

**octopus**investments

# Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund

REPORT  
2023



Kincardineshire  
Development  
Partnership

Octopus Investments 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 2023 was £15,958.57. This was made up of the general community fund of £13,038.578, £0.89 underspend from 2022 and a returned underspend of £2919.10 from previous funding allocations.

The 9<sup>th</sup> round of the fund opened for applications on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 for a three-month period, closing on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

A total of 25 applications were received in this period requesting funding of £65,572.80 (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 Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The meeting was held virtually. Applications which met the criteria of the fund were broken down into the geographic areas. Fourteen groups in total received an award, however one of these groups, had to decline their grant due to a change in circumstances. The panel reconvened for a short online meeting and agreed to reallocate the funds to successful groups who had not received the full amount requested. This resulted in thirteen successful applications.

£15,951.41 worth of funding was agreed with £7.16 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.

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

Auchenblae Parks Committee	Energy efficiency upgrade for Den Pavilion	£799.62
Auchenblae Pre School Group	Meal & snack provision	£1645.00
Catkins Football Club	New equipment and strips	£1395.79
Catterline Braes Action Group	Site remediation	£1745.00
Drumlithie After School Help	New shed	£733.00
Edzell Woods Community Trust	Community hub – noticeboard	£800.00
Exercise After Stroke	Exercise after stroke classes	£600.00
Girlguiding Kincardine & Deeside	Archery equipment	£1033.00
K&D Befriending	Befriending service	£1445.00
K&M Youth Clubs	Silent disco kit	£1445.00
Kinneff & Catterline Parish Hall	Replacement linoleum	£575.00
Stonehaven & District Roundtable	Candy floss machine	£2400.00
Stonehaven Highland Games	Purchase of marquee	£1335.00

### Points for Future Consideration

The administration of the Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund for 2023 was reviewed by the decision-making panel.

The fund successfully attracted a good number of applicants across the areas of benefit. Communication with community groups and projects worked well, although it was noted that considerable administration time is spent chasing groups for missing documentation.

KDP requested that the application form and guidelines be changed to clarify who can apply to the fund. It was agreed to change the wording as follows (as per the terminology used in the Community Fund Agreement between KDP and the Windfarm):

“The Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund is open to applications from any community group, club, society, charity or other not-for-profit entity that operates within the Area of Benefit and benefits residents living in the following Community Council areas....”

KDP also requested approval to amend the clause on National & regional charities to ensure that such charities, who support people within the area of benefit but without an office, can still apply for funding. The proposed amendment was as follows:

“What type of projects will not be considered?

National or regional charities who do not operate in the area of benefit. “

Finally, due to the escalating number of applications and the associated values of many of these, a threshold on the value of applications was discussed. This is to set realistic expectations for all applicants, and the following wording was noted:

“How much funding can be applied for?

Due to the demand for the Community Fund, applicants may apply for a maximum of £1500 of funding. This may be increased in exceptional circumstances and will be reviewed in the future.”

The panel agreed to all amendments.

## Conclusions

It was agreed that the guidelines and application form would be amended to meet the changes agreed above. Other than these changes, it was agreed to continue managing the fund as previously, as this is working successfully.

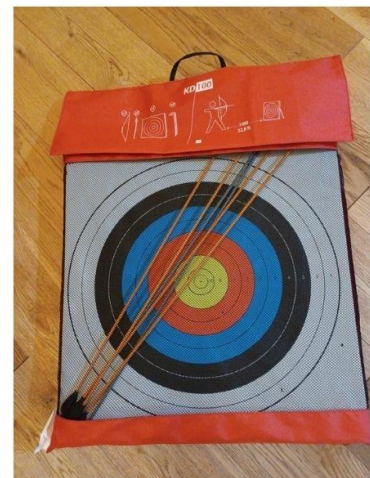
## Financial Report

The 2023 Financial Account for Hillhead of Auquhirie Wind Farm Community Fund can be seen in Appendix 3

*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.*



## Some of the projects to benefit from the 2023 Hillhead of Auquhirie Community Fund



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

### Appendix 1: Total Funding Applications Received

Applicant	Funds Requested	Awarded
Catkins Football Club	£1395.79	£1395.79
Kinneff & Catterline Parish Hall	£575.00	£575.00
Catterline Braes Action Group	£2603.40	£1745.00
Auchenblae Parks Committee	£799.62	£799.62
Edzell Woods Community Trust	£1330.30	£800.00
Drumlithie After School Help	£733.00	£733.00
Auchenblae Pre School Group	£2375.86	£1645.00
Stonehaven & District Roundtable	£2492.40	£2400.00
Exercise After Stroke	£600.00	£600.00
K&D Befriending	£2000.00	£1445.00
K&M Youth Clubs	£2019.00	£1445.00
Stonehaven Highland Games	£1335.00	£1335.00
Girlguiding Kincardine & Deeside	£1033.00	£1033.00
Arbuthnott Community Association	£2000.00	£0.00
Marykirk Parents & Carers	£5319.50	£0.00
Laurencekirk Out of School Club	£5000.00	£0.00
Auchenblae Parent Council	£4001.96	£0.00
Aberluthnott Parish Church	£4679.00	£0.00
Laurencekirk Primary School	£7550.00	£0.00
Stonehaven Amateur Swimming Club	£4000.00	£0.00
Rhythm Nation Dance	£2000.00	£0.00
Mearns Community Radio	£2019.97	£0.00
Glenbervie Pre School (WITHDRAWN)	£1754.00	£0.00
Mackie Academy Developing the Young Workforce (WITHDRAWN)	£4416.00	£0.00
Maggie Law Museum (OUTWITH AREA)	£3540.00	£0.00

## Appendix 2: Applications Considered for Funding, per Community Council Area

Community Council	Electorate figures in the Area of Benefit *	No of Applications	Value of Applications
Stonehaven & District	9100	4	£11,508.40
Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar	968	3	£4,574.19
Arbuthnott	274	1	£2,000.00
Mearns	6473	10	£33,543.24
Multiple Areas		6	£10,406.97
<b>Total</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>£62,032.80</b>

\* These figures have been taken from Aberdeenshire Council's Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils, adopted in January 2022.

Please note that there was one application received from outwith the area of benefit, and therefore was not considered.

## Appendix 3 – Annual Accounts

### Account 12485264 - Hillhead of Auquhirie Windfarm Community Fund

1st January - 31st December 2023

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Total
<b>Income</b>													
Balance b/f	13,179.47												13,179.47
Annual Payment					14,236.23								14,236.23
Underspend Repayment		111.10						2,808.00					2,919.10
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>13,179.47</b>	<b>111.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>14,236.23</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,808.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>30,334.80</b>
<b>Grants Awarded</b>													
St Laurence Football Club	140.00												140.00
Edzell Woods Community Trust								800.00					800.00
Kincardine & Deeside Befriending								1,000.00	445.00				1,445.00
Catterline Braes Action Group								1,300.00	445.00				1,745.00
Girlguiding Kincardine & Deeside								1,033.00					1,033.00
Stonehaven Highland Games								1,335.00					1,335.00
Stonehaven & District Roundtable								2,400.00					2,400.00
Catkins Football Club								1,395.79					1,395.79
Kincardine & Mearns Youth Clubs								1,000.00	445.00				1,445.00
Auchenblae Pre School Group								1,200.00	445.00				1,645.00
Auchenble Parks Committee								799.62					799.62
Kinneff & Catterline Parish Hall								575.00					575.00
Exercise After Stroke								600.00					600.00
													0.00
													0.00
													0.00
<b>Sub Totals</b>	<b>140.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>13,438.41</b>	<b>1,780.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>15,358.41</b>
<b>Balance C/F</b>	<b>13,039.47</b>	<b>13,150.57</b>	<b>13,150.57</b>	<b>13,150.57</b>	<b>27,386.80</b>	<b>27,386.80</b>	<b>27,386.80</b>	<b>16,756.39</b>	<b>14,976.39</b>	<b>14,976.39</b>	<b>14,976.39</b>	<b>14,976.39</b>	<b>14,976.39</b>

Please note that the payment to Drumlithie After School Help has still to be processed as they are experiencing issues with their bank account. Therefore £733.00 has yet to be deducted from the current balance.