

# Flash Report

January - March 2024



Foundation  
Scotland

# Welcome to our Flash Report for January to March 2024

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**The clocks have changed and lighter evenings are here at last. With Spring (almost) fully sprung, at Foundation Scotland, we've been looking to the future, planning more ways in which we can support the communities in which we live, while also reflecting on our journey over the last few months.**

We are always grateful to those who we walk alongside – our donors, our colleagues, our communities and our funding partners. This Flash Report will reflect on some of those journeys, with communities and individuals who are making a difference across the country.

**First, though, a word about partnerships.**

One of things we are mindful of at Foundation Scotland is the power of collaboration and collective voice. We often partner with other charities, funders and individuals to help augment issues that underpin our society. One such partnership is coming to fruition this year, in the shape of the Social Action Inquiry Scotland.



Social action takes place in every community in Scotland, from individual activism to the work of charitable organisations. We know that social action creates enormous value for us as a society.

Supported by Foundation Scotland, the Corra Foundation, SCVO, the Robertson Trust, Carnegie UK, the National Lottery Community Fund and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, **the Social Action Inquiry Scotland** was established in 2021. The purpose of the Inquiry was to work alongside communities across Scotland to learn **what helps and what hinders** their social action.

Over the last three years, the Inquiry team has worked with seventeen communities, each telling their own story of social change, and how they were individually addressing a diverse range of issues. Communities are rarely funded to creatively share their story, as funding is most often offered to support direct service delivery.

In this instance, the team supported creative storytelling to help communities share their stories in ways that were most meaningful to them. Each community was paired with a creative storyteller to express what, to them, helps and hinders community-led change. They used creative methods such as film, podcasting, graphic illustration, interactive newspapers, documentary film and poetry.

The Inquiry team's approach was to gather stories that would illustrate collective strengths, and also highlight challenges that individuals and charities face in trying to harness the power and voice of those affected by inequity and inequality. They put relationships at the heart of their work and the results are powerful.

The Inquiry will publish full findings later this year, but in the meantime, you can experience a flavour of their work here: [\*\*Social Action Inquiry Scotland\*\*](#)





# Community-Led Funding

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**Foundation Scotland is the leading national administrator of community benefit funds in Scotland. We work alongside wind farms and communities to provide specialist supports such as fund design, grant-making, facilitation and fund management services to name a few. We currently support more than 350 communities to distribute around £7million annually, from over seventy different community benefit funds.**

The majority of the community benefit funds that we support are provided by onshore wind renewable projects. But our work with these funds is not just linked to windfarms. Reflecting this, we have recently expanded our portfolio to include two new funds in the shape of the Haventus and Inch Cape funds.

Haventus is the company behind the redevelopment of **Ardersier Port in Inverness**. The vision for the project is to create a major energy transition site comprising construction of offshore wind turbines and their bases as well as a decommissioning yard for oil and gas rigs. The site will support the development of the offshore wind industry in Scotland.

Alongside this, they are creating a million-pound fund to benefit surrounding communities, providing £100,000 each year over the next decade. Like the majority of community benefit funds, this donation is linked to inflation, meaning it will increase each year. Work is in progress to set up the community benefit fund, which will be managed by Foundation Scotland, and we hope to start making the first awards this autumn.







The Inch Cape Construction Fund is provided by **Inch Cape Offshore Limited**, who have worked with Foundation Scotland to launch the fund, providing grants for communities in the surrounding areas during the offshore windfarm project's construction phase.

Electricity generated by the offshore wind farm, to be located 15 kilometres from the Angus coastline, will be brought to shore in East Lothian at a new substation being constructed on the site of the former coal-fired Cockenzie Power Station.

The fund supports community projects that help tackle the effects of poverty and inequality while improving the environment and supporting sustainability for residents of the Prestonpans or Cockenzie & Port Seton community council areas, and the first eight awards have already been made.

Whatever the source, community benefit funds can be used to build on community assets; local knowledge, local connections and local ideas, plus physical assets like buildings, outdoor spaces and the local environment, supporting a range of local priorities often described in community action plans. Community benefit funds from renewables are a unique source of support for communities because of their longevity linked to the operational life of the project.

But they are also unique because they can mandate communities to be the decision makers and this is a feature that Foundation Scotland works to preserve and develop.

This place-based approach makes a lasting difference to local people's lives, and we continue to work with communities and renewable energy organisations that support the long-term benefit of our communities.

# Social Investment – a unique programme of support

**Social investment is a special type of funding designed to support social enterprises, community organisations and charities, to enable them to grow and also to deliver positive social impact that addresses local issues and needs.**

Over the last 11 years, our social investment programme has invested over £12.5 million in more than seventy organisations around Scotland. What makes our programme different to other social investment offerings is our unique form of blended grant and loan. We offer 25% grant with a 75% loan, and our interest rate on loans is not linked to the base rate.

We offer social investment support all over Scotland, and continue to grow our portfolio so we can support even more grass roots organisations to deliver social impact locally and develop a thriving, sustainable business.







## Spotlight on... Bothwell Futures

Bothwell Futures is a pioneering local organisation. Established pre-pandemic by a group of residents in 2019, the community has truly come together to tackle the challenges facing the commuter town head-on. Determined to make the village a better place to live, work and visit, over 120 volunteers dedicate their time to ensure Bothwell has the vision and resources required to embrace the years ahead.

Integral to the group's vision was the development of a much-needed space for the community to safely come together. Historically, groups had made do with meeting in small disparate spaces with no accessible or central facility available.

This limited options for activities, events and social occasions, and more importantly, did not bring the community together in a way that would foster wider relationships and tackle the isolation that many were feeling post-pandemic.

Plans formed quickly, and in 2022 they announced the fastest ever community ownership of a local building, transforming the local disused library into a busy, vibrant social hub – a safe space for everyone.

Bothwell Futures now delivers a busy calendar of popular events created for locals and tourists alike, such as the farmers market and the now infamous scarecrow festival.



They supported the launch of the local men's shed and they are continuing to expand their multi-generational community engagement programme, recently adding baby and toddler book bug clubs, daytime yoga classes and activities for teenagers after school – all hosted within their new thriving community hub.

Foundation Scotland's Social Investment programme played a key part in Bothwell Future's journey, enabling them to carry out the essential works required to fully open the new facility.

On a project visit last month, Cally Mckeirnan, Community Engagement Manager at Bothwell Futures gave us her reflections on their journey:

**“As a new charity, we approached Foundation Scotland without much experience of funding applications; we just had our plans and our passion for the future of the local area. Through our initial meetings, we built a relationship which would help us secure the support we needed and we are so grateful. The pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis have exacerbated many issues for many local people in Bothwell, and there has never been a time when we've needed an uplifting, positive space more.”**

At Foundation Scotland, we develop strong partnerships, just like the one we have with Bothwell. We listen to and get to know each organisation and we care about the future of the projects we support. [\*\*Find our more here\*\*](#)



## Philanthropy and Fund News

Foundation Scotland provides wrap-around services and support for corporate giving and for individual donors. Our experience in effective community engagement makes it easier for businesses and individuals to forge meaningful relationships with communities and causes – we help them find the right fit with the causes they value and the places where they want to make a difference.

### Spotlight on.... Crown Estate

Crown Estate Scotland has worked with Foundation Scotland since 2020. Now in its fourth year, Crown Estate Scotland's Community Capacity Grants Programme aims to provide financial support to get community ideas 'off the ground' and start delivering economic, social or environmental benefits in their local area.



**Crown Estate  
Scotland**  
Oighreachd a' Chrùin Alba

Primarily serving coastal communities and those in and around one of Crown Estate's four Scottish estates, over the years, the fund has supported a wide range of developmental projects from the delivery of community energy plans, studies into seaweed farming and pre-capital activities aimed at bringing community assets back to life.

To date the fund has provided over £900,000 of support to 31 projects throughout Scotland. **In March, the Fund awarded £305,000 across a variety of different community organisations.**

The projects, which range in location from Dumfries and Galloway up to the Isle of Lewis, will aim to address several community needs.

On the Isle of Skye, Ionad Thróndairnis was awarded a grant of £18,887 to support the community takeover of Dun Flodigarry Hostel in Trotternish, Isle of Skye. The goal is to renovate the hostel and utilise it for various community purposes such as hosting events, Gaelic courses, and as a potential lodging space to aid with operational costs.

In a Gaelic-speaking community where offering Gaelic courses is significant, acquiring the hostel will assist in providing accommodation, a challenge in Skye due to its tourist popularity. The grant application aims to conduct a feasibility study to assess usage options for the hostel, their feasibility, community support, financial projections, and funding possibilities.

Further North on the Isle of Lewis, Uig Development Trust has been awarded a grant of £32,000 to assist in the organisation's aims of developing a series of new business units in Uig. The project was initially conceived in 2019, when local business owners expressed concerns during a community consultation over the lack of business premises in the Uig area. The main impact of this funding will be to progress the project to construction phase, helping a key community development project translate from paper to construction.

Through the support provided by Crown Estate Scotland's Community Capacity Grants Programme, these projects are poised to make meaningful contributions to their respective communities, fostering economic, social, and environmental benefits for all involved. We look forward to tracking the progress of these projects over the next year.





# And finally.....

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**We have had – and continue to have – some exceptional Trustees at Foundation Scotland. Some are members of our Board, and others are co-opted onto our various committees.**

We are delighted to welcome two new co-opted members to our Impact and Risk Committee.

**First up is Jennifer Wallace**, who is Director of Policy and Evidence at Carnegie UK, an independent foundation working to improve the wellbeing of people across the UK and Ireland. Jen leads on wellbeing and policy development, a subject on which she has written extensively. Key areas of interest include wellbeing measurement, public service reform and community empowerment. She is a graduate of the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a member of the Children in Scotland Policy and Strategy Committee.



We are also welcoming **Sam Curran**, an experienced public servant who works in the policing and law enforcement sector. With a commitment to public safety and civil liberties, Sam works nationally on the development and oversight of policies that are dedicated to safeguarding communities while improving law enforcement. His passion and area of particular focus lies in elevating the prospects of children and vulnerable populations. Sam previously worked in international development and as a management consultant where he specialised in operational risk management and sustainability.

**We warmly welcome both Jen and Sam.**





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Scotland's Community Foundation