

The Glenkens & District Trust

SC042489

Report from meeting of Trustees on 7 January 2020

The Glenkens & District Trust held a board meeting on the evening of 7 January 2020 in The Smiddy, Balmaclellan.

This was the first meeting of Trustees following the award round in October and we discussed what we had learned during the process and what we wanted to amend for the future rounds.

We also received a report from Foundation Scotland on the current status of the awards, including what monies had been paid out (c.£150k), where conditions are still to be satisfied before the monies are paid (c.80k) and the current monies in the Fund (c.£22k).

We also, under the provisions in the Fund Strategy allowing us to make grants in an emergency situation, approved an award of £7,976 to Parton Village Hall Management Committee for urgent work on the fabric of Parton village hall.

A review meeting had taken place in December with Sebastian Watson of Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd and this had gone well. He was happy with the approach to the awards and pleased that money had now been released to community groups. He also welcomed the work we are doing on the Community Action Plan and agreed that they would make a contribution to the cost of preparing it. They are also planning to organise an Open Day at Blackcraig in late spring. He also confirmed that the direct payments to the Community Councils for local distribution would be made in May 2020 and would be for the same amount as was paid in 2019. **Prior to those payments being released, it will be important for Community Councils to send their feedback reports to Foundation Scotland about how the 2019 payment has been used and how the community has benefited.**

Contact has also been made with other wind farm developers in the area. They have reacted positively to the split of accountabilities between the Community Councils and GDT and welcome this clarity. They have also indicated their commitment to Community Benefit Payments and discussions are on-going.

The main topic of the evening however was the process for finalisation of the Community Action Plan (CAP) and its impact on the date for opening the Fund for the second round of applications.

Community Enterprise have been appointed to carry out this work and held the first workshop with representatives of community groups in early December. This was well attended with over 35 people there and a broad consensus on the key themes to be covered in the plan. Wider Community Engagement events are due to take place on 6 February and posters promoting these will shortly be issued. We would encourage attendance at these events so that we can get a broad range of views, which will enable us to prepare an effective and realistic plan. Before the event we plan to make information available about the key themes emerging so far to enable you to think about it in advance. The objective of this work is to produce a concise document that sets out a clear vision for the wider area with priorities, either projects or service provision, that are supported by local people and a timeline for achieving them. This document will be backed up by a detailed report giving the underlying data and evidence for these priorities, which should be

aspirational but also deliverable. This report will be available for community groups across the area to use to support funding applications, either to us or to other funding bodies. In addition, we in GDT will also use the output of the CAP to enable us to review our Fund Strategy and identify priorities to enable us to allocate money as effectively as possible in the long term interests of the community and to meet identified community need.

We discussed whether we should wait until the CAP was finalised before launching another grant-making round but decided that this could potentially result in too long a delay in opening the Fund again and delay projects that would be of benefit. We are therefore proposing to ensure the current Fund Strategy and applications materials etc reflect the lessons learned from the first round and open the Fund for applications on 20 January. The closing date for applications will be **27 March**. During April, Foundation Scotland will assess all applications and **GDT will make decisions in mid-May**. We believe that there will be some local organisations who will want to wait for the outcome of the Community Action Plan to assist them in their applications and therefore plan to hold another round of applications later in the year when we have finalised the CAP and carried out a review of the Fund Strategy to include key themes and learning highlighted in the CAP.

In light of this we anticipate awarding around 50% of the available funds in this next round leaving the balance for the next round. However, the amount we allocate will, as before, be allocated on merit and this could result in more or less being awarded depending on the nature of the applications. As in the first round, any balance will be carried forward for future rounds of funding.

We will once again run outreach events to assist groups in their applications. We plan to hold these in late February/early March to enable groups to have time to consider what they want to apply for and where they need support/clarity from Foundation Scotland.

Fiona Smith