



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meetings – May 2023

May has been a busy month with two trustee meetings.

Trustee Meetings

The first meeting on 2 May was a short one and focused on ensuring we were well prepared for the longer meeting the following week where we would make decisions on the spring funding round.

Positive engagement continues with wind farm developers but there were no material points to report. No additional monies are likely to be received in the short term as projects appear to be going further into the future.

A meeting is to be arranged shortly with Carsphairn Renewable Energy Ltd to finalise the arrangements in relation to the monies coming through them from Windy Rig Wind Farm. This has been delayed while they finalise their arrangements with Greencoat Ltd.

We are also planning to meet Glencairn Community Council and Moniaive Initiative shortly.

Agreement has now been reached on the new administration arrangements following the inclusion of Windy Rig monies within the monies available to us for dispersal. A key objective was to ensure the application process for community groups was as straightforward as possible and that the arrangements would be suitable of adaption if and when further monies are received from developers. We are delighted to say that the fund will now be known as **Glenkens & District Community Fund**. While the allocation of awards between Blackcraig and Windy Rig will be administratively carried out by Foundation Scotland on our behalf and we will continue to report to Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd and Greencoat Ltd on the use of their monies, applicants will apply to the umbrella fund making a more straightforward process for them and a more efficient process for us.

There is work to do to reflect this agreement in our website, application forms etc and to finalise the new contractual arrangements with Foundation Scotland but we believe this

gives us a clear model for the future and is a very positive step reflecting the trust shown in our community as a whole.

We reviewed the **Education and Training Fund**. Awards to seventeen individuals amounting to just over £21k have been since the scheme launched in August, some covering future years. Supporting individuals in this area is important to us and we agreed to allocate a further £20k to this fund for 2023.

In preparation for the **decision-making meeting**, we reviewed Declarations and Conflicts of Interest and the sum available for distribution. The assessment reports prepared by Foundation Scotland had all been received by trustees and we agreed that we would raise any points of clarification in advance of the decision-making meeting using the new Foundation Scotland Portal to ensure we had all the necessary information on which to make decisions.

Funding Round

The primary purpose of the meeting held on 9 May was to consider the applications received in this funding round. Ten applications were received by the closing date for applications with one withdrawn before assessment and one deferred with agreement between us and the applicant.

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 set out in the footnote for information. ¹

Following on from the decision-making meeting 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.

Following careful consideration seven awards totalling £158 966 were made.

Three awards were made to local halls, Balmaclellan, Dalry and Kirkpatrick Durham to support improvements in their facilities. Community Spaces are important across our area and we were delighted to see all the applicants making positive reference to the Glenkens Community Spaces Network and expressing a desire to share knowledge and expertise to support this work. We encourage this approach as we all benefit from working constructively together.

The other four awards cover a range of important areas highlighted within the Fund Priorities and will support and enable the creation/retention over 10 part time jobs within the area.

¹ 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. 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.

We awarded £22 333 to Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) Ltd to enable the non-directed youth activities in the area to continue for the next two years. We had previously funded this activity through Local Initiatives in New Galloway who worked closely with GCAT who run a complementary programme called Youth Creatives. Based on this experience, LING and GCAT agreed that GCAT would now take over both strands of youth work going forward. The provision of this activity was highlighted in the Community Action Plan as a priority and we thank LING for the work they have done to date.

The Loch Ken Ranger Service has gone from strength to strength and become a valuable service across the area. We provided some initial funding two years ago to support the concept being turned into a reality. In this round we awarded £20k per annum for the next three years (£60k in total) to Loch Ken Trust to provide certainty of funding provision for the next three years.

New Galloway Community Enterprise Ltd were awarded £30k (£15k in year 1, £10k in year 2 and £5k in year 3) to enable them to continue to provide flexible employment experience and opportunities as they continue to work towards self-sustainability.

Glenkens Food Hub is addressing an action area in the Community Action Plan around collaborative production and distribution of local produce. We provided funding last year to Propagate to support the creation of the Hub. Much has been learnt over the last year in taking this forward and Propagate have plans to build on this experience with a view to creating a more sustainable business model. Taking into account their plans to increase the area covered and work done to date we awarded them £23 975 to support their activities over the coming year.

As set out above we also agree to allocate a further £20k to the Education and Training Fund.

A table setting out the decisions made is attached.

Decisions made outwith the Board meeting cycle:

None

Areas of focus over the next quarter

We will develop the arrangements to reflect the Glenkens & District Community Fund and make the necessary changes to our documentation/website etc.

Recognising the demands on the fund and the available resources we also will carry out a review of our Funding Strategy etc in July to enable us best to prioritise awards to best meet the needs of our communities going forward.

We still have opportunities for Independent Trustees and will continue to promote this. Information can be found here

https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/files/ugd/a7a70d_9ccc64a7d6254b4f9d464c9bd6a57ce2.pdf

Table of Awards

Organisation Name	Purpose of Grant	Awarded amount
Dalry Town Hall	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
Kirkpatrick Durham Community Hall Committee	To fund the replacement of the community kitchen's flat roof.	£4,560
Balmaclellan Village Hall Trust	To contribute towards the costs of refurbishment of toilets at Balmaclellan village hall,	£5,425
New Galloway Community Enterprises Limited	To contribute towards staff costs to enable them to continue to provide flexible employment experience and opportunities.	£30 000 Year 1- £15 000 Year 2- £10 000 Year 3- £ 5 000
Loch Ken Trust	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.	£60 000 Year 1- £20 000 Year 2- £20 000 Year 2- £20 000
Glenkens Community & Arts Trust Ltd	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.	£22 333 Year 1- £10 845 Year 2- £11 488
Propagate (Scotland) CIC	To continue to develop the Glenkens Food Hub as it grows its work towards a more sustainable business model.	£23,975