Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting – November 2026

Reports from all our meetings can be found on this page of our website under the heading 'Summaries of our Board Meetings'

We held our Autumn decision making meeting at The Smiddy in Balmaclellan on 10 November 2026. This was the core focus of the meeting, but we also took the opportunity to update on relevant issues.

This was also the first funding round where we had monies from Red Rock Ltd from Benbrack Wind Farm. This additional c£111,000 per annum is a very welcome addition to the funds available to us.

We have also finalised the video about the last eight years and this can be found here.

Policy issues

The UK government has recently published the Energy Independence Bill. Part of that bill addresses making the payment of community benefits for onshore wind mandatory. The announcement is here . They are minded to make the mandatory amount £5,000 per MW (the current rate paid). Much of the detail of the arrangements will be covered in secondary legislation that will come after the Bill is passed, so we will continue to monitor that. The announcement however makes it clear that the community should be at the heart of these arrangements, which is the key point of the submissions we have previously made on this policy. We were delighted to see GDT referred to in the announcement as an example of best practice.

The Scottish Government are due to publish their new Good Practice Principles on both Onshore Wind and Offshore Wind later this month. These have been the subject of much consultation and engagement over the last few years. Fiona has been part of the Advisory Group the Scottish Government set up to cover these Onshore Wind GPPs. It is anticipated that these will also advocate to keep the community at the heart of decisions and that they will set out how developers and community groups should work together to achieve this. GDT is expected to be a case study in both sets of principles, and we have commented on

the drafts of these studies. We are seen as a good example of communities working together and utilising well-founded Community Action Plans to inform how funds are used and how these arrangements are reviewed to ensure they meet community need.

The new Good Practice Principles will set expectations for all involved in this topic and we will review them, once published, to ensure we understand what it means for us and what we should expect from the developers in our area going forward. They will form a key foundation for our work in the future.

Result of Autumn Awards

We received fourteen applications and awarded monies to 11 applicants. Information on awards is at Appendix A. There was one application we deferred as we need further information from the applicant before we can make an award. We had a wide ranging discussion on the assessments to ensure we made robust decisions that are aligned with our Fund Strategy and fund projects that are clearly well planned to benefit our community.

We supported a wide range of projects. Once again, there was a high number providing for children and young people. It was interesting that this time the applications were more focused on giving children and young people different skills and experiences rather than the provision of assets. Supporting our community organisations to provide great childhood experiences of course important to the sustainability of our community in the longer term. One of the areas that Red Rock wanted their funding to address was 'attracting and retaining a younger population' and we were delighted we had these projects that meet this aim.

We made an award to the Glenkens Agricultural Show to enable them to purchase additional animal handling equipment and to underpin the costs of running the Show for the next three years. The Show is a great example of how our farming community works together to demonstrate the value of what they do for the Glenkens and the quality of livestock in the area. We were pleased to see their focus on young people and education to support this sector that is so important to the economy of the wider Glenkens.

Maintaining and supporting community assets has continued to be important and we awarded funding to both Kirkpatrick Durham Community Hall and Kirkpatrick Durham Recreation Association to do work at their respective facilities.

We made an award to Naturally Smart Group CIC to develop a pilot project to monitor moths and create a free data set to support community land-use use decisions.

New Galloway Community Enterprise were awarded £15,000 to support their salary costs in New Galloway shop. We are well aware of the critical importance of local shops to the people who live here, and also that they are a mix of social enterprises and privately owned businesses across our area. This raises some tricky issues about how this sector can be supported by us with charitable funding. More on that below.

Underpinning most of the awards was the use of local firms and people to carry out the work needed to implement the awards. This supports community wealth building as well as providing paid roles for people who live and spend money in the area.

At the end of our meeting, we had a general discussion on areas of likely focus for the new Fund Strategy, informed by the applications in this round. Some additional areas we will consider as part of the review are: -

1. How do we effectively support our public spaces and community facilities in the longer term given the long-term funding we now receive?
2. How do we fairly support key facilities in the area, such as shops, where the ownership sits in both the not for profit and for-profit sectors?
3. What priority do we give to locally based organisations rather than national organisations seeking to provide services or activities in the area and what due diligence and partnership working do we require from the latter?

Awards between meetings

None

Areas of focus over the next quarter

We will continue to monitor the policy developments and ensure we understand what they mean for us.

Foundation Scotland will finalise the Fund Review and we will then use it and the Glenkens CAP refresh process and other plans across our area to inform our new Fund Strategy early next year.

We will continue to actively engage with the numerous developers in the area and maintain up to date information on their status. We will continue to seek to get them to enter into Memorandum of Agreements or similar for their developments at the appropriate times.

Helen Keron will formally take over as Chair from the 19th November after an extended handover since April.

And finally, and personally….

This was my last meeting and therefore the last Report I will prepare. It has been a privilege and an honour to be chair of GDT for eight years and to work with Trustees, Community Councils, community groups and Foundation Scotland to deliver on our purpose.

Community benefit monies have made a real difference to the lives of the people who live here. The way GDT and all the parties involved have worked collegiately together to make a real difference with the money available has been a great example of why communities should be at the heart of decisions on the use of these monies.

I would like to thank each and everyone involved over the years for your support, good humour, honesty and can-do attitude. It has made my job both enjoyable and rewarding. I am absolutely confident that GDT and the great Glenkens & District communities will go from strength to strength. I will watch it all with interest!

Fiona Smith, 15th November 2026

Awards Summary

Grantee	Offer Statement	Awarded Amount
Crossmichael and District Community Council	To cover the costs of a feasibility study to assess the feasibility of a community acquisition Crossmichael Church, a Category A listed building which is currently listed for sale by the Church of Scotland.	£9,720.00
Dalry Primary Parent Council	To contribute to the cost of improving and developing an inclusive outdoor space to support learning, play, health, wellbeing, sustainability, and then enabling education sessions for pupils and the wider community at the space.	£4,100.00
Glenkens Agricultural Society	To contribute towards three years of core funding and the purchase of animal handling equipment to support the continued delivery of the Glenkens Agricultural Show.	£24,210.00
Jupiter Artland Foundation	To contribute to the cost of travel to a contemporary arts exhibition and learning program in Dumfries and towards the costs of six young people taking part in Orbit 2026, fostering skills, agency, and access to creative industries in a rural community.	£3,000.00
Kirkpatrick Durham Community Hall Committee	To contribute towards improvements to the community hall, helping to enhance accessibility, security, sustainability and long-term resilience.	£8,336.00
Kirkpatrick Durham Recreation Association	To contribute the cost of establishing a level grassed area with suitable drainage in the recreation ground, suitable for playing ball games and for outdoor community events.	£17,100.00
Moniaive Outdoor Gym Group	To contribute towards the purchase and installation of outdoor gym equipment in Moniaive to support the health and well-being of residents.	£6,500.00
Moniaive Playcare	To cover the costs to introduce a Froebel-aligned woodworking and scientific discover curriculum, which will provide children with opportunities to develop curiosity and experience hands-on learning.	£2,900.00
Naturally Smart Group CIC	To contribute to the cost of building and installing automated moth monitoring units, training volunteers, hosting public events, and creating a free, open local ecological dataset to support community land-use decision.	£9,910.00
New Galloway Community Enterprises Limited	To contribute to the costs of the Shop Team Leader's Wage, a key role which will support New Galloway Community Enterprise's aim to improve income generation.	£15,000.00
Springholm Playgroup	To cover the costs of outdoor 'loose parts' play equipment which will support children in their development and learning, and fosters creativity and curiosity.	£1,851.42
	Total Awarded	**£102,627.42**