

# Blackford Community Fund

## Fund report

April 1 2013 – 31 December 2015



### Introduction

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The Blackford Community Fund is a charitable Fund linked to an Endowment Fund that was originally created in 2009 with a donation of £250,000 to Blackford Community Council by Ochil Developments, the developer of the G West development near Blackford. The Endowment Fund, managed by Foundation Scotland on behalf of the community, is intended to be a lasting resource for the community of Blackford.

The Fund also receives an annual payment of at least £12,000 from the EDF Energy Renewables Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot North and Rhodders Wind Farms. This arrangement started in 2011 and will continue for the life time of these wind farms which is expected to be 25 years.

The Fund supports community groups and charities working in the Blackford Community Council area that are providing activities or services which **promote community spirit and bring people together, enhance quality of life and promote people's well-being and foster a vibrant, sustainable community.**

Projects that benefit older residents of the community are particularly welcome.

Grant requests support a wide range of costs and activities, including equipment costs, running costs for local groups, sessional worker costs and maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities etc.

The Blackford Panel makes decisions on how the Fund is spent, and promotes the Fund locally. The Panel comprises one member from the Blackford Community Council appointed by the Community Council, a representative of Ochil Developments and five other local residents. During 2015 three Panel members resigned including John Graham, whose dedicated efforts initially helped establish this opportunity for the village, Greta Hallyburton and Alan Campbell. Their combined voluntary efforts were greatly appreciated in ensuring that all grant applications are carefully considered.

Two new Panel members were appointed after a call for new volunteers in the Autumn of 2015. Current Panel members are David MacDonald (Chair), Graham McNaughton, Allan King, Irene McLaughlan, Bill Gemmell and Andrew Sinclair. There is currently a vacancy for the fifth community member and any resident willing to put themselves forward is encouraged to contact David MacDonald at [sheiltigh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sheiltigh@hotmail.co.uk).

## Financial Statement

### Statement Period: 01 April 2013 to 31 December 2015

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Year 6 - Endowment Ochil Developments Blackford Community Fund	12/06/2013	£10,688.00
Year 6 - EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund	07/11/2013	£6,225.25
Grant return	30/04/2014	£700.00
Year 7 - Endowment Ochil Developments Blackford Community Fund	02/06/2014	£11,911.00
Year 7 - EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund	30/06/2014	£6,949.78
Year 7 - EDF Burnfoot North	30/06/2014	£3,200.00
Year 7 - Endowment Ochil Developments Blackford Community Fund	24/12/2014	£4,796.97
Year 8 - EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund	09/06/2015	£7,012.52
Year 8 - EDF Burnfoot North	09/06/2015	£3,213.85
Year 8 - EDF Rhodders	09/06/2015	£2,400.00
Year 8 - Endowment Ochil Developments Blackford Community Fund	18/06/2015	£13,881.45
Year 8 - Endowment Ochil Developments Blackford Community Fund	30/09/2015	£903.39
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£71,882.21</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants released in period		£65,101.45
Grants to be released		£3,015.60
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£68,117.05</b>
<b>Total funds available as at 03/01/2016</b>		<b>£3,765.16</b>

## Overview of Awards

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In the period from 1 April 2013 to 31 December 2015, a total of 65 applications to the Fund were received over six rounds. The lowest number of applications in any one round was 7 and the highest was 13. Over this period all applications have been successful and usually to the requested amount.

Funding rounds will usually be publicised via local posters and notices in the local newspapers. Awards are also always published in the local press.

The Panel made 66 awards to 16 groups. The additional award was cover the cost of purchasing the new defibrillator for the village. Appendix A details the spread of grants across those groups and suggests that for some groups, the Fund has become a critical source of frequent but highly valued support.

One grant was returned in this period because the project could not proceed.

The average award over the report period was £1021. The lowest award was £210 (made to Blackford Sings, one of three specific interest groups that has been established through the Blackford Study Group in 2013) and the highest award of £1500 was awarded 27 times during the report period. This is a clear indication that the raising of the maximum grant award from £1000 to £1500 was helpful to groups who continue to deliver activities in the context of ever increasing costs of goods and services. The total value of projects funded (all funding sources) was £95,170.77 giving a leverage ratio of 29%; for every £0.71 awarded from the Fund, a further £0.29 was raised from elsewhere. This detail is presented in Appendix B.

## What Difference is the Fund Making?

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Completion reports are required to be submitted by awardees. Generally awards are for projects that are planned to complete within 12 months of receiving an award. Foundation Scotland allows three months from this completion date for the return of reports, before writing to awardees to chase outstanding reports. At the time of writing 9 completion reports (14%) were outstanding, from a total of 66 awards over the life of the Fund to-date.

The 66 awards made over the two years were used to support a variety of activities as shown in Appendix A. The Fund has supported projects for many different aspects of community life, from the support of outings for senior citizens and equipment for toddlers, to the provision of recreational activities such as bowling and a pipe band.

In the past year the Panel has started a register of the various assets the Fund is helping groups to purchase. Whilst there can sometimes be complications with borrowing equipment, especially when separate insurance arrangements need to be considered, the Panel would wish for equipment purchased with grants from the Fund is at least made available to other groups as and when appropriate.

The current asset register lists the following items:

2009, May 2011	Blackford Parent Toddlers	Toys - various
May 2011	SWRI	Crockery
October 2011	Blackford Fiddle Group	Trailer
May 2013	Blackford Gala Day Committee	Scoreboard
May 2014	Blackford Historical Society	Surface tablet
October 2014	Blackford Fiddle Group	Speakers
October 2014	Blackford Primary School Parent Council	Portable PA system with wireless microphones and
		Marquee.
October 2014		Defibrillator
October 2015	Blackford Gala Day Committee	Bunting

In 2016 Foundation Scotland will compile a pool of case studies for the village to provide more information about the many different ways the Fund is enhancing the community.

## Foundation Scotland

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## Appendix A: Distribution of Awards across Blackford Groups 2013 – 2015

Applicant	May-13	Oct 13	May-14	Oct-14	May 15	Oct 15	Total
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£9,000
Blackford Fiddle Group	£1,500		£1,500	£1,350		£1,500	£5,850
Blackford Gala Day Committee	£606	£1,000		£1,500		£1,500	£4,606
Blackford SWRI	£200		£500		£400		£1,100
Blackford Historical Society	£300	£126	£160		£1,500		£2,086
Blackford Festive Lights	£500	£500		£1,000	£1,000		£3,000
Blackford Highland Games	£900	£900	£1,200	£900	£1,200	£1,000	£6,100
Blackford Angling Club	Grant return						
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,550	£9,050
Strathearn Pipe Band	£1,482	£846	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£8,328
Blackford Bowling Club	£1,500		£1,500	£1,500		£1,299	£5,799
Blackford Badminton Club			£346		£338.75		£684.75
Blackford Study Group							
- Blackford Sings			£210	£750	£750	£750	£2,460
- Blackford Bells				£500	£592.70	£765.60	£1,858.30
- Blackford Crafters			£250		£250		£500
Blackford Friends of Guiding			£250		£350		£600
Blackford Primary School Parent Council			£1,495	£1,500		£1,400	£4,395
Friends of Blackford Parks				£500			£500
Community Defibrillator				£1,500			£1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,988</b>	<b>£6,372</b>	<b>£11,911</b>	<b>£15,500</b>	<b>£10,881.45</b>	<b>£12,764.6</b>	<b>£67,417.05</b>

## Appendix A: Summary of Awards 2013 – 2015

Applicant	Amount Awarded	Total project cost	Leverage (%)	Project Description - Summary
BASICS Scotland Ltd	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	0%	To purchase a defibrillator (invoice 486).
Blackford Badminton Club	£338.75	£872.25	61%	To purchase shuttlecocks and pay for hall hire.
Blackford Badminton Club	£346.00	£829.96	58%	To pay for hall hire over the course of 24-weeks for junior badminton and to purchase 5-dozen shuttlecocks.
Blackford Bells	£592.70	£592.70	0%	To purchase music books, easel binders, music stands and a hole punch.
Blackford Bells	£765.60	£746.50	0%	To purchase books, sheet music, risers, and music downloads for the group.
Blackford Bells	£500.00	£501.51	1%	To purchase music books and equipment.
Blackford Bowling Club	£1,299.00	£1,299.00	0%	To purchase a dishwasher for the clubhouse kitchen.
Blackford Bowling Club	£1,500.00	£4,570.00	67%	To contribute to the cost of re-upholstering 100 chairs.
Blackford Bowling Club	£1,500.00	£6,920.00	78%	To purchase new kitchen cupboards, worktops, splashbacks and cooker as part of a kitchen refurbishment, bringing the facilities up to current food hygiene standards.
Blackford Bowling Club	£1,500.00	£3,000.00	50%	To re-floor portions of the clubhouse.
Blackford Crafters	£250.00	£250.00	0%	To pay for hall hire, craft materials, and membership to Remake Scotland.
Blackford Crafters	£250.00	£250.00	0%	To pay for hall hire two nights per month between Sept 2014 and May 2015; to pay for paper and ink for posters, flyers and aid sheets; to pay for core craft equipment and PAT testing.
Blackford Festive Lights	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	0%	To replace and repair festive lights as necessary.
Blackford Festive Lights	£500.00	£733.80	32%	To purchase a large pole and festive decorations to mark the start of the street festive lights.
Blackford Festive Lights	£500.00	£500.00	0%	To check and maintain the festive decorations.
Blackford Festive Lights	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	0%	To purchase a permanent festive tree and make repairs to existing lights and brackets.
Blackford Fiddle Group	£1,500.00	£2,230.00	33%	To purchase equipment and to fund tuition costs and two weekend away events.
Blackford Fiddle Group	£1,500.00	£2,900.00	48%	To subsidise the group for one more year and to run workshops.
Blackford Fiddle Group	£1,500.00	£2,500.00	40%	To provide a series of workshops for club members and to gather tunes that have an association with either the locality or WWI.

Applicant	Amount Awarded	Total project cost	Leverage (%)	Project Description - Summary
Blackford Fiddle Group	£1,350.00	£1,850.00	27%	To purchase lightweight speakers, monitors, replacement strings, and replace the group's website.
Blackford Friends of Guiding	£350.00	£350.00	0%	To pay for hall hire for Brownie and Rainbow group meetings.
Blackford Friends of Guiding	£250.00	£250.00	0%	To pay hall hire costs for the local Rainbows and Brownies' weekly meetings.
Blackford Gala Day Committee	£1,500.00	£3,000.00	50%	To contribute to the cost of the Gala day, including children's and senior citizens' entertainment, hall hire, inflatables, prizes and bunting.
Blackford Gala Day Committee	£606.00	£606.00	0%	To purchase a scoreboard for gala day, float materials and replacement dresses for the gala queen and attendants.
Blackford Gala Day Committee	£1,000.00	£3,000.00	67%	To contribute to the costs of biennial senior citizens' entertainment, Strathearn Pipe Band parade, hall hire, and inflatables for gala day.
Blackford Gala Day Committee	£1,500.00	£3,000.00	50%	To fund the senior citizens trip, hire of Strathearn Pipe Band for the Gala Day parade, hall hire for concert, and inflatables for the Gala Day.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£1,200.00	£1,250.00	4%	To hire a marquee to house the Highland dancing on the day of the Games and to print posters and programmes.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£1,000.00	£1,200.00	17%	To contribute to the cost of this year's senior citizens' outing, including transport and refreshments.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£900.00	£1,000.00	10%	To pay for security guards and 2 police to steward the Blackford Highland Games 2013.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£900.00	£900.00	0%	To hire a coach and purchase refreshments for the yearly OAP outing.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£1,200.00	£1,200.00	0%	To print Games posters and programmes and to hire toilets for the Games Day.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£900.00	£900.00	0%	To pay for coach hire and refreshments for the annual OAP outing.
Blackford Historical Society	£1,500.00	£1,511.90	1%	To contribute to the cost of an event commemorating the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Sherrifmuir.
Blackford Historical Society	£300.00	£300.00	0%	To pay for a coach trip to the Mansfield Traquir Centre, Edinburgh and tea, coffee and cake for the elderly members.
Blackford Historical Society	£126.00	£125.77	0%	To purchase census materials for the years 1891, 1901 and 1911 from Scotland's People Centre.
Blackford Historical Society	£160.00	£1,159.64	86%	To purchase equipment, including a surface tablet, that will help display items and information about the Historical Society and the history of Blackford (in conjunction with previously-awarded grant monies).
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500.00	£1,700.00	12%	To purchase materials, including compost, plants and fertilizer, needed for the summer planting of hanging baskets, tubs and beds.

Applicant	Amount Awarded	Total project cost	Leverage (%)	Project Description - Summary
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500.00	£2,000.00	25%	To design and build a dry stone wall to form a back boundary to the scree garden.
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	0%	To pay for the summer planting in the village.
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500.00	£1,510.00	1%	To replace the tree at the top of the village, purchase extra tilers for flower towers, purchase compost and fertiliser, and to pay for the autumn planting.
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500.00	£1,700.00	12%	To contribute to the cost of summer bedding.
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500.00	£1,650.00	9%	To provide maintenance around the Scree Garden, Ryder Cup Garden, and stone feature.
Blackford Primary School Parent Council	£1,400.00	£1,600.00	12%	To purchase materials to make improvements to the sensory garden and to set up a chanter tutoring programme.
Blackford Primary School Parent Council	£1,495.00	£3,500.00	57%	To purchase three "walk-in" style picnic tables to be placed on the open playspace next to Blackford Primary School.
Blackford Primary School Parent Council	£1,500.00	£1,597.99	6%	To purchase a portable PA system with wireless microphones and a marquee.
Blackford Scottish Women's Rural Institute	£400.00	£400.00	0%	To hire a bus for the summer outing.
Blackford Scottish Women's Rural Institute	£200.00	£200.00	0%	To pay for coach hire for the summer trip.
Blackford Scottish Women's Rural Institute	£500.00	£500.00	0%	To pay for tea and a tour of Cromlix House Hotel, and catering/entertainment costs of the group's 80th birthday party.
Blackford Sings	£750.00	£750.00	0%	To pay for stand-in leaders as required for Blackford Sings, at £70-75 per session.
Blackford Sings	£750.00	£750.00	0%	To fund stand in leaders during the period from Nov 2015 to March 2016.
Blackford Sings	£210.00	£210.00	0%	To pay for three stand-in leaders at £70 per session.
Blackford Sings	£750.00	£1,500.00	50%	To pay for stand in leaders as needed, song licenses, consumables and advertising, transport, and other miscellaneous items.
Friends of Blackford Parks	£500.00	£775.00	35%	To develop sketch plans and costings for the redevelopment of Blackford Park.
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500.00	£2,004.00	25%	To take members to a production of "White Christmas" at the McRobert Theatre, Bridge of Allan on 28 October 2015, followed by high tea at the Royal Hotel.
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,550.00	£1,550.00	0%	To pay for a Christmas party and spring outing for the group.
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	0%	To pay for a coach trip with high tea in August and an afternoon with entertainment in October.



Applicant	Amount Awarded	Total project cost	Leverage (%)	Project Description - Summary
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500.00	£1,620.00	7%	To cover the cost of entertainment and buffet meal on three occasions over the course of the winter.
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500.00	£1,900.00	21%	To contribute to the costs of a coach trip with high tea for 50 senior citizens to Pitlochry Festival Theatre on 15 Oct 2014.
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500.00	£1,700.00	12%	To fund a trip to the McRobert Centre, Bridge of Allan to see a production of The Drowsy Chaperone.
Strathearn Pipe Band	£1,500.00	£1,530.55	2%	To hire the village hall for the Band's twice weekly rehearsals Aug 2015 - July 2016.
Strathearn Pipe Band	£1,500.00	£1,630.80	8%	To purchase ten uniform jackets for the drumming section of the band.
Strathearn Pipe Band	£1,482.00	£1,482.40	0%	To pay for hall rental costs from August 2013 to July 2014, 9 Shepherd C1 pipe chanters and 10 drone valves.
Strathearn Pipe Band	£846.00	£846.00	0%	To purchase 60 pairs of modern, machine-washable black piping socks and six sets of bag covers and cords.
Strathearn Pipe Band	£1,500.00	£1,665.00	10%	To pay for rehearsal hall hire and purchase five pipe chanters.
Strathearn Pipe Band	£1,500.00	£2,100.00	29%	To purchase 12 new uniform jackets.

## TOTALS

Project Costs	Leverage (%)
<b>£95,170.77</b>	<b>29%</b>