

**Infinis A’Cruach Community Fund
Panel Meeting**

Thurs 29th May, 7.00pm

Minard Hall, Minard

Present:

Lochgilphead: David Renwick (DR), Elizabeth (Betty) Rhodick (ER), Liz McLean (EM)

Dunadd: Barbara Halliday (BH), Diane Roberts (DRo),

West Loch Fyne: Fred Bruce (FB), Jan Williams (JW), Sarah Calderwood (SC)

Attending

Rachel Searle-Mbullu (RSM)

Apologies

Paul Holness (PH)

1 Welcome, Introduction, Apologies

RSM welcomed everyone to the meeting. Note, RSM forgot to pass on PH’s apologies that he had provided at the point the meeting was confirmed.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes 27th October were approved. Proposed by FB and seconded by Betty.

There were no outstanding actions.

Matters Arising:

Wind farm ownership: JP Morgan has bought the project as part of a wider purchase of Infinis’ assets. FS will be informed of further company brand/identity in due course.

Turbine naming: We have some material from schools but it’s less likely the original booklet project can now proceed given staff changes at Infinis. FS will consider whether material can be used differently.

Logo: Since no entries were received the Panel opted to invite a grantee, Artmap Argyll, to offer some logo designs.

Micro grants: Lochgilphead hope to proceed soon with their arrangements. Dunadd and West Loch Fyne are established or in process of doing so.

Eligibility of community councils to apply: There was concern raised that Community Councils shouldn’t be applying for grants and that this had been agreed as a stipulation when discussions began about the Fund some years ago. FS was unable to vouch for this or provide documentation to confirm this and indicated that it’s unusual for CC’s to be excluded from the opportunity to apply for a grant. It was agreed that the current applications from CC’s should be considered as they had been made in good faith and in keeping with the published guidelines. Each CC however was asked to provide a view for the next Panel

meeting about whether CCs should be eligible. In the meantime the current approach to accept applications from community councils would remain.

3 Funds available

RSM confirmed that £82,008 was available and that a further £75,250 will arrive in November. An updated fund statement will be distributed with the draft minute.

4 Applications for decision

Grant requests for this round totalled circa £150,000 which was encouraging in terms of response from community organisations. RSM explained that one application had been ineligible. Otherwise 18 eligible applications were received alongside one large grant enquiry.

Interests were declared as follows

Kilmartin Community Initiative – Di Roberts

Blarbluie Woodland Enterprise, Argyll Show – David Renwick

Lochgilphead Community Enterprise – Betty Rhodick

Panel felt the applications represented a diverse and healthy spread of community activity. It was suggested that the Guidance should better highlight the Area of Benefit for the Fund and/or applicants encouraged to emphasise how their proposed project was benefitting the communities of Lochgilphead, Dunadd and/or West Loch Fyne.

The record of discussion and decisions is noted in the attached Decisions Summary. A total of £51,162 was awarded.

5 Plans for 2017/18 and other Fund matters

- Closing date for the next round proposed as 30 Sept and then 30 March, 30 Sept 2018. (30th 2017 is a Sat so moved to 29th Sept)
- Posters and fund information need to be updated to reflect local outlets for application form eg: Dunadd now has no shop.
- It was agreed to retain the Large Grant Enquiry option for now.
- RSM confirmed that grant-making increasingly using online systems including grant application forms. Will retain hard copy option for now but in time this may become redundant.
- The Panel felt the Argyll show provided an opportunity to promote the Fund rather than a more local event. FS will produce some materials for it and liaise with DR on logistics.
- Panel will be keen to see feedback from grantees at subsequent Panel meetings.

6 AOCB/DONM

Proposed schedule going forward based on 2 grant-making rounds per year:

Closing date	Panel date	Venue
29 Sept	9 Nov	Lochgilphead
30 March	10 May	Dunadd

28 Sept	8 Nov	Minard
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Summary of agreed actions:

Action	Who	When
Post approved Panel minutes on Fund website	RSM	June
Set up micro grant scheme	Lochgilphead CC	When ready
Discuss community council eligibility to apply	All 3 CCs	By Nov
Highlight area of benefit in Guidelines	FS	June
Follow up on various grant-making activity post decisions	FS	ongoing
Alert Jan to visit MS Centre when full application received	FS/Jan	tbc
Issue press release for this round and announce next closing date	FS	June
Update posters for next closing dates	FS	June
Prepare materials for Argyll show	FS	July
Book Lochgilphead venue for 9 November meeting	Betty?	asap