Minute of this meeting will be available on our website in due course.

#### **Trustee Meetings**

We also held two Trustee meetings. The first was a short one in advance of the AGM and was focused on ensuring we were well prepared for the longer meeting the following week to make decisions on the current funding round. We reviewed Declarations and Conflicts of Interest, and available funding, which was particularly important in the light of the sum requested being well in excess of the sum available. The assessment reports had all been received from Foundation Scotland and we followed our agreed process which is that we raise any points of clarification in advance of the meeting to ensure we have all the necessary information on which to make decisions.

We also agreed that the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment survey would close on 7th March and that there would be another push to encourage people to complete the survey.

#### **Funding Round**

The primary purpose of the meeting held on 8 March was to consider the applications received in this funding round. We considered eleven applications which were received by the closing date for applications on 10 January.

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 that 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. As noted above, 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.

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.

Nine awards totalling £136,826 have been made, with one refused and one application was deferred. In order to facilitate as many awards as possible, the Trustees took the carefully considered decision to un-ringfence a sum which had been set aside in this quarter for supporting CAP initiatives. On balance, given the focus of the Fund on awarding funds on a merit basis, it was felt that it was more appropriate to support applications received and agreed to be supportable in this round than to potentially reduce the amounts offered to preserve funds for potential projects not yet received. A key consideration was that the 2022 allocation was due to be received in the following quarter.

A table setting out the decisions made is attached.

As you can see the awards cover a wide range of costs including essential work on community buildings and assets and operating of staff costs to support projects. There are also a number of funded projects arising directly from the priorities identified in the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan. These projects were informed by the various reports that were carried out with funding provided by the Fund over the last year or so.

As noted above, in deciding to award this amount we carefully reviewed the available funds and the amounts ring fenced to enable work on the CAP projects to continue and to ensure we had some funds in reserve for any urgent funding applications received in this quarter. Further funds will be paid in June by Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd under the terms of the new longer term arrangement.

#### **Areas of focus over the next quarter**

As set out in the Report in January we will work with Foundation Scotland to take forward the work on the development pipeline.

We will participate in the Community Liaison Group for Windy Rig to get arrangements in place for the community benefit monies flowing from it.

We will review the report from the Housing Needs and Demand Assessment.

We will review our Fund Strategy in light of learning from this Funding Round and informed by work being done across the area of benefit on community action plans. We will engage with the various organisations across the area who are doing this work. As part of this we will also identify the date of the next funding round with a view, now that the Fund is starting to settle in, to moving to two rounds per year with fixed dates, so that applicants may plan ahead and GDT can manage the Fund budget as effectively as possible.

## Awards Summary March 2022

<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Purpose of Grant</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Corsock Village Hall	To support the Glenkens Asset Network Development project.	Deferred
Dunscore Play Park Project	To contribute towards the cost of laying a tarmac path around the perimeter of Dunscore play park which can be used for walking, running, cycling, and skateboarding.	£25,000
Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited	To create an activity programme throughout 2022 for the Glenkens community.	£11,840
Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited	To support the cost of plaques and an information board to celebrate the bicentenary of the Ken Bridge, designed by John Rennie and completed in 1822.	£2,856
Glenkens Community And Arts Trust Limited	To support the design, development and ongoing content of a new Glenkens community website for one year	£15,880
Kirkpatrick Durham Community Hall Committee	To support the cost of rewiring the village hall to comply with health and safety requirements and keep it in community use	£14,000
Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)	To contribute the next phase of renovations to the hall to improve the fabric, access and energy efficiency of the building to secure it for the community in the long term.	£25,000
Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)	To fund a freelance Youth Worker to plan and deliver activity to improve social and sports opportunities, skills and confidence for young people in the area.	£9,510
Propagate (Scotland) CIC	To grow and develop the Glenkens Food Hub.	£20,200
Scottish Wildlife Trust	To assist with the costs of enhancing access to Knowetops Lochs.	£12,540
<b>Total Sum Awarded</b>		<b>£136,826</b>