

Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund



Year 5 Fund Report: 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2024



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1. Introduction

The Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund is provided by Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd, owner of the 23-turbine 52.9MW Blackcraig wind farm. It was established in 2019 to benefit the residents of ten Community Council areas, eight in the geographic area surrounding Loch Ken in the northern part of the Stewartry, Dumfries and Galloway, known as the Glenkens, including: Balmaclellan, Balmaghie, Carsphairn, Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham, Crossmichael & District, Dalry, The Royal Burgh of New Galloway and Kells Parish and Parton, and two Community Council areas bordering on the Glenkens in the adjacent area of Nithsdale; Dunscore and Glencairn.

The Fund is based on a rate of £5,000 per MW, resulting in an annual fund of £264,500, non-index linked.

Foundation Scotland provides governance and administrative support to the Fund, under contract to Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd. The costs for this service are shared by the wind farm owner and as a direct cost from the Fund capped at 5% of the annual Fund value.

The decision-making body for the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund is the Glenkens & District Trust (GDT). The Board of Trustees is chaired by an independent Chair and currently comprises twelve Trustees - four Independent Trustees and eight drawn from all the benefitting community council areas except Carsphairn and Glencairn. These community councils have opted not to join as GDT members at present.

This report provides a record of the fifth year of the Fund's operation and covers the period of 1st June 2023 up until 31st May 2024.

2. Fund Governance

Foundation Scotland and the Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) have worked in partnership since 2019, when Foundation Scotland was appointed by Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd to administer the Blackcraig Fund. Foundation Scotland, with its extensive charitable fund management expertise, established and administers the Fund, with GDT bringing deep knowledge and understanding of the area and a clear commitment to ensuring maximum benefit for the local communities. The respective roles and responsibilities of Foundation Scotland and GDT, in relation to the Fund, are outlined in the most recent contract of December 2023.

GDT consolidated its governance arrangements during 2020-2021 and these have been operating successfully since with a governance review in July 2024 that updated several policies. There are currently four independent Trustees to the Board, and seventeen Associate Members. Independent trusteeship enables GDT to recruit Trustees from a wider pool, and with specific skills or experience in mind. Associate membership ensures GDT is accessible to the wider community without individuals or groups having to be community councillors, trustees or grantees - this reflects GDT's aim to be open and accountable and to support a sense of community ownership of the valuable resource that community benefit monies represent.

Throughout this fifth year, GDT and Foundation Scotland have continued to keep the communities of Carsphairn and Moniaive (Glencairn Community Council area) updated with its work, press releases have gone out to local newspapers in Moniaive, and Foundation Scotland staff have continued to foster relationships with key local anchor organisations, such as Moniaive Initiative and Carsphairn Community Council and Community Trust.

This year is the first in which GDT has operated the rebranded Glenkens & District Community Fund using pooled funds from Windy Rig Wind Farm Ltd and Blackcraig Wind Farm Scotland (Ltd), which remains the majority donor to the arrangement.

3. Fund Strategy

As indicated in our previous report, the fund strategy was reviewed during the year 2022-2023. There have been no changes to the fund priorities, which mirror local communities' action plans as per the guidance in the Scottish Government's Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewable Developments.

The Fund priorities are:

Priority 1: A Connected Community

This will support activity which helps us to become more connected, for example through projects which promote effective communication, collaboration, sharing of information, skills and assets and which bring people together.

Priority 2: An Asset Rich Community

This will support activity which aims to make best use of our assets - people, the natural and built environment – and sustaining them for the future. For example, this could include affordable housing or energy efficient community spaces; opportunities for young people which support their development; projects which enable people to share skills, knowledge or heritage; supporting biodiversity or improving access to the landscape.

Priority 3: An Economically Flourishing Community

This will support activity which maximizes our ability to flourish economically; for example, ensuring equity of access to services, training and opportunities; and focusing on sustainable best use of local skills and resources such as tourism, food and farming.

Priority 4: A Carbon Neutral Community

This will support activity which supports communities to become carbon neutral. For example, through developing initiatives which seek to reduce carbon footprint such as the production of local energy plans, sustainable transport initiatives, energy efficiency measures, renewable energy initiatives and zero waste projects.

Investment in local community anchor organisations

While the Fund priorities have not changed, the funding model has continued to evolve towards a growing emphasis on strategic and targeted awards. Balancing open call funding that creates opportunity across the area of benefit with a more targeted approach to securing longer term strategic benefits is considered to be the optimum way of maximising fund impact within the budget available.

Examples of this include the nurturing and development of closer relationships with local anchor organisations such as Glenkens Community Arts Trust (GCAT) and Moniaive Initiative. This has involved the co-development of a core funding proposal to support each organisation to plan longer term and increase the capacity of their respective organisations, ultimately supporting the delivery of work identified in the Community Action Plan. Anchor organisations are community owned organisations, owning a range of community assets (land and buildings) and possess the means to generate their own independent income stream and which offer a focus for local leadership and representation of local community views.

It is expected that core funding awards supporting these organisations will be made in the 2024-25 period on the basis of this relationship-building and strategic work and on the basis that investment in local community anchor organisations leverages in additional funding and benefits to the local communities they work with.

Emergency funding criteria tightened

Due to a noted increase in the number of applications outside the two main funding rounds and the pressure this can place on allocated budgets for planned rounds, attention was also given to arrangements around emergency, or out of-cycle, funding applications. With five out-of-cycle awards in the 2022-23 period with a value of £82,150.08, following a review of existing guidance, it was decided to tighten and clarify the language around out-of-cycle awards. As a result, in the 2023-24 period, there have been two out-of-cycle applications, one successful and another withdrawn when alternative funding became available.

4. Making a Difference

During assessment, applications are aligned to the existing Fund priorities and additional criteria. This helps Foundation Scotland to monitor the extent to which the Fund is meeting the needs of the community as reflected in the Fund Strategy. The table below shows alignment of awards to the primary Fund Priority to which they are contributing.

In the application, applicants are asked to identify which priority the project addresses. Where multiple priorities are described, Foundation Scotland allocates a primary priority. The Community Council small grant awards account for 10 of the 'Connected Community' awards. Education and Training awards have been included and attributed to the strand 'An economically flourishing community'.

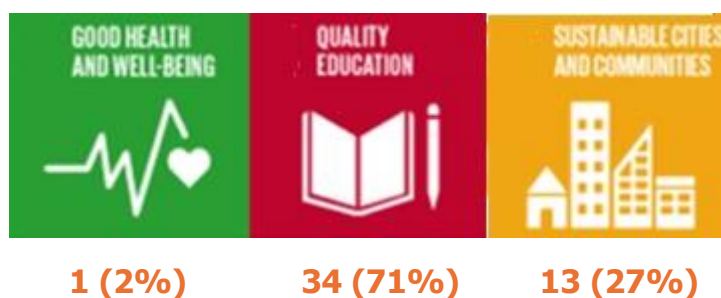
Fund Priority	No. of awards	Amount awarded	% of Total Awarded Sum
Priority 1: A Connected Community	12	£35,064	29%
Priority 2: An Asset Rich Community	2	£28,600	24%
Priority 3: An Economically Flourishing Community	34	£57,500	47%
Priority 4: A Carbon Neutral Community*	0	£0	%0

* Please note that some grants fit multiple Fund Priorities, but grantees choose one main priority at the outset of their project. This is why the table shows no projects under Priority 4, even though many grants do contribute to a carbon neutral community as a secondary outcome.

4.1 Sustainable Development Goals

Foundation Scotland also aligns awards with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs are the internationally recognised approach to gauging and guiding progress towards a more sustainable future. By aligning with both a national and global agenda, Foundation Scotland hopes to drive more urgency, relevance and connection in our work – both internally between colleagues and Trustees and externally amongst stakeholders.

Like most Community Benefit funds, the majority of grants fall within ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’ but grants this year have also impacted two additional Goals, ‘Good Health and Wellbeing’ and ‘Quality Education’.



4.2 End of Grant Reporting

At the time of compiling this report, one project funded via the Community Fund and two Community Councils from Year 5 had reported back on what their grant had helped them achieve. Grantees report at the end of the grant term which for standard grants is 12 months. Consequently, the table below for Community Fund Awards reflects End of Grant reports received within the reporting period but awarded in previous fund years.

Community Fund

Organisation	Awarded	Awarded Date	Offer Statement	Outcomes
Dunscore Community Council	£2,000	06/04/2022	To contribute to the costs of extending the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan to incorporate consultation and engagement with Dunscore residents	The Community Council worked with Community Enterprise to gather data, information and statistics about Dunscore. These actions, combined with the data gathered by Community Enterprise from central sources enabled the production of brief research Report and Action Plan.
Dunscore Gala	£2,000	21/10/2019	To purchase chairs and tables.	People from the whole community and further afield took part. There was something for everyone and it brought the whole community together.
Glenkens Community and Arts Trust Limited	£2,333	08/06/2020	To contribute to the Ken Words literary project and support new initiatives that aim to stimulate imaginative engagement with the landscape and encourage participation in writing as a social, confidence and communication skills building tool.	Ken Words delivered a series of four Poetry Walks (Midsummer Flight, Autumn Field Notes, Winter Voices, and On Spring Air) guided by bird expert and educator Chris Rollie, with writing workshops facilitated by Jane McBeth.
Mossdale Village Hall	£25,000	07/06/2021	To replace the outdated heating system with air source heat pumps and to insulate and larch clad the remaining hall walls.	Installing air source heat pumps was the first part of the project and this made a huge difference to the hall, keeping it at a minimum temperature when not in use has prevented a damp and musty atmosphere.
Kirkpatrick Durham Community Hall Committee	£14,000	09/03/2022	To support the cost of rewiring the village hall to comply with health and safety requirements and keep it in community use	This was a one-off project to address a specific need (unsafe electrical system), and it has solved that problem, decreased usage of electricity, helping in a small way with the climate crisis, and has been welcomed by the community. There has been increased use of the hall, including a new nursery running 5 days a week during term time and the Care Inspectorate report was very complimentary about how warm, welcoming and organised the hall now seems.
Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)	£25,000	09/03/2022	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.	The outcomes will be measured in terms of community impact, but at this point in time the outcome is the physical one - the renovation of the Town hall. It is accessible and warm with a carbon-reduced footprint as a result of new windows, repaired roof and tower, re-painted inside and out, suspended ceilings bring warmth and sound insulation etc. The result will be increased usage by a larger number of community members and visitors to the area.

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)	£9,510	09/03/2022	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.	The funding was used to open up new opportunities for young people in the Glenkens to socialise and have fun, strengthen independence and social connections outside of school and feel valued within the community.
Dunscore Play Park Project	£25,000	09/03/2022	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.	The park is now much more usable for the children and staff as a result of access via the new gate and repaired drainage. The children from both the pre-school and the Primary school came and helped plant the daffodils bulbs which they all really enjoyed. The community all came together to help plant the trees and the wild hedgerow which will eventually produce fruit for the community and the wildlife. There is also now a small carpark which will make the park more accessible to people with small children or children with disabilities.
Scottish Wildlife Trust Ltd	£12,540	09/03/2022	To assist with the costs of enhancing access to Knowetops Lochs.	Access has been improved as degraded boardwalk sections were removed and new boardwalk and two small bridges with handrails installed. A total of 96m of boardwalk was replaced on priority sections of the route.
Crichton Carbon Centre	£3,026	15/11/2022	To promote Biosphere Explorers resource packs that will help increase primary school pupils understanding of climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.	Nine Biosphere Explorers sessions were delivered to more than 165 pupils (P4-7), along with two online sessions on the Biosphere legacy packs to teachers in Dumfries and Galloway, and 1 in person to the Climate Champions teachers in the region (30 teachers total). This has increased climate crisis literacy in the area for teachers and pupils.
Balmaclellan Community Council	£9,349	15/11/2022	To contribute towards the restoration of the Old Mortality sculpture by John Currie, thereby preserving local heritage and an important local landmark for future appreciation.	Old Mortality', the sandstone sculpture in Balmaclellan Village was restored by Graciela Ainsworth sculpture conservators in June/July 2023. People really enjoyed getting the chance to see the restoration in progress and meet the conservators.
Glenkens Community and Arts Trust Limited	£25,000	15/11/2022	To contribute to the salary of the Executive Manager supporting the successful delivery of GCAT's operations and the implementation of the Glenkens & District Community Action Plan	The main outcome was the publication of a refreshed GCAT Strategy in summer 2023 which clarifies that the way in which GCAT will deliver its 'community' mandate is through championing delivery of the Glenkens and District Community Action Plan. https://gcat.scot/about-gcat/
Springholm School (Parent) Council	£1,310	15/11/2022	To deliver three ranger led outdoor education sessions to give local school children an exciting, fun experience and equip them with skills for a lifetime respecting the natural world.	The children were very excited to be involved in growing vegetables and herbs. They grew mint, cress, basil and strawberries and drew pictures of what they saw under the microscope then displayed them at various fortnightly events the nursery held. This will lead to increased skills and knowledge of the natural world.

Springholm Playgroup	£350	15/11/2022	To purchase a laptop to assist in an outdoor education project on the natural materials and the natural environment	<p>All pupils from Springholm Primary were able to attend an outdoor education session with the Loch Ken Ranger Service.</p> <p>Each of the three classes in the school attended the trips. The workshops were a great experience for the children and covered responsible access and caring for our environment. They really felt the benefits of being outdoors and learning about environmental responsibility.</p>
Moniaive Playcare	£14,714	30/09/2022	To contribute to the renovation costs of a community-owned early years childcare facility in Glencairn.	<p>Playcare's new premises opens up many new opportunities i.e. the development of the hall space as a village utility, development of forest school and afterschool clubs and the reopening of an afterschool service.</p> <p>The redevelopment supports Playcare to continue to provide invaluable and essential childcare and early learning to local families.</p>
Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)	£3,600	27/06/2023	To extend the Project Officer position to oversee the final stages of the refurbishment of New Galloway Town Hall.	<p>Extending the Project Officer post ensured the project was completed and the enhanced community asset made available to residents.</p>

Community Councils

Community Councils will typically report on how their previous grant has been used as part of the process for accessing the next year's instalment - as the offer of 2024/25 funds has yet to go out councils have not yet been prompted to provide this information and only two reports returned at this point:

Carsphairn	<p>Nine awards made.</p> <p>Lowest Award: £32.76 for travel expenses for Bairn Banter project lead.</p> <p>Highest Award: £850 to support the annual Seniors' Dinner.</p> <p>Four of the awards were granted to Bairn Banter at a total of £893, highlighting the importance of this fund to early years activity.</p> <p>Other uses included planters, community Christmas tree, community council website hosting.</p>
New Galloway & Kells	<p>Seven awards made.</p> <p>Lowest Award: £70 to LING for speaker hire</p> <p>Highest Award: £960.05 to Dundough Village Services for a water pump to supply potable water in case of mains malfunction (based on previous flood scenario).</p> <p>Summary: Other awards included three grants to LING plus some focus on young people via CatStrand Youth Players (purchase of theatre curtain rail) and Kells Primary to support a residential.</p>

4.3 Case Studies



Image: Screenshot of the Glenkens Hub website

Priority 1: A Connected Community

Organisation funded:

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

Project Name:

Glenkens Hub

Purpose of Award:

To develop, build and maintain the Glenkens Hub, a new website for the community.

Award: £ 15,880

The 2020 Glenkens & District Community Action Plan highlighted a short-term priority action to 'invest in an effective communication tool for the whole community'. In 2021, work was commissioned by Glenkens and District Trust and delivered by the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) to consult with local people and organisations and identify options to develop this communication tool for the community of Glenkens.

Following on from this, in early 2022 GCAT was awarded £15,880 to develop the Glenkens Hub, a new website for the community. During the course of the year the Hub website was built and launched in March 2023 at www.glenkens.scot.

The Hub aims to meet the needs of residents, organisations and businesses across the Glenkens, featuring news stories, events, a community noticeboard and information from community groups, village halls and Community Councils, as well as advertising jobs or volunteering opportunities and business listings. Local reports and resources are brought together in one place, and the Hub hosts the online version of the high valued printed newsletter also delivered by GCAT, the Glenkens Gazette. The Hub has brought together a range of information previously scattered across a range of on and offline resources and met a need for smaller groups who may not want or be able to develop their own websites to have a dedicated online space, bringing information together under one roof efficiently and effectively.

"It's fantastic to see one of the key priorities that the communities set out in 2020 coming to fruition in such an accessible and useful way. Many thanks are due to all who worked and volunteered on it — it's been a real team effort!"

Helen Keron, Executive Manager of GCAT



Image: Glenkens Community Spaces inaugural meeting in Balmaclellan Village Hall (Source:<https://glenkens.scot/glenkens-news/glenkens-community-spaces-network-feb23>)

Priority 2: An Asset Rich Community

Organisation funded:

Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

Name of Project:

Community Spaces Network

Purpose of Award:

To fund two years' salary costs for a freelance co-ordinator for the Community Spaces Network.

Award: £19,976

Glenkens Community Spaces Network (GCSN) was created by GCAT in 2023 to provide a forum for management committees of village halls, town halls, community centres and other community spaces to come together to share ideas, successes and issues. The Network meets every other month, visiting a different community venue.

In 2023, following consultation with representatives of 20 community spaces, seven network meetings were held with four featuring guest speakers. These were attended by members of 14 community spaces committees across the Glenkens.

The Network's purpose is to bring these voluntary committees together for peer support, to encourage partnership working and to amplify their efforts.

As an example of the benefits of this work, Dalry Community Council has sourced funding from NatureScot and SOSE to undertake work on Local Place Planning, one strand of which involves the GCSN Facilitator working with Dalry and Carsphairn Community Councils to complete a draft Local Place Plan for consultation and to produce resources to support the other Community Councils in the Glenkens with Local Place Planning work. The NatureScot funding for this work ended in March 2024, but the work on Local Place Planning will continue through 2024.

"Everyone has found that by meeting regularly, much common ground has been found. Issues facing us have been discussed and I think the feeling that you are 'not on your own' is one of the main positives to come out of the meeting and that Becca (GCSN Facilitator) is able to take forward joint concerns and look for solutions is of great benefit."

Community Venue Representative



Image: Moniaive Playcare Logo

Moniaive Playcare has been providing childcare for the village of Moniaive for more than 20 years and is an integral part of the community.

Since 2005, the service has offered a breakfast and after school club as well as nursery provision.

However, the afterschool service ceased during Covid as it was not possible to run both this service and the nursery service in the same premises due to proximity restrictions.

Since the pandemic, Moniaive Playcare has purchased the premises next door to its existing building with funding from Dumfries & Galloway Council and planned to use this as an opportunity to revive their afterschool services.

While affordable, high quality childcare is important in and of itself in terms of children's wellbeing and education, GDT also recognises its importance in terms of creating and maintaining an economically flourishing community as parents are enabled to maintain employment during the early years of their children's lives. The vital role of childcare was reflected both in the findings of the Community Action Plan and Childcare Feasibility Study and GDT is committed to supporting local organisations to explore avenues for creating these services.



Image: Artist's impression from Moniaive Playcare website

Priority 3: An Economically Flourishing Community

Organisation funded:

Moniaive Playcare

Project:

Coorie Doon

Purpose of Award:

To support building repair costs and running costs associated with reviving an afterschool service over three years to provide rural childcare support for working parents.

Sum: £20,000



Image: Source: [Connections and Education | Carbon Centre](#)

Priority 4: A Carbon Neutral Community

Organisation funded:
Crichton Carbon Centre

Project Name:
Biosphere Explorers

Purpose of Award:
To promote Biosphere Explorers resource packs that will help increase primary school pupils understanding of climate change, biodiversity and sustainability.

Award: £3,026

The Crichton Carbon Centre focusses on peatland restoration, carbon management, sustainable land use and environmental education.

Biosphere Explorers is a project that uses the local frame of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere to teach pupils about climate change, biodiversity, and sustainability. Glenkens & District Trust supported the Centre to deliver this project to primary schools in the area of benefit (P4-7). Nine sessions were delivered to 165 pupils and a session was also delivered to a group of 30 teachers in their role as climate champions.

Overall, teachers were supported to deliver high quality teaching on the natural world and climate education and pupils' understanding of climate change and their own local biosphere environment was increased.

“Blackcraig Windfarm Fund allowed us to engage with schools that we hadn't been able to deliver sessions to for years (or ever) and the appreciation of the teachers and pupils was clear. They were all such rewarding sessions, and we hope the pupils understand more about their local area and Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere thanks to the pack. Genuinely, each session was so fun to deliver and the enthusiasm of the pupils was really infectious!”

Carys Mainprize, Education Officer

5. Financial Overview

Full and up to date financial details for both the Community Fund and the Education and Training Fund are now visible at any point through our donor [Portal](#)

The summary for the Community Fund for 1st June 2019 to 31st May 2023 is as follows:

£1,335,725 has now been donated to the Community Fund, of which £85,000 has been transferred to the Education and Training Fund established in autumn 2022. £52,900 has been paid (5% per annum) towards the administration of the Fund and a further £1,440.78 spent on running costs such as meeting venue hire and printing.

£1,096,708.78 has been paid out in grant awards, with £127,264.20 pending in grants still to be drawn down.

The closing balance at the end of the Fund Year was £127,264.20 but the available balance, taking into account future commitments made was £0.

The list of grants pending (grants to be released) has been included in Appendix 4. These are allocations being held for awards made, where grant conditions are still to be fulfilled or where multi-year funding has been awarded.

6. Fund Distribution

During this year, funds were distributed via the following arrangements:

1. A small grants allocation to each Community Council for local distribution.
2. A Main Grants programme, with advertised funding rounds widely promoted across the Fund area (the 'Community Fund').
3. Early Learning Awards
4. Out of Cycle Awards
5. Education and Training Fund Awards, open to individuals on a rolling basis.

NB Commissioning of discrete items of work or research is still a mechanism available for distributing funds but was not utilised this year. The Year 6 Report will detail work taking place in 2024/2025 to commission a Rural Education Review collating information, principally from other rural communities, which are currently being affected by challenges to established models of schooling, such as small populations or impacts of remote rurality on access.

As noted in Section 2 – Governance, this is the first year that GDT has operated on the basis of pooled funds and under a new brand identity. Unless indicated otherwise, the information presented in this report directly relates to the allocation and spend of Blackcraig monies only.

Total Awards supported by Blackcraig in Year 5		
Community Council Awards	10	£22,000
Community Fund Awards	4	£58,064
Early Learning Centre Awards	5	£2,500
Out of Cycle Awards	1	£3,600
Education and Training Awards	28	£35,000
TOTAL	48	£121,164

The full list of awards supported by Blackcraig Wind Farm Ltd made is provided in Appendix 1.

6.1 Community Council Awards

The total amount awarded to 10 Community Councils in this period was £22,000.

During Year 5, each Community Council received a direct 'small grant payment from the Glenkens Development Trust. The grant can be used at the discretion of the Community Council towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.

The project or projects may be run by the Community Council itself or any another local community organisation. In other cases, a Community Council may invite applications from the community on a rolling basis or on identified closing dates.

Nine of the community councils received £2,000 while Balmaclellan as the windfarm site host receives £4,000. The Community Councils are expected to report back on distribution of their 'local' funds in the interests of transparency and accountability and completion of these reports is required in order to release the following year's payment. Due to the timing of this process, at the time of writing only two of ten reports for the use of the 2023-2024 payments had been received. What is available is included at Section 6, Making A Difference. A full report on the Community Council payments 2022-2023 usage is included in Appendix 2.

6.2 Community Fund Awards

In this reporting period, two rounds of funding were delivered, making four awards using Blackcraig monies with a total awarded sum of £41,506.¹

Decisions on the Autumn 2023 round were discussed and approved in mid-November 2023. The GDT considered **7 applications in this round of funding**. Four grants were awarded, Blackcraig funds paid for two of these and three were rejected. GDT gave detailed feedback to each of the organisations where grants were not awarded, to provide advice for any future applications to the Fund.

¹ Total awards in previous years were 2022-2023: £303,827.53, 2021-2022: £253,460.84. Please note that the decreased awarded figure is indicative of previous commitments on the fund via multi-year awards and the opening balance of £0 at the beginning of the fund year reducing the monies available for distribution.

The total amount awarded in the November 2023 round was £61,681.

Year 5 Funding Round November 2023	
Applications received	7
Awards made using Blackcraig funds	2
Total amount of Blackcraig funds awarded	£ 28,176

Decisions on the Spring 2024 round were discussed and approved in May 2024. The GDT considered **13 applications in this round of funding**. Of the 13 applications that were received, 6 grants were awarded and Blackcraig funds paid for 2 of these. Three were withdrawn and 4 rejected. GDT gave detailed feedback to each of the organisations where grants were not awarded, to provide advice for any future applications to the Fund.

The total amount awarded in the May 2024 round was £83,307.

Year 5 Funding Round May 2024	
Applications received	13
Awards made using Blackcraig funds	2
Total amount awarded	£29,888

6.3 Early Years Awards

Following a request for a very modest level of support from a pre-school provider in the area, GDT extended an offer to each nursery setting in the area of benefit. The Glenkens & District Community Action Plan identified childcare as a priority area and the subsequent childcare feasibility study commissioned by GDT in 2021 noted that quality early years provision in fragile rural communities is seen as essential and that holding existing provision steady was as valuable as introducing new services. It was therefore decided that the most efficient, equitable and effective way to support providers was to make a small award of £500 for non-statutory activities and items to each of the five pre-school centres in the area of benefit.

6.4 Out of Cycle Applications

Two awards were made in this category in Year 5 with a total value of £27,600 (2021-2022: £82,150). One award was subsequently returned as alternative funding was secured, resulting in an overall allocation of £2,600 for this type of award.

The Fund Strategy allows for the availability of 'Out of Cycle' funding, to be considered at any point in the Fund cycle, where the project could be considered time-sensitive or deemed to be an emergency. The Fund uses an enquiry process to ensure potential applicants do not spend disproportionate time developing full applications that the Trustees might not consider a fit for the urgent funding criteria.

In this funding period, two enquiries were received outwith a funding round under the 'urgent fund criteria' and were awarded. The first related to supporting the final stages of the refurbishment of a key local venue when works fell behind schedule and allowed a project officer to remain in post until the project's completion (£2,600), thereby ensuring the refurbishment was completed in an orderly manner, allowing it to return to community use.

The second was to a contribution to a local community transport provider towards the purchase of a second hand 16 seater minibus (£25,000). By replacing an old and unreliable vehicle, the community transport provider could maintain a full fleet and continue to offer the same level of service to meet local need and demand. The award was subsequently returned to GDT when an anonymous donor supported the purchase instead.

The Fund received five out-of-cycle applications in 2022-23 and as noted in Section 3 – Fund Strategy, the process can create challenges in administrative burden and predicting budgets for future. Consequently, GDT continues to undertake stringent assessments of out-of-cycle requests and has reviewed communications material to ensure that applicants are aware of the critical nature of this stream.

Overall, the Out of Cycle process is felt to be a successful example of the flexibility offered by the Fund Strategy in meeting urgent funding requests and also builds goodwill in terms of the community's perception of the Fund as a locally responsive and enabling funder.

6.5 Education and Training Awards

Blackcraig funds paid for 28 individual awards to local residents, with a total value of £35,000.

The Education and Training Funds were introduced in 2022 with an initial budget of £20,000. The Fund aims to improve access to opportunity and to improve livelihoods. In the context of this Fund, this is primarily through enabling people to access skills needed to enter into or retain employment. A wide range of costs are eligible for support, such as travel, equipment, childcare, accommodation, and direct course fees.

Given the level of demand, the contribution from Blackcraig was increased to £35,000 for its second year.

Awards are capped at £1,000 per year and the Fund operates on a rolling basis, with applications being submitted at any time for a decision advertised to be within six weeks, but often far quicker.

During the Fund Year, Blackcraig supported twenty eight awards, one was rejected and seven withdrawn. The single application that was rejected was on the basis of failure to fulfil the eligibility criteria and the seven that were withdrawn were for reasons such as change of circumstances or withdrawal from the stated course.

In terms of strategic operation of this fund, it was noted that the volume of applications for this stream have increased considerably over one year, with an almost 60% increase in volume and a 37% increase in the amount awarded. For this reason, as well as to ensure equitable access for all residents in the area of benefit, it was decided in November 2023 to reduce the possible funding term from three years to one but retain an option for repeated applications.

A full list of awards can be found in Appendix 3.

7. Fund Promotion

Ongoing fund promotion is important to ensure the community is aware of the opportunity to apply for Funds and the different routes by which this can be done, and to promote the positive impact of the awards made. Routine fund promotion was carried out in a number of ways:

- Physical posters promoting availability of Funds in each community
- Social Media posts about the availability of Funds and awards made on @glenkenstrust and @FoundationScotland
- Maintenance of the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund page on Foundation Scotland’s website
- Press Releases to all local media outlets on awards made, with pick-up in all outlets approached
- Articles placed in two local newsletters - the Glenkens Gazette and the Glencairn Gazette
- Via Glenkens & District Trust website

8. Conclusion

The fifth year of funding saw ongoing successful distribution of funds, underpinned by strong collaborative working between Foundation Scotland and Glenkens & District Trust. Key successes included:

- Increased focus on resourcing and enabling anchor organisations with longer term core support
- Maximising the impact of fixed funds available
- Successful delivery of a popular Education and Training Fund.
- Keeping our communities updated and involved with the work of GDT

Looking ahead to Year 6, GDT expects to see formalised funding agreements reflecting the work undertaken with key anchor organisations and financial support being rolled out to these key groups. By supporting these key anchor organisations, GDT will secure progress around key outcomes from the Community Action Plan.

GDT will also be inducting two new Trustees. Willie Dickson from Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council and Richard Middleton from Crossmichael and District Community Council will complete their maximum tenure, as per the Trust's governing document. The Trustees would like to thank Willie and Richard for their work and commitment to GDT over the past XX years and recognised their important role in the GDT's successes. Trustees also look forward to welcoming two new Trustees appointed by the Community Councils.

As ever, the Trustees will also be working to evolve the Fund Strategy in response to the changing economic context and renewable energy community benefit landscape, with the aim of ensuring that the strategy is designed to maximise the Fund's impact and benefit all residents within the area of benefit.

For more information, contact:

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APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF BLACKCRAIG AWARDS IN YEAR 5

Applying Organisation	Offer Statement	Awarded
Community Fund		
Cairn Chorus	To contribute towards the cost of commissioning, preparing and delivering 'Galloway Sang Streams' a concert series aiming to provide a high quality cultural and social activity for local communities	£ 8,176
Dunscore Play Park Project	To contribute towards Phase 4 of the park redevelopment which is to purchase and install play equipment in the park for the enjoyment of residents and visitors.	£ 25,000
Moniaive Playcare	To support gutter repair/replacement costs for Coorie Doon, as well as staff and running costs associated with reviving your afterschool service over three years to provide rural childcare support for working parents.	£ 20,000
Crossmichael and District Community Council	To contribute to the costs of refurbishing the Crossmichael War Memorial railings, conserving an asset which forms part of the heritage of the community	£ 4,888
		£ 58,064
Community Council Awards		
Balmaclellan Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
Balmaclellan Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
Balmaghie Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
Carsphairn Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
Crossmichael and District Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
Dalry Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
Dunscore Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
Glencairn Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000

Parton Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
The Royal Burgh of New Galloway & Kells Community Council	To provide funding towards one or more charitable projects that will benefit the community.	£ 2,000
		£ 22,000
Early Learning Awards		
Crossmichael and Parton Playgroup	To support activities or provide resources that will benefit the children’s early learning experience.	£ 500
Dalry Early Learning Centre	To support activities or provide resources that will benefit the children’s early learning experience.	£ 500
Dunscore Pre School Centre	To support activities or provide resources that will benefit the children’s early learning experience.	£ 500
Springholm Playgroup	To support activities or provide resources that will benefit the children’s early learning experience.	£ 500
Moniaive Playcare	To support activities or provide resources that will benefit the children’s early learning experience.	£ 500
		£ 2,500
Out of Cycle Awards		
Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)	To extend the Project Officer position to oversee the final stages of the refurbishment of New Galloway Town Hall.	£ 3,600
		£ 3,600
Total	20 awards	£ 86,164

APPENDIX 2 – SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORTING 2022-2023

Community Council	Summary
Balmaclellan	<p>15 awards totalling £5,200</p> <p>Lowest Award: £30 for a Remembrance Sunday wreath to the Balmaclellan CC</p> <p>Highest Award: 3x awards at £500 for a bench, a centenary pictorial display and 'make do and mend' to Balmaclellan Community Trust, Balmaclellan Community Trust and Balmaclellan Heritage Group respectively.</p> <p>Emphasis on arts and leisure with requests made around life drawing class, ukelele group, photography group, fitness class, Dragon Boats.</p>
Balmaghie	<p>1 award of £550</p> <p>Award for Balmaghie Cemetery Grass Cutters to purchase a mower</p>
Carsphairn	<p>9 awards totalling £1,123</p> <p>Lowest Award: £20 for website domain renewal for the Carsphairn Community Council.</p> <p>Highest Award: £320 for insurance costs to the Carsphairn Community Council for community garden.</p> <p>Other applications included defibrillator pads, Senior Dinner costs, community garden maintenance and planters.</p>
Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham	<p>5 awards totalling £2,205</p> <p>Lowest Award: £215 for sports equipment from the Springholm Parent Council</p> <p>Highest Award: £490 for equipment in the garden musical area from Springholm Nursery</p> <p>Other applications included KPD Hall insurance, KPD Recreation Association Bothy insurance and the Corsock Art Club</p>
Dalry	<p>6 awards totalling £3,000</p> <p>Lowest Award: £195 for individual's Health & Safety training</p> <p>Highest Award: £500 for Dalry Town Hall's printer and sound system</p> <p>Other applications included a further two individual awards for yoga equipment (£205) and art classes (£350) plus costs for flowers around the village and storage for Dragon Boats.</p>

Dunscore	1 award totalling £2,000 to Dunscore Playpark Project for continuing upgrade of park and installation of zipwire.
Glencairn	<p>5 awards totalling £1,815</p> <p>Lowest Award: £80 for a jubilee party (hall hire and bunting)</p> <p>Highest Award: £490 to Moniaive Theatre Group for pantomime costs</p> <p>Other applications included costs for a children’s party, a woodlands event and sheepdog trials.</p>
New Galloway & Kells	<p>2 awards totalling £800</p> <p>Award of £500 to Dragon Boats on Loch Ken for storage repairs</p> <p>Award of £300 to LING for Christmas lights and children’s Christmas gifts.</p>
Crossmichael & District	<p>2 awards totalling £1,000</p> <p>Award of £500 to an individual for village groundwork and cleanup</p> <p>Award of £500 to Crossmichael Youth Club to pay for landscaping works around the war memorial.</p>
Parton	Foundation Scotland has been seeking updates.

APPENDIX 3 – SUMMARY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS 2022-2023

Offer Statement	Awarded
To support travel and subsistence costs associated with accessing your course and contribute towards the purchase of a laptop	£ 1,000
To fund course fees & associated expenses enabling completion of Introduction to BSL (British Sign Language) course	£ 344
Towards the cost of a laptop to support your study	£ 700
To support course costs for completing a Diploma in Foot Health	£ 1,000
To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying for an MA away from home	£ 1,000
To contribute to expenses whilst studying	£ 3,000
To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying for a BSc away from home	£ 1,000
To support course fees associated with online learning	£ 1,000
To contribute to accommodation and study materials whilst studying	£ 3,000
To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying for a BSc away from home	£ 1,000
Contribution to expenses to support BEng studies, away from home	£ 3,000
To contribute to expenses whilst studying away from home	£ 1,000
To fund course fees of a professional qualification, enabling you to retrain	£ 1,000
To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying away from home	£ 1,000
To support accommodation costs whilst studying away from home	£ 1,000
To fund course fees and study materials	£ 1,000
To fund accommodation costs and expenses whilst studying away from home	£ 1,000
To contribute to the cost of purchasing a laptop	£ 1,000
To support course fees for Forest School Leader and First Aid Training	£ 1,000
To support accommodation costs associated with study	£ 1,000
To support accommodation costs associated with study	£ 1,000
To fund accommodation costs and expenses whilst on summer placement	£ 1,000
To fund travel and accommodation costs associated with course learning	£ 1,000
To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying	£ 3,000
To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying for a BSc away from home	£ 1,000
To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying for a HND away from home	£ 1,000
To contribute to accommodation costs whilst studying for a BSc away from home	£ 1,000

To support accommodation costs associated with study	£ 1,000
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APPENDIX 4 – SUMMARY OF PENDING GRANTS

Date	Project	Amount
Feb 2025	Galloway Fisheries Trust	£15,000
Oct 2024	New Galloway Community Enterprises	£10,000
Oct 2025	New Galloway Community Enterprises	£5,000
May 2024	Loch Ken Trust	£20,000
Aug 2024	Glenkens Community and Arts Trust	£11,884
Sept 2023	Parton Community Council Small Grant 2023	£2,000
Apr 2024	Dunscore PreSchool Centre	£500
May 2024	Crossmichael and District Community Council	£4,888
May 2024	Dunscore Play Park Project	£22,992