



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting of Trustees –May 2022

We expressed our thanks to Andrew Mellor, the Trustee appointed by Dalry Community Council, who recently stepped down as a member of that Community Council and therefore as a Trustee of GDT, for all his help and support. Andrew was very actively involved in the work around the Community Action Plan as well as on the day to day work of GDT. Dalry Community Council are now taking steps to appoint a new Trustee to GDT. A reminder of process can be found [here](#).

There are still opportunities for interested individuals to apply to become a Trustee and we also welcome applications from groups or individuals to become Associate Members. All the information is here: <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/get-involved>

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

Fund Statement and Grant Making Report

We reviewed a report prepared by Foundation Scotland setting out details of available funding with reports on the awards made, details on those drawn down and updates on the completion reports received from successful applicants. As at 30 April 2022 £31,410.67 was available. Since then, an award has been made to Crossmichael Memorial Hall as set out below.

We were pleased to see that grantees were submitting their completion reports as well as keeping us informed if their project was being delayed. Regular dialogue with grantees assists the effective management of the fund.

Funding Round Dates and Fund Strategy

We agreed that, commencing 1 June 2022, the Main Grants Programme will operate on two rounds per year, a spring round and an autumn round. This gives everyone specific dates to support better planning.

Proposed dates are as follows :

Fund Year (1 June -31 May)	Autumn Deadline	Decision	Spring deadline	Decision
2022 -2023	13/09/2022	w/c 08/11/2022	14/03/2023	w/c 8/05/2023
2023-2024	19/09/2023	w/c 14/11/2023	19/03/2024	w/c 13/15/2024

Taking into account our experience and to reflect current priorities, we reviewed our Fund Strategy. The Fund Strategy is the key underpin for our decisions on the use of the funds so is a critical document for ourselves and applicants.

This updated Strategy can be found at <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/funding> and we would highlight the following changes.

- Following the decision by Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd. to give us a longer term arrangement we are now able to give **multi-year grants**.
- In the context of the current cost of living crisis and the funds available to us we decided that we would use some of our monies to provide localised support in response to this challenge. In 2022 we plan to provide **targeted support at an agreed level to selected intermediary bodies** who can provide specialist support and advice, and which can also open potentially more sources of support to individuals. This work will be prioritised during the summer to ensure the arrangements are in place before the onset of winter.
- We agreed that we would introduce an **Education and Training Fund** (which provides financial support to individuals) and work to determine the most appropriate arrangements are now in hand. This Fund will be launched during 2022
- We recognised that we could provide better guidance on our approach to **funding for overheads** and we have included some clarification on this to ensure that all applicants have an equal opportunity to consider these costs in any application.

Community Action Planning

We received reports from the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan Steering Group. We noted that the work on the Dunscore Community Action Plan will commence shortly and that Moniaive Initiative are finalising their plan.

Housing Needs and Demand Assessment

We have also received the report from South of Scotland Community Housing following their recent survey on housing across the area. A copy of the Report is at the following link. <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/news> . We would welcome any views on the report and would encourage organisations to use the evidence from this Report to support future work in this area. We have shared it across community groups and a follow up event is planned for later in the summer.

Windy Rig

Windy Rig Wind Farm is due to commence paying community benefit payments shortly. Foundation Scotland were appointed by the owners, Statkraft, to facilitate and finalise arrangements for payments from this fund. We had three Zoom calls involving the majority of the nine community councils who were signatories to the original 2017 Agreement

setting out the arrangements for community benefit. The outcome of the process was that agreement was reached and an agreed **Written Statement** is at Appendix 1. The nine parties also agreed that Foundation Scotland would be appointed the administrator for the non Carsphairn element of the fund.

The arrangement with Carsphairn, Dalry and New Galloway means an additional £54,000 into the Glenkens and District shared funding arrangements without Glencairn; and an additional £72,000 if Glencairn follow the same approach.

We want to thank Carsphairn, Dalry and Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Parish Community Councils for the way they have approached this topic and the trust put in us.

We continue to explore the possibility of similar arrangements with Glencairn Community Council. A meeting was sought but it could not be arranged and as a result we have now written to the Community Council to raise the options available to the community around how the Windy Rig money is distributed. Their Secretary has acknowledged receipt and confirmed the letter has been circulated and will be discussed at their next Community Council meeting.

There is a lot of work to do to give effect to these new arrangements, namely the allocation agreement needs formally documented through a Fund Framework and we, in GDT, need to agree additional arrangements with Foundation Scotland about Fund structure going forward that encompass both the Blackcraig and Windy Rig monies. We also need to work with Carsphairn Renewable Energy Ltd to ensure we have effective communication and cooperation to facilitate wider area projects.

The Fund Strategy set out above is based on the Blackcraig Fund as it would be premature to draft it to include Windy Rig in advance of all the arrangements being finalised and the outcome of Glencairn discussions being known. It will be reviewed again once this is clear.

Other developments

We continue to engage positively with developers across the area. While these projects are progressing, it appears likely that there will be some slippage on completion dates. Benbrack are likely to have a consultation on community benefit arrangements shortly and we will attend that.

Fred Olsen Renewables are holding open days at Windy Standard on 25 and 26 June and details of how to book are at this link. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/windy-standard-wind-farm-open-day-tickets-335343400137>

We are still on track to deliver on the work previously highlighted on how we as a community get ready to utilise the potential pipeline of funds coming into the area.

Awards

Three out of cycle awards were made since the last meeting

1. Glencairn Green Bowling Club, To renew the green banking surrounding the bowling green in order to enable the Club's anniversary celebrations to go ahead as planned, £5,432.40 (11th April 2022).

2. Crossmichael Memorial Hall, To contribute to the costs of securing the banking to the rear of the Memorial Hall, £10,500 (11th May 2022).

There was also an out of cycle award made from monies ringfenced for Community Action Planning work, which was to GCAT, to contribute to the salary costs of a key staff post with responsibility for community development strategy within the organisation, £5,000 (26th April 2022).

Areas of focus over the next quarter

As highlighted above we will work with Foundation Scotland to take forward the work on the development pipeline.

We will finalise the arrangements for Windy Rig including working closely with Carsphairn to achieve this.

We will publish the new Fund Strategy and dates for the Fund Closing etc.

We will progress the work to obtain relevant support and advice for our communities to address issues arising from the cost of living crisis.

Appendix 1

Joint position statement from Carsphairn Community Council, Dalry Community Council, The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish Community Council, Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd and the Glenkens & District Trust

After a robust, fair and transparent process facilitated, on behalf of Statkraft, by Rachel Searle of Foundation Scotland, agreement on the allocation of community benefit payments for Windy Rig wind farm, worth £216,000 a year, has now been reached. This involves the nine community councils who were agreed as recipients and who signed an agreement in 2017. It is also subject to final confirmation from Windy Rig Wind Farm Ltd which is expected later this month.

In negotiating how this Fund is shared between the nine community council areas, all parties agreed they wanted to approach the discussion with a shared aim of facilitating community cohesion and cross-area working, whilst also maximising the benefits to their individual communities. The discussions also recognised the wider context in which the communities operate, as smaller rural communities with a great degree of interconnectedness and interchange of people, services, and activities.

Reflecting their position as host community, Carsphairn have been allocated four times the amount allocated to the other eight community councils. This equates to one third of the fund with the remaining eight community councils being allocated one twelfth each (c £18k).

Dalry CC and New Galloway CC have agreed to put their share into the pot administered by Glenkens & District Trust. Carsphairn CC will administer three quarters of their monies through Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Limited (CREFL), with one quarter administered by GDT. This means that each of the three Community Councils directly involved in the Windy Rig community benefit arrangement will contribute one twelfth of the Windy Rig monies to GDT.

The pot of monies administered by GDT is currently available to organisations across the undernoted Community Council areas ¹and awarded in line with the Fund Strategy based on the merits of the project.

Pooling the allocations into one pot removes the burden of applying to different funds by groups busy delivering projects in our communities and gives these groups access to a

¹ Balmaclellan, Balmaghie, Carsphairn, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael & District, Dalry, Dunscore, Glencairn, Parton and the Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Parish

bigger fund. It will enable bigger and more strategic projects to be taken forward and encourages and supports the communities to work together. The result for the Carsphairn community is that they have an allocation from Windy Rig of £54k directly into CREFL and then access further monies within the GDT pot to be allocated in accordance with the Fund Strategy. This gives Carsphairn organisations access to at least 50% of the Windy Rig derived funds.

This progressive arrangement recognises and supports the wider Glenkens & District area as our communities prepare for the potential additional community benefit monies coming into the area. We all recognise that there is much work still to be done to achieve effective use of these transformative sums of money but are agreed that by working supportively together we maximise opportunities for success. This is an important step on the journey.