

# Blackford Community Fund

## Fund report

1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 to 30 March 2018



### 1 What is the Blackford Community Fund

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.

As well as being able to draw down funds from the Endowment, the community also receives an annual payment from the combined community benefit payments from EDF Renewables Energy Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot North and Rhodders Wind Farms. This arrangement started in 2011 and will continue for the lifetime 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**. Grants support a wide range of costs and activities, including equipment costs, running costs for local groups, and maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities. Projects that benefit older residents are given particular preference as agreed between Foundation Scotland and the Community Council when the Fund was established.

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 this period the Panel membership changed. David Macdonald stood down as Chair in May 2017 and was succeeded by Andrew Sinclair. Graham McNaughton also resigned as did Bill Gemmel. Gillian Brown, Stuart Laing and Iain Paton joined the Panel and comprise the current Panel along with Allan King (representing G West/ Ochil Developments UK Ltd)

and Irene McLaughlan (representing Blackford Community Council). The incoming Panel members acknowledged the commitment and time given by the former Panel members and which is so critical in ensuring that decision-making remains rooted in and engaged with the Blackford community.

## 2 Financial Statements for period 1 April 2017 to 30 March 2018

<b>Opening Balance</b>		<b>£35,874.94</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Year 10 - EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund	29/06/2017	£7,345.32
Year 10 - EDF Burnfoot North Community Fund	29/06/2017	£3,408.00
Other Income	05/07/2017	£121.65
Year 10 - Ochil Developments Blackford Community Fund Endowment*	30/09/2017	£18,809.79
Year 10 - EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund	31/12/2017	£19.28
Year 10 - EDF Rhodders	08/02/2018	£2,533.53
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£32,237.57</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants released in period		£22,802.39
Replacement pads for Defibrillator		£138.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>£22,940.39</b>
<b>Total funds value as at 30/03/2018</b>		<b>£45,172.12</b>

\* At the beginning of the reporting period the Ochil Developments Blackford Community Fund Endowment was valued at £387,155.99. The investment made gains during the period and £18,809.79 was withdrawn for grant-making. After the annual contribution to Foundation Scotland was deducted, in recognition of the governance and administration services provided, the total fund value at the end of the reporting period was £376,317.22.

## 3 Overview of Awards

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In the period from 1 April 2017 to the 30 March 2018, a total of 18 applications to the Fund were received over two rounds that ran in the Spring and the Autumn. All applications were awarded the requested sum which resulted in a total of £22,802.39 being distributed to local groups. One grant was returned in this period because the project could not proceed due to hall refurbishments.

The average award over the report period was £1,267 compared to £1,044 and £1,021 in

previous reporting periods. The lowest award was £181.39 (Blackford Crafters). 72% of awards were made at the highest level of award which is £1,500. This is a clear indication that the maximum grant level continues to assist groups to deliver activities in the context of ever increasing costs of goods and services.

The **full list of grants** awarded during this period were:

Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of a group outing to Pitlochry Festival Theatre, including high tea, in November 2017.
Blackford Scottish Women's Rural Institute	£330.00	To fund the group's attendance at "Tea in the Park," to celebrate 100 years of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of marquee hire, purchase of high jump landing mats, and printing costs.
Blackford Bells	£1,500.00	To purchase 5 new bells, which will give the group a complete 2-octave set of handbells and enable them to play more challenging music.
Blackford Sings	£1,000.00	To contribute to the cost of a professional song leader for 14 sessions.
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of plants for the year's annual planting.
Blackford Festive Lights	£1,500.00	To replace/repair damaged festive lights.
Blackford Events Group	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of a fireworks display to be held in November 2017.
Blackford Bowling Club	£1,500.00	To replace the existing curtains and tables in the clubhouse.
Blackford Crafters	£181.39	To fund hall hire for 17 evenings.
Blackford Gala Day Committee	£1,500	To contribute to the cost of entertainment, hall hire, inflatables, prizes and bunting for this year's Gala.
Blackford Events Group	£1,500	To contribute to the cost of a fireworks display to be held in November 2017, including lighting, a gazebo, and insurance.
	£1,500	To extend the stone wall feature in the scree garden with a matching wall to finish the back boundary of the garden.

Blackford Fiddle Group	£1,500	To contribute to the cost of purchasing additional instruments and professional tutoring.
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500	To fund a Spring Lunch for members, with two-course lunch and entertainment.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£1,500	To fund the annual senior citizens outing and to carry out some upkeep of the group's storage huts.
Blackford Study Group (Blackford Bells)	£1,191	To purchase music, risers and bells, renew the group's insurance, and create a CD for the church.
Blackford Festive Lights	£600	To fund insurance, refreshments and decorations for the Christmas light switch on event in December 2017.

No further items were added to the Blackford Community Fund's asset register and which continues to comprise the following items which, where practical and feasible, the Panel hope groups make available to each other as and when required:

Date of award	Group	Item
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	Laptop computer
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

#### 4 What difference is the Fund making?

The Fund continues to be a valuable resource for Blackford, supporting the many varied activities and projects of community groups that themselves are providing a range of educational and social opportunities for Blackford residents. The following reports have already been received from groups that received grants in this period:

- Blackford Bowling Club** reported that *the grant of £1,500 partly funded the cost of replacing the existing curtains and tables in the clubhouse, supplemented by the group's other fundraising efforts over the year including a Race Night and raffle in September 2017. The committee and members reviewed the existing window coverings and opted to install new curtains after taking into account possible safety issues with both roman blinds and vertical blinds. The new curtains were purchased and installed by one of the club's members. After considering factors including size, main uses, durability, design and cost, new tables were ordered and delivered on 16 March 2018. The old tables have since been donated to a smaller bowling club and the new tables assembled and positioned within the club. The new tables are slightly taller and wider than the old ones, making them more suitable for wheelchair access. They have been well received by the membership. All 86 club members benefit from the improvements to the premises, which are now more welcoming and comfortable. Without the grant funding, the club would not have been able to purchase all the new tables at the same time or ensure a matching set. The club's previous tables lasted for more than 20 years and it is hoped the new ones will last a similar length of time.*
- In April 2017 the Panel awarded a grant of £45,774 to the **Blackford Improvement Group** towards planned improvements to the village Play Park project and representing about 36% of the total project cost. This is the largest award made by the Panel to date for a project that will re-develop the park in the centre of Blackford into a safe and inclusive play and recreational space, picnic area and garden space for the enhancement and well-being of the whole community, both young and old. Work got underway through 2017 and continued through 2018 in spite of challenging weather.
- Support to the senior citizens of the village continued to be supported through a range of activities and projects. The **Senior Citizens Lunch club** received a grant towards two annual activities – a trip out to the theatre in November and a Spring lunch. Feedback on both events has been very positive. The club provides local seniors with social interaction and entertainment; many have lost partners or have health issues, and they appreciate having events organised for them.

- The **Highland Games Committee** also received a grant that contributed to a trip to Largs for senior citizens.
- **Blackford is Brighter** was able to extend the stone wall feature in the scree garden with a matching wall to finish the back boundary of the garden. The grant partly funded the project cost of £2,300, with the balance coming from the group's reserves. The group used the same craftsman who built the first stage of the boundary wall. The group has reported that *the extension has enhanced the scree garden and the appearance of the village for residents and visitors. Without the grant, the extension would not have been possible.* A second grant assisted the group with the annual summer planting for what was the 17th year of planting, an activity that has grown over the years with new features being added and new containers purchased.



The plantings add colour and enhance the village, with the grant enabling the group to buy a wider variety and greater quantity of plants than would otherwise be possible.




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