**Ventient Energy Westfield Benarty Community Fund Fund Factsheet**

**What is the Westfield (Benarty) Community Fund?**
The Westfield Benarty Community Fund is a charitable fund to support community groups that benefit residents living in the Benarty Community Council area. The Fund is provided by Westfield Wind Farm Limited (WWFL) the company which owns and operates the Westfield wind farm. WWFL is a subsidiary of Ventient Energy, the company that owns the wind farm. The community fund is managed by Foundation Scotland that has a strong track record of administering community benefit funds across Scotland.

**Who can apply for a grant?**
Groups and organisations working to benefit people in Benarty can apply for grants. The group must have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and be set up on a not-for-profit basis. But the group doesn't need to be a registered charity to apply. Groups without a representative membership structure, that unduly restrict their membership and/or where the committee or board is not elected by, or otherwise accountable to, a wider group of people may not be supported. Applicants need to provide their latest set of accounts signed by an independent / third party.

The Panel particularly welcomes applications from groups that haven't previously applied to the Fund. Groups that have previously received an award and wishing to apply again need to have submitted a full report on their project before receiving any further grants.

Any grant received should be spent within one year of being awarded unless specified and the Panel is keen to receive feedback about your project and the difference the money has made as soon as possible after your project has completed.

**How much ‘community benefit’ is available through the Fund?**
An annual amount is paid into the Fund for the operating lifetime of the wind farm. This amount started at £8,750 in 2014 but rises in line with inflation each year. The Fund will be available as long as the wind farm is operating.

**What sizes of grants are available?**
The Fund tries meet the different needs of the diverse range of groups and organisations working to benefit Benarty. The minimum level of award you can apply for is £500 and the maximum is £2,000. This maximum level may change in future years.

You can apply for a grant of less than £500 to the Benarty Community Council who administer a
micro-grants scheme with funding from the Benarty Community Fund.

**What does the Fund support?**
The Fund supports a range of community-led activity that will

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

This includes a wide range of costs and activities including equipment costs, running costs for local groups, staff or sessional worker costs, consultations, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities etc.

**How can I apply?**
Please go to https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/westfield-benarty/ to apply online or download an application form. The closing dates for 2020 are 24th February (decision, end of April) and 10th September 2020 (Decision, end of November).

**How many applications can I submit?**
Groups and organisations will only be able to submit one application in 2020. However that application may include costs towards a number of different projects. If you are still in receipt of a grant from last year, you can still apply in 2020. However you are strongly discouraged for applying for a grant towards the same project or activity that you previously received a grant for.

**Who makes decisions on grants?**
Foundation Scotland will receive and assess applications but a local Community Panel will make recommendations about grants to be awarded. Foundation Scotland is a charity (no. SC022910) dedicated to strengthening communities by awarding grants that make a genuine difference to the lives of local people. It runs a range of grants programmes – including others linked to community benefit funds like this one – which support the work of groups and organisations across Scotland.

**Who is on the Panel?**
The Panel can comprise up to nine local residents including four members from the Community Council. Current members are Stephen Nardone, Michael O’Hare, Tom Kinnard, Anne Hay, Donna McEwan and Willie Clarke.

**Where can I find out more?**
Please call Foundation Scotland on the number below.

Foundation Scotland
15 Calton Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8DL
tel: 0131 524 0300
131 West Nile Street, Glasgow, G1 2RX
tel: 0141 3414960

www.foundationscotland.org.uk