



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting – February 2025

We met, via Teams, on 4 February for a Trustee Meeting. The focus of the evening was to review the current position on funding and awards and to discuss matters impacting on us going forward.

Trustees

We were pleased to welcome Carole Laverick as the new trustee from Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council.

Statements and Grant-making Reports

We reviewed reports prepared by Foundation Scotland setting out information on the current position on awards and funding and the monitoring reports received on awards made. We welcome the work done by groups to produce the reports and for their openness on what worked well and not so well. We also recognised that for some groups there is a regular turnover of committee members which can sometime cause continuity issues so we encourage groups to get in touch with Emma Hutchison, our Community Funds Adviser at Foundation Scotland if they are unsure about anything and want some guidance. The monitoring reports enable us to think about changes to some of our processes etc and are a very useful part of the process.

We plan to publish more case studies on awards as we think this ensures greater transparency on how the money is being utilised as well as potentially sparking ideas in the wider community and facilitating the sharing of information.

The work on how we measure Impact is ongoing.

Next Funding Round

The closing date for applications in the next funding round is Wednesday 12 March 2025. Foundation Scotland will then carry out their usual assessment process. Our budget for this round is c£90, 000.

The decision meeting on awards will be held in late May.

Emma Hutchison is available on emmah@foundationscotland.org.uk or 07912 759 623 if you are aware of any groups who would like guidance on a potential application.

Governance issues

We approved our Annual Report and Accounts in late December and these can be found [here](#). Our Annual General Meeting will take place on 4 March at 7 pm in The Smiddy, Balmaclellan. The Notice of AGM has been circulated. To attend you need to be appointed as a representative of a Community Council or be an Associate Member. Information on how to become an Associate Member can be found [here](#). This is your opportunity to ask the Trustees in attendance about the work of GDT.

As well as dealing with the usual governance issues and providing an update on the activities of GDT we are also planning to have a discussion on our response to the Scottish Government consultation on Onshore and Offshore Community Benefit arrangements which is referred to below.

Community Action Plan Projects

In December we awarded GCAT £8,225 to support the Glenkens Hub. Arrangements with anchor organisations have progressed. We also reviewed the recent Report from the Community Action Plan Steering Group that can be found [here](#).

Other issues

Positive engagement continues with the various wind farm developers within the area.

We are still in discussion with Red Rock Power for Benbrack Wind Farm but hope to finalise this in February. This will involve an annual payment of c£112k which will probably become payable mid 2026.

We are still awaiting a response on our request to Temporis Capital to increase the payment from Blackcraig Wind Farm. We continue to push them to respond.

Community Benefit Arrangements

As reported previously there is still considerable interest in this topic both in relation to transmission assets and renewable energy assets. We endeavour to keep abreast of the various publications and to input as necessary. We have seen an increasing interest from community groups across Scotland wanting to understand the model we have in this area and how we are working together to achieve wider community objectives and have participated in a number of discussions on this topic.

The Scottish Government have an [open consultation](#) on community benefit arrangements. The deadline for responses is 11 April 2025. This is an important consultation as it is likely to lead to an evolution of the approach on community benefit arrangements so we are planning to ensure we prepare a full response to it. We will work with the Community Action Plan Steering Group to coordinate our response/s. Our key focus is to show that communities can and do make effective use of these monies and should remain at the heart

of the decision making on their utilisation going forward. The underlying principle is that where a developer extracts value from our community they should work with the community to 'put something back'.

As set out above we plan to discuss this with our Members at our Annual General Meeting on 4 March 2025.

Awards since November

We awarded £8,515 to Edinburgh Science Foundation to fund the delivery of workshops to all primary schools across the fund area. This decision was deferred at our November meeting.

Areas of focus over the next quarter

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

We will develop appropriate metrics to enable us to monitor and report on the value these funds bring to the area.

We will continue to liaise with developers and the wider body of organisations involved on the topic of community benefit arrangements.

We will prepare for and hold our AGM.

We will prepare and submit a detailed response to the Scottish Government consultation on community benefit arrangements.