

Fund Report



EDF Longpark Community Fund

Year 8

This report covers awards made through the Fund from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.



Introduction

EDF Longpark Community Fund is provided by EDF Energy Renewables, the developer of Longpark Wind Farm. It exists to benefit those living in, working in or visiting the community council area of the Parish of Stow in the Scottish Borders.

The Fund will operate for the generating life of the wind farm, anticipated to be 25 years.

The Fund makes grants upwards of £250 to support charitable activities that:

- Enhance quality of life for local residents.
- Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities.
- Promote community spirit and encourage community activity.

Requests to support a wide range of costs and activities can be considered, for example: equipment costs; running costs for local groups; staff or sessional workers costs; consultations; maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities, etc.

Awards from the Fund are recommended by Parish of Stow Community Funds Panel. In addition to EDF Longpark Community Fund the Panel also oversees the disbursement of community benefit monies under SSE's Toddleburn Fund. That Fund benefits a wider area including the Oxton and Heriot Community Council areas.

This Panel is comprised of seven volunteer representatives, made up of two Parish of Stow Community Councillors and five representatives nominated from the wider community.

Fund payments were accrued from the date of commencement of the wind farm, being 1st October 2008, and the first payment into the fund was received in February 2010. Year 1 saw a donation from EDF of £45,000 for grant-making and by Year 8 this figure had risen to £55,187.50.

Financial Statement

EDF Longpark Community Fund

Statement Period: 01 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

Opening Balance		£99,060.31
Income		
Year 8 - Interest Receipt	31/12/2016	£86.43
Year 8 - EDF Energy Renewables	16/01/2017	£55,187.50
	Sub Total	£55,273.93
Expenditure		
Grants released in period		£22,094.66
Grants to be released		£31,269.38
	Sub Total	£53,364.04
Investments		
Parish of Stow Community Endowment	21/09/2016	£25,000.00
	Sub Total	£25,000.00
Fund Expenses		
Secretariat costs, 1 st March 2016, and hall hire costs, 1 st December 2015	25/04/2016	£48.00
Hall hire 1 March 2016; secretariat costs 31 May and 6 Sept 2016.	14/09/2016	£87.00
Contribution to Endowment set-up fee	07/12/2016	£250.00
Secretariat costs 6th December 2016	12/12/2016	£39.00
Hall hire 31st May and 6th December 2017; secretariat costs 7th March 2017.	10/03/2017	£64.20
	Sub Total	£488.20
Funds available for distribution as at 31/03/2017		£75,482.00

Overview of Fund Activity

A total of three applications to the Fund were received over four rounds of grant making in Year 8. This compares with an average of nine applications per year prior to this.

The Panel made two awards, totalling £5,480.50, for projects to be delivered by the Community Council (see overleaf for details of these). One application was rejected as it was ineligible. In addition, the year's award to the Community Council for onward disbursement as micro-grants was £2,704.16.

The Year 8 payment from EDF Energy Renewables for grant-making was £55,187.50. 10% of this income (as above) was awarded to projects, while 0.4% (£238.20) was used for Panel expenses such as hall hire and secretariat costs. Additionally, £25,000 was invested in a new Parish of Stow Community Endowment.

The balance carried forward for grant-making at 31st March 2017 was £75,482. This compares with £56,640.31 at 31st March 2016 and £68,925.94 at 31st March 2015. The Fund was therefore underspent in Year 8 in comparison to previous years, considerably so where the endowment contribution is also taken into account.

Altogether a total of £309,990.84 had been awarded to community projects from inception of the Fund up to 31st March 2017 (inclusive of awards to Parish of Stow Community Council to run a micro-grant scheme). The average award made from inception of the Fund to 31 March 2017 (not including micro-grant awards) was £7,174.74. The smallest award remained at £560 and the largest award at £25,000.

With few applications received, the total amount of funding awarded during Year 8 (£8,184.66) was low in comparison to previous years, which saw an average of £43,115.19 awarded. The following measures were adopted in an attempt to increase Fund impact or otherwise ensure best value from the monies held:

1. A community endowment was created with £25,000 of EDF Longpark monies (also £25,000 of SSE Toddleburn monies). This is held by Foundation Scotland on behalf of the community and is invested in Newton Investment Management's Growth & Income Fund for Charities;
2. The minimum size of grant that can be applied for was lowered, from £5,000 to £250, and the upper limit removed;
3. A press release, run in the Stow Parish Newsletter, highlighted the impact of the Fund to-date, the new levels of grant available, and forthcoming application deadlines.

Since 31st March 2017, five applications had been received and comprising grant requests totalling £70,883, which bodes well. These were to be considered at the Panel's 30th May 2017 meeting.

Awards made 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

The two awards were made in Year 8 to support activities as follows:

Ref.	Applicant	Amount Awarded	Project Cost	Leverage	Grant Summary
A420761	Parish of Stow Community Council	£3,510	£3,600	2.5%	To erect six metal signs along the A7 road between Stow and Heriot advising motorists of the high rate of accidents along the road in an effort to reduce speeding.
A433214	Parish of Stow Community Council	£1,970.50	£3,470.50	43%	To expand and enhance the floral displays in the village.

What difference is the Fund making?

The Fund supports projects that impact on many different aspects of community life. 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 only one completion report was outstanding, from a total of 41 awards over the life of the Fund (not including payments made to the Community Council for the micro-grant scheme).

Below are two case studies that demonstrate how the Fund is making a difference.

Re-development of Fountainhall Village Hall

What do you do when your local village hall is in a state of disrepair and not fit for purpose? That was the problem facing The Fountainhall Village Hall Committee, who have been responsible for managing all aspects of Fountainhall Village Hall since 1920.

Despite being well used, the building was generally run down with the kitchen and toilet areas almost un-usable. One hundred years were beginning to catch up with the community hub, and whilst there had been some upgrades and extensions in the past, by 2015 a full refurbishment was overdue. The committee had been fine-tuning plans to refurbish the hall for around 10 years and, after receiving a £25,000 award from EDF Longpark Community Fund and matched funding from Big Lottery Fund and SSE Toddleburn Fund amongst others, work finally started on creating a village hall fit for the 21st Century.

The nine-strong committee appointed a design team comprising an architect, structural engineer and quantity surveyor. Acting on feedback from the community, and in light of the costs of different options, it was agreed that refurbishing the hall was the best solution rather than demolition and a new build.

Upon completion in December 2015, the project delivered more success than the community could have hoped for. Were the goals and objectives set out at the beginning achieved? *"Yes, and more so"* explained one of the project's organisers, Jenny Mushlin. *"The hall has once again become the proud centre of community activity and has seen a dramatic increase in usage."*

As well as the continuation of previous activities such as fitness classes and youth clubs, the Hall now hosts a wide range of new activities that would not have been possible without the refurbishment.

The new art class every Monday paints a picture of the success of the project. Christenings, funeral teas, coffee mornings, quiz nights, ceilidhs too. There really is something for everyone in the local community. The Committee are now looking into setting up a community cinema, so the locals can see their favourite films without having to travel far.

The redevelopment has received a lot of positive feedback with one regular saying: *"This hall is just a fantastic place"*. Another visitor added: *"This is the nicest village hall I have ever been in!"*



Parish of Stow Old Kirk restoration project

The Old Kirk at Stow – which dates back to the 15th century – has not been used since 1876, however it is an important visual element in the centre of the village and it provides strong links to the ecclesiastical history of Stow and its surrounding areas.

The deteriorating state of the Old Kirk in Stow had become a major point of discussion locally and a significant amount of work was required to restore the B-listed building to its former glory. The Community Council had worked with the local authority to try to find the heritor of the Old Kirk who sadly could not be traced, and as a result the maintenance looked set to fall to the community. Keen not to lose this piece of history, the group started fundraising to help save and repair the kirk.

The Community Council received an initial grant £8,912 in 2013 from EDF Longpark Community Fund to allow repairs to this iconic building to commence. Working with Historic Scotland, the project group appointed a local stonemason to repoint and seal the walls using lime mortar.

However, the extent of the work required was greater than first envisaged – not an uncommon issue when working with older structures – so the Community Council applied for further funding in 2014.

The group was awarded a further £9,700 to help complete the restoration works including repairing the bell tower. The attention to detail has ensured that the building will retain its B-listed status.

The Old Kirk is important to the sense of identity of the village, but it also attracts visitors on a regular basis from all over the world, with some looking to find information about their ancestors. One Australian visitor congratulated the participants in the project and stated that they were doing "really good work here".

Project organiser Alistair Riddell explained: *"The church was on the point of collapse. I can't stress enough how important this church is historically to the area, and it needed to be restored. It wouldn't have been possible without the grants."*

The Parish of Stow Community Council are now looking to restore other historical parts of the village as well as creating signs and leaflets that will help continue the Old Kirk's legacy.



Parish of Stow Community Council micro-grants scheme

Over the year, the following awards, totaling £2,002, were made through the micro-grants scheme funded by EDF Longpark Community Fund and operated by Parish of Stow Community Council.

Applicant	Amount awarded	Grant Summary
Parish of Stow Community Council	£250	to purchase fencing for placement around collection bridge to prevent damage by cattle.

Stow Community Trust	£250	to develop a business plan for the station building.
Sound Out	£250	to purchase storage boxes.
Parish of Stow Community Council	£132	to purchase information boards for Stow Old Kirk and Bishop's Palace.
Locus Focus	£250	to fund an interactive map of Stow.
Stow Kids Club	£250	to assist with running costs.
Jessica Troughton	£250	to support the Stow Parish Archive Tuesday Club.
Make Stow Beautiful	£120	to purchase plants for planters.
Stow Community Trust	£250	to fund membership cost to Association of Community Rail Partnerships and a website in support of the Stow Station Regeneration project.

Marketing and Communications

Foundation Scotland and the Panel have worked to raise the profile of the Fund through a variety of channels during the year, as set out below.

Activity	Date/frequency	Notes/impact
Issue press releases on awards made to community and local media.	Following each Panel meeting were awards are made, plus a bespoke release to drum up applications.	Stow & Fountainhall Community Newsletter, Autumn 2016, and Border Telegraph, 06/12/16, "New beginnings for old buildings thanks to Windfarm Cash"; Southern Reporter, 03/11/16, "£25k boost for new playpark plans".
Updated Fund web page with awards made, application deadlines and Panel minutes	Following each Panel meeting	Main Fund webpage saw 322 visits of which 244 were unique; Panel page 41 visits, 26 were unique; News page 23 visits, 16 unique.
Using the Foundation's Facebook page to promote the Fund	Ongoing	Case study on Fountainhall Village Hall reached 389 people; Case study on Stow Pipe Band reached 412.
Send summary of awards made to Community Council and EDF	After each award making Panel meeting	For CC to share as they wish

Activity	Date/frequency	Notes/impact
Produce posters promoting the Fund deadlines	Quarterly	Panel members and secretariat distributed via local noticeboards, newsletter, websites.
Ongoing liaison with individuals	As required	Ad hoc queries from potential applicants, requests from the press and public for information, etc.
Publicity advice to awardees	As grants awarded	"Acknowledging your grant" publicity advice sheet appended to offer letters.
Plaques to capital projects funded	Sent out with award pack.	Provided to all awardees where premises are funded.

Panel Overview

Panel Members serve for a period of up to three years, enabling individuals with new perspectives to come onto the Panel over time. Recruitment of new Members is widely advertised and appointments are made on a fair and transparent basis. Those retiring may stand for re-election.

The Panel started the year with six members, however Victor Crawford resigned during the year. A subsequent recruitment drive led to two new members being appointed.

Attendance at meetings was good throughout the year.

Panel Members during Year 8 were:

- Stuart Anderson
- Victor Crawford (retired 6th December 2016)
- Jane Ellis
- Tommy Miller (chair and Parish of Stow and Fountainhall Council representative)
- Community Diana Muir (Parish of Stow and Fountainhall Community Council representative)
- Jessica Troughton
- Bob Howarth (appointed 6th December 2016)
- Christopher Whelan (appointed 6th December 2016)

Further Information

Tom Black, Community Engagement Manager
 Foundation Scotland
 15 Calton Road
 Edinburgh
 EH8 8DL

Tel: 0131 5240331
 E-mail: tom@foundationscotland.org.uk