



Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)

Report from meeting – November 2024

We met on 26 November for a Trustee Meeting. The focus of the evening was to make decisions on applications received in October and to finalise our support for 'anchor' organisations.

Trustees

Following on from the Community Council elections our Community Council Members have all gone through the formal process to appoint their Trustee and Representative/s on GDT. While the trustees have remained virtually unchanged, we were pleased to welcome Cath Seeds as the new trustee from Crossmichael and District Community Council.

It was also the last meeting for Willie Dickson who is the appointed trustee from Corsock and Kirkpatrick Durham Community Council. Willie has been a trustee with GDT since its inception but has now reached the maximum tenure allowed under our Constitution. We thanked Willie for his support and insights over the years and especially for the way he has advocated and supported working together across the wider area and the benefits of a collegiate approach. We will miss his unfailing politeness and good humour.

Statements and Grant-making Reports

As always, 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 also agreed that it would be useful to have a few clear and relevant metrics that would enable us to report over the medium and long term on the key impacts flowing from the funds we utilise. A small subgroup of trustees is working with Foundation Scotland to develop these.

Funding Round

Seven applications were received by the October closing date. All were eligible so Foundation Scotland therefore went through their usual assessment process making reports on the applications to the trustees which were considered at the meeting.

The available budget was c£85,000. Three awards totalling £52,697.47 were made, two declined and two were deferred.

We supported Dalry Community Property Trust (£15,197.47) in their plans to renovate the Multi Use Games Area and enable it to be used for community activities following an asset transfer from Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) received two awards. One of £18,500 to support remedial work associated with their new dry rot outbreak and another of £19,000 over three years to support staffing costs at their Thursday Hubbub. This latter award supports three part time roles in the area.

Support for 'anchor' organisations

Following a robust process, as reported on previously, the trustees have decided to provide core funding, proactively, to the two key anchor organisations in the area of benefit, Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) and Moniaive Initiative (MI). These organisations not only provide significant impact (as many groups do successfully in the area) but also leverage in significant other funds and provide support to their communities and crucially to other groups in the area in furtherance of the Community Action Plans. This decision means an annual contribution of £50,000 to GCAT and £10,000 to MI subject to availability of funds and satisfactory continuing delivery. We will now work with these two organisations to document the terms and the reporting required etc. This decision will provide these organisations with some stability in a turbulent funding landscape and support them to focus on delivering the additional benefits they bring to the wider community.

Community Action Plan Projects

In July we budgeted £18,000 for the continuation of Community Action Plan projects. Following a review of the assessment by Foundation Scotland of GCAT's proposal to continue the Glenkens Community Spaces Network Coordinator post for a further year, we awarded GCAT £9,775 in October.

Education Report

The research report that we commissioned has now been published and information can be found here. <https://www.glenkenstrust.org.uk/news-1/research-links-education-innovation-to-community-sustainability>

We know that as a funder, GDT does not have the expertise or remit to make recommendations on policy on this topic. However, we are also keenly aware that this is a matter of great local import. As our role is to resource, enable and stimulate community development in the Glenkens, we felt the best strategic contribution we could make was to use our community benefit funding to support a resource that will inform the debate and offer inspiration based on what is being achieved in other regions.

This has been circulated to key groups and individuals.

We are strongly encouraging interested parties and especially decision makers to use this report and reflect on what can be learned from it. We are also considering ways in which community members, organisations and decision makers can learn more about the report and consider its findings. More information will be available soon at www.glenkenstrust.org.uk.

Other issues

Engagement continues with the various wind farm developers within the area. This is a good and constructive engagement from all parties.

We are now close to finalising the agreement with Red Rock Power for Benbrack Wind Farm. 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.

We do our best to keep abreast of what is happening in relation to community benefit arrangements and to ensure that the community remains at the heart of any future decision making on community benefit arrangements. This is challenging in view of the many groups showing an interest in this topic and the tendency for them to overlook what communities are doing in this area. In the last few weeks, we have attended two Teams calls led by the Scottish Government on community benefits from transmission assets, discussed community benefit arrangements and input views to South of Scotland Enterprise and sent a detailed paper to the Strathclyde Institute for Sustainable Communities who are carrying out work in this area. It is a very noisy space!

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 document the arrangements with GCAT and MI.

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