



Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund

REPORT
2021

Fern Community Fund is the energy company for the Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm, and the Community Fund which will see £12,420 per year (index linked) available to support local community projects during the 25-year lifetime of the wind farm. The fund is administered by Kincardineshire Development Partnership (KDP) and managed by a decision-making panel made up of elected representatives from the local Community Councils in the area of benefit covered by the fund. The community fund is open to applications from groups and projects which benefit the communities living in the following Community Council areas:

- Stonehaven & District
- Arbuthnott
- Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar
- Mearns

The total fund for 2021 was £12,774.63. This was made up from the general community fund of £12,615.92, plus a returned underspend of £158.71 from a previous funding allocation.

The 7th round of the fund opened for applications on 1st April 2021 for a three-month period, closing on 30th June 2021.

A total of 15 applications were received in this period requesting funding of £32,393.07 (see appendix 1: total funding applications received and appendix 2: number of funding applications per Community Council area).

Applications were distributed to the Decision-Making Panel members for consideration prior to the panel meeting on Thursday 28th July 2021. Due to current Covid restrictions, the meeting was held virtually. Applications which met the criteria of the fund were broken down into the geographic areas. Ten groups in total received an award.

The policy to only consider applications which met all criteria on the evening i.e. planning permission in place, quotes and accounts on the table worked well.

£12,759.83 worth of funding was agreed with £14.80 carried forward to next year.

All applicants were informed by email and letter of the outcome. Successful applicants must report back to KDP within twelve months or whenever the project is complete, whichever is soonest.

There was no Presentation Evening due to Covid restrictions.

Applications were received by a wide range of community projects. The following grants were awarded:

Marykirk Outdoor Bowling Club	Repairs to Clubhouse roof	£550.00
Laurencekirk Memorial Park Group	Disabled toilet access pack	£1,227.10
Auchenblae Parks Committee	Defibrillator for golf course	£1,170.00
Auchenblae Pre School Group	Storage solutions	£2,060.85
McDonald/Carnegie Residents Social Fund	Outdoor seating for sheltered housing	£2,000.00
Stonehaven Community Radio	Silence detectors	£1151.88
HomeStart Kincardine	Earliest intervention – Perinatal support	£1,000.00
Kincardine & Mearns Citizens Advice	Housing advisor post – laptop	£1,000.00
Stonehaven Lions	Feather flags	£1,000.00
Mearns Singers	Virtual, recording & amplification project	£1,600.00

Points for Future Consideration

The administration of the Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund for 2021 was reviewed by the decision-making panel.

The fund successfully attracted a good number of applicants, which overall met with the Terms and Conditions as laid out. Communication with community groups and projects worked well and the timing of press releases was appropriate. Applications were sent to panel members electronically which worked very well and was more environmentally friendly. Because of Covid-19 it was necessary to conduct the panel meeting virtually. This worked well but it was agreed to revert back to face to face meetings once restrictions have been lifted. It was not possible to hold a presentation ceremony, again because of Covid restrictions and payments were made electronically instead of sending cheques.

The Panel were advised that RES has now been appointed as Asset Managers for the Hillhead of Auquhirie Windfarm, and that they are requesting some additional information to be included in the annual report. As a result, it will be necessary to add new questions to the application form asking how many people are involved in the group as Committee Members/Trustees/Volunteers and the overall number of people the funds requested will benefit. They also want to know the population of the area of benefit and would like photographic evidence of the projects, as well as copies of invoices. Groups are already asked to provide invoices but will now be asked to include photos in their End of Project Report.

Conclusions

The panel discussed the criteria around running costs, professional fundraisers and distributing funds to groups who give money to others, and decided not to make any changes at this time.

It was agreed that Question 4 in the application form should be expanded to ensure full details of the project are included.

It was agreed that Question 12 should be amended to read 'please remember to include copies of all policies and documents that are relevant to your organisation' rather than 'relevant to your application'. Guidelines would be amended to match.

The panel agreed that additional detail should be added about funding for Aberdeenshire owned properties and Aberdeenshire funded groups and organisations.

Financial Report

The 2021 Financial Account for Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund can be seen in Appendix 3. Please note that due to Covid, there was a delay in opening the Fund for the 2020 round and the 2020 grants were not distributed until April 2021. As a result, two rounds of grants are included in the Annual Account.

Kincardineshire Development Partnership would like to extend their thanks to the four Community Councils involved in the funding process who are represented on the Decision-Making Panel. Also, Fern Community Funds for their support throughout this process.

Appendix 1: Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund - All Applications Received

Applicant	Funds Requested	Awarded
Marykirk Bumps, Babies & Toddlers	£1,026.00	*
Marykirk Outdoor Bowling Club	£550.00	£550.00
Memorial Park Group	£1,227.10	£1227.10
Auchenblae Parks Committee	£1,170.00	£1170.00
Auchenblae Pre School Group	£2,060.85	£2060.85
Auchenblae Community Association	£1,900.00	**
The Haven	£2,600.00	*
McDonald/Carnegie Residents Social Fund	£2,941.50	£2000.00
Stonehaven Recreation Grounds	£3,799.95	*
Stonehaven Community Radio	£1,700.00	£1151.88
HomeStart Kincardine	£2,079.00	£1000.00
Mill O Forest Primary School	£1,390.94	*
Kincardine & Mearns Citizens Advice Bureau	£5,594.28	£1000.00
Stonehaven Lions	£1,029.60	£1000.00
Mearns Singers	£3,323.85	£1600.00

* Did not meet criteria

** Withdrawn

*** Requires additional funding in place prior to being considered for funding

Appendix 2: Hillhead of Auquhirie 2021 Applications Considered for Funding, per Community Council Area

Community Council	No of Applications	Value of Applications
Stonehaven & District	9	£24,459.12
Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar	0	£0
Arbuthnott	0	£0
Mearns	6	£7,933.95
Total	15	£32,393.07

Appendix 3 – Annual Accounts

Account 12485264 - Hillhead of Auquhirie Windfarm Community Fund

1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022

	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22	Total
Income													
Balance b/f	30,033.82												30,033.82
Annual Payment			12,720.57										12,720.57
Underspend Repayment				320.00									320.00
Sub-total	30,033.82	0.00	12,720.57	320.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43,074.39
Grants Awarded													
Catterline Coastal Rowing Club	240.00												
Fordoun Defibrillator Group	1,000.00												
Luthermuir Hall & Park Committee	4,000.00												
West Cairnbeg Forum	2,148.00												
Auchenblae Pre School Group	1,000.00												
Fettercairn Public Property Committee	2,808.00												
Stonehaven & District Horticultural Society	320.00												
Stonehaven Thistle Cricket Club	1,000.00												
1297 Stonehaven Squadron Air Cadets	788.30												
HomeStart Kincardine	954.89												
Kincardine & Deeside Befriending	1,000.00												
Stonehaven Amateur Swimming Club	2,000.00												
Marykirk Outdoor Bowling Club						550.00							
Memorial Park Group					1,227.10								
Auchenblae Parks Committee					1,170.00								
Auchenblae Pre School Group					2,060.85								
McDonald/Carnegie Residents Social Fund					2,000.00								
Stonehaven Community Radio					1,151.88								
HomeStart Kincardine					1,000.00								
Kincardine & Mearns Citizens Advice Bureau					1,000.00								
Stonehaven Lions					1,000.00								
Mearns Singers					1,600.00								
Sub Totals	17,259.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,209.83	550.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,019.02
Balance C/F	12,774.63	12,774.63	25,495.20	25,815.20	13,605.37	13,055.37	13,055.37	13,055.37	13,055.37	13,055.37	13,055.37	13,055.37	13,055.37