



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting – May 2024

We met on 14 May for a Trustee Meeting. The key business was to make decisions on the applications received in March 2024

Funding Round

Thirteen applications were received by the March closing date. One was deemed ineligible and withdrawn and two were able to source alternative funding before the meeting leaving us with ten assessments to consider.

As always, we were ably supported by Foundation Scotland which administers the application and awards process.

The available budget was c£90,000. After careful consideration six awards totalling £83,307.00 were made. Applicants were informed by email of the decision and feedback offered.

The awards covered a wide range of matters with three addressing assets which are important within their community, such as Kirkpatrick Durham Community Hall (£8,900), Dunscore Play Park (£25,000) and Crossmichael War Memorial (£4,888).

We continued to support Propagate CIC in relation to the Galloway Food Hub by awarding them £10,000 as a contribution to volunteer co-ordination and event costs and supporting a new role which has the purpose of encouraging more vegetable growing primarily within the Glenkens area, supporting the local supply chain.

We also made awards to two new applicants, Dumfries and Galloway Woodlands (DGW) and ROKPA Trust. The former was awarded £24,519 for its 'Inspirational Woodlands Project' at three sites in the area, Muirdrochwood, Upper Barr and Waterside Hill which aims to increase environmental engagement with the wider community from these sites. We were particularly pleased to see these projects linked through DGW to develop complementary activities and to share resources and expertise. This is something we have sought to encourage with our approach to funding.

ROKPA were awarded £10,000 to contribute to the costs of a pilot project at Lothlorien to better understand the need for a social prescribing project in the area, building on Lothlorien's health and social care connections and using Lothlorien as a venue for social prescribing activities, co-ordinated by a new part time post.

Other issues

Engagement continues with the various wind farm developers within the area. We were pleased to note that a Glenkens Developer Group has been set up to discuss topics of common interest. We had encouraged the developers to work more closely together particularly in relation to community engagement and to recognise the burden of work placed on volunteer groups by the amount of interaction and engagement needed. It is early days but the signs are positive.

We have recently received a further draft Community Benefit Agreement from Red Rock Power Ltd for Benbrack.

As reported previously the timeline for future wind farms is extending with a number dependent on the outcome of the consent process for the Kendoon Tongland overhead line.

We continue to try to keep abreast of what is happening in relation to community benefit arrangements and to ensure that the community remains at the heart of any future decision making on community benefit arrangements. This is challenging in view of the many groups showing an interest in this topic and the tendency for them to overlook what communities are doing in this area.

The topic of community benefit arrangements in relation to new transmission lines and equipment has been evolving and a Report from the Department of Energy and Net Zero on proposals is expected to be published shortly. We will review this for any implications.

We noted that there are Community Council elections in September which will necessitate various actions to address each Community Council's GDT trustee appointments after the election. We plan to review the process at our July meeting and issue guidance on the necessary actions.

The closing date for the Invitation to Tender for the Education Research work date is 20 May. Information on it can be found here <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/news>

Finally, in June, we will enter a new fund year and the monies from developers will be received within the first months of the fund year. Once we are in receipt of funds Foundation Scotland will be in touch with Community Councils to arrange their small grant payments. Reporting on spend from previous payments is a condition of the release of the next tranche of funds.

Areas of focus over the next quarter

We will continue our work to ensure we evolve as an organisation to meet the challenges we face and to engage with other groups and regional and national bodies as appropriate.

We plan to finalise the Community Benefit Agreement with Red Rock Power Ltd.

We will continue to liaise with developers.

We will prepare guidance to address the actions needed by Community Councils after the elections.