

VATTENFALL CLASHINDARROCH COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

A REPORT DESCRIBING THE PROCESS OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION THAT
HELPED SHAPE THE VATTENFALL CLASHINDARROCH WIND FARM COMMUNITY
FUND

MARCH 2015

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Executive Summary

The 'Vattenfall Clashindarroch Community Conversation' was completed in two phases throughout 2014.

Phase one involved three open community events and the distribution of a questionnaire made available online and in hard copy. More than 200 respondents engaged in this process. Phase one resulted in the development of an 'Initial Analysis Report.'

Phase two involved the circulation of the 'Initial Analysis Report' to the Vattenfall Clashindarroch Working Group and the development of a second questionnaire. This questionnaire aimed to verify and capture feedback on the findings of the phase one 'Initial Analysis Report'. The second questionnaire was distributed through networks and media outlets in addition to all phase one participants. 92 respondents engaged in this process.

Both phases of the Community Conversation helped to identify the values, challenges, future opportunities and emerging priorities for the fund to focus on. The table overleaf captures these in more detail.

Six priority areas were identified: community services and facilities; environment, sustainable transport and active travel; rural regeneration; contemporary culture, events and recreation; and cultural, historic and archaeological heritage. 82% of phase two respondents agreed with these priority areas as well as identifying other, less significant, priorities. Three respondents recommended investment in an Endowment Fund in order to elongate the life of the fund beyond the expected 25 years.

All consultation participants wanted to ensure that the Fund processes are fair and equitable, economical to distribute and investing in sustainable projects. Overall suggestions recommended grants of a minimum of £250 and a maximum of between £10,000 and £50,000. 92% of respondents recommended a combination of ring fenced funding for priority areas and an open competitive process. A robust application process will be run by Foundation Scotland. Final decisions will be made by the Clashindarroch Community Fund Panel, made up of representatives from the Cabrach Community Association and Huntly & District, Strathbogie and Tap o Noth Community Councils and four additional community representatives.

The Vattenfall Clashindarroch Community Conversation is complemented by theoretical research - a Community Profile developed for the Vattenfall Clashindarroch Community Fund. These documents have directly informed the development of the Vattenfall Clashindarroch Community Fund Framework and Factsheet.

Clashindarroch Community Fund Area of Benefit 'at a glance'

Value	Challenges	Opportunities	Emerging Themes
Friendly people, family connections, sense of identity, authenticity, community spirit and action (81).	Loss or lack of local services and facilities, keeping existing services and facilities operational (including the impact of supermarkets) (23).	Increased participation in clubs, local organisations and activities across all age ranges (45).	Community Services and Facilities
Landscape (unique, gorgeous, beautiful), scenery, views (40).	Wind-farms and other environmental pressures (14).	Development of existing local assets (14).	Environment
Rivers, environment, wildlife, hills, flora, fauna, trees, biodiversity (28).	Price of fuel, lack of public transport, sustainable transport routes (lack of) (12).	Rural regeneration (10).	Sustainable Transport and Active Travel
Peace, quiet, tranquillity, freedom, space (15).	Lack of rural investment (8).	Development of sustainable transport links and path networks across the whole area (10).	Rural Regeneration – Employment, Housing, Tourism and Business Development
Culture, heritage, diversity, tradition (15).	De-population, ageing population (6).	Enhancements and protection of the natural environment (9).	Events and Recreation
Quality of life, safety (10).	Employment, training and development opportunities (6).	More housing and employment opportunities for local people (7).	Cultural, Historic and Archaeological Heritage
Ability to walk and access the land (7).	Housing (new builds vs renovation of older properties), planning (or lack of), lack of affordable housing (5).	Cultural and archaeological projects (7).	
	Fuel poverty (5).	Visitor attractions and tourism development (4).	
	Lack of activities for young people (5).	Strengthening of already cohesive communities and community spirit (4).	
	Lack of connectivity (digital) (4).	Strategic project development and implementation (2).	
	Rural isolation (3).	Improved connectivity (digital) (2).	
	Land use and ownership (2).	Partnership working between local groups and businesses (2).	

1 Introduction

Foundation Scotland has run a community consultation as part of the preparation work for the Vattenfall Clashindarroch Community Fund, that will be provided by Vattenfall, the developer and owner of the Clashindarroch wind farm. The Fund will benefit community projects located within or directly benefiting one or more of the three community council areas of Huntly, Strathbogie and Tap O Noth and the area of the Cabrach Community Association. The fund is a significant investment in the local area, providing an index-linked annual sum of £185,000 for the operating lifetime of the of the wind farm that is expected to be 20-25 years.

The consultation aimed to capture the following information:

- General views of the Clashindarroch Wind Farm area of benefit as a place to live and work
- Perceptions of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in relation to the various communities (which could be political, economic, social, technological or environmental)
- Usage of and views about existing services and facilities
- The kinds of services and facilities that are needed now and in the future
- General views about how the Fund can contribute to local regeneration and how best to engage the community in this in the short, medium and longer term.

This consultation phase was described as a 'Community Conversation' to try and capture a process that is two-way rather than something that already has pre-determined outcomes. Involving a diverse range of community members and stakeholders was an important principle of this phase and critical not only to ensure a representative output but also to help establish the Fund itself as an inclusive resource for the whole community. Whilst certain groups, areas or issues receive some priority attention through the Fund, it is important that such decisions are informed by a transparent and open consultation process.

2 Methodology

Foundation Scotland originally scoped a number of different activities to engage a wide range of local people in the Conversation and which were discussed with a working group, convened to advise Foundation Scotland on the development of the Fund. The initial phase of the Community Conversation consisted of the following activities:

- Three community open events in the Cabrach, Rhynie and Huntly;
- A widely distributed questionnaire via Survey Monkey, posters and local press;
- Local consultation activity such as Glass Community Association consulting members at their AGM and via a Survey Monkey questionnaire.

The information collated through these activities was captured in an Initial Analysis Report and included contributors who endorsed particular ideas or submitted similar responses.

Information gathered by Vattenfall at the Clashindarroch Community Information Day held in 2012 was also included in this Initial Analysis Report.

Once this report had been circulated to the working group for consideration and comment, it was made available for further community feedback through a second phase of consultation that involved the following:

- Working group members circulating and/or discussing it with their respective members;
- Developing and then promoting a second questionnaire which was widely distributed online via survey monkey and as a hard copy to the contributors of the first phase of the consultation in addition to other groups and organisations within the Clashindarroch area.

This second questionnaire was aimed at specifically capturing feedback on the following aspects of the Initial Analysis Report:

- Do the key themes that emerged from the first phase of the 'Community Conversation' encompass the broad issues affecting the Clashindarroch area?
- Within the proposed key themes (or any new ones that respondents suggested) are there specific priorities for the area?

- Within the proposed key themes (or any new ones that respondents suggested) are there specific ideas that should be progressed but are less of an immediate priority?
- Should the funding be made available on an open competitive grant-making basis or ring-fenced for priority themes or a mixture of both?
- If providing funds on an open grant-making basis what should the lower and upper limits of the award be?

In addition to the second questionnaire, two further community open events contributed to the final findings. These events were held on Thursday 27th November (Huntly) and Friday 28th November (Rhynie). Data from these two events has been added to this report.

Subsequent to collating the feedback from this second phase the working group considered the number and range of responders as sufficient to shape a Fund Framework .

3 Participants

The table below gives an indication of the numbers who participated in the first phase of the consultation from across the four communities. Participants were not necessarily resident in the three particular locations where the open meetings took place although anecdotal evidence suggests that most of them were. It is important to acknowledge therefore that unsurprisingly, Huntly fielded the largest number of contributors to the open meeting opportunity. This was also the case with the Survey Monkey responses with respondents from the Huntly area contributing over 50% of the responses.

Activity	Respondents
Cabrach Open Meeting	12
Rhynie Open Meeting	16
Huntly Open Meeting	52
FS Survey Monkey	62
Glass Community Association AGM	38
Glass Community Association Survey Monkey	38
Total Number of Respondents	218
Total Number of Comments	Over 800 individual comments and suggestions
Age Range of Respondents (Open Meetings)	20 – 84
Age Range of Respondents (FS Survey Monkey)	16 – Over 75

Activity	Respondents
Age Range of Respondents (GCA Survey Monkey)	17 - 75
Male: Female Ratio (Open Meetings)	30 Male / 50 Female
Male: Female Ratio (FS Survey Monkey)	26 Male / 33 Female

The second phase of the consultation process attracted some individual respondents who hadn't participated in the first phase.

Activity	Respondents
FS Survey Monkey Phase II	57
Huntly community open meeting (12.00 – 16.00)	15
Huntly community open meeting (18.00 – 20.00)	8
Rhynie community open meeting (10.00 – 13.30)	12
Age range of respondents (FS Survey Monkey)	16 – over 75
Age range of respondents (open meetings)	16 – over 75
Male : Female ratio (FS Survey Monkey)	27 male / 30 female
Male : Female ratio (open meetings)	17 male / 18 female
Community Council / Association area (FS Survey Monkey)	Cabrach (0) / Strathbogie (5)
Community Council / Association area (open meetings)	Huntly (31) / Tap O Noth (15)
Contributors to the original survey / open meeting (FS Survey Monkey)	Yes (30) / No (27)
Total number of respondents	92
Total number of comments	284

In total 153 people attended the community open meetings (including Glass Community Association AGM); 157 people contributed to the Conversation by responding to the three Survey Monkey questionnaires (including Glass Community Association) and over 1000 comments / responses were made.

In addition to geographical locations cross both phases, respondents reflected or formally represented a wide range of organisations, groups and interests.

Sample of organisations or groups that participated	Sample of sectors or interests represented
Cabrach Community Association Glass Community Association Huntly Community Council Strathbogie Community Council Tap O Noth Community Council Jessiman Dance Aurora Music Huntly Cricket Club Deveron Arts Premnay & Rhynie Primary School Parent Council Huntly FC Huntly Development Trust Scott Hall Forge Gordon Woodworkers Huntly Hairst Gartly Hall Networks of Wellbeing Nordic Ski Club Rhynie Gala Committee Rhynie Charitable Trust Scottish Country Dancing Group Rhynie Brownies Tap o Noth Permaculture Rhynie Woman Car Aid Rhynie Huntly Small Bore Rifle Club	Community facilities Community services Sport & recreation Art & culture Community events Sport & recreation Children and young people Ecology & environment Heritage Tourism Volunteering

A significant number of participants did not identify themselves with particular groups although some indicated particular roles they served locally – for example, a number of local doctors contributed their ideas.

4 Results

The first phase of the consultation asked a set of questions to ascertain what members of the four communities thought about the Clashindarroch area as a place to live and work; strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats; usage of and views about existing services and facilities; the kinds of services and facilities that are needed now and in the future and general views about how the Fund can contribute to local regeneration and how best to engage the community in the short, medium and long-term. The responses below are from the first phase of the Community Conversation.

Findings from the survey carried out as part of the Community Conversation process show that local residents greatly value the local area and feel a strong sense of affinity and almost allegiance to it. Anecdotally, during the open sessions some contributors referred to a strong sense of affection for the area. This was reflected across a range of contributors, irrespective of age, gender or the length of time they had lived in the area.

Some of the **key attributes** of the Clashindarroch area articulated by contributors were:

- Friendly people, family connections, sense of identity, authenticity, community spirit and action (81)
- Landscape (unique, gorgeous, beautiful), scenery, views (40)
- Rivers, environment, wildlife, hills, flora, fauna, trees, biodiversity (28)
- Peace, quiet, tranquillity, freedom, space (15)
- Culture, heritage, diversity, tradition (15)
- Quality of life, safety (10)
- Ability to walk and access the land (7).

The natural scenic beauty (40) of the area was frequently mentioned along with the natural assets that it has to offer (28). Comments included, *'landscape, walks, nature, wildlife, hills'* and *'unique landscape of this corner of rural Aberdeenshire'*.

Respondents overwhelmingly value the **community spirit** of the Clashindarroch area with over 80 individual comments referring to different aspects such as:

'the abundance of community groups / volunteers who want to contribute to the general well-being of the area...'

'authentic, generally polite and considerate people – a real community spirit'

'... the capacity of the community to organise and run events'

During the course of the Open Meetings a list of local organisations, groups and clubs was collated. Participants were asked about the kinds of organisations in the area and the level of activity within the community. This can be seen at the end of the report and evidences a myriad of community activity, organisations and groups.

Some major shared **challenges** across the communities in the Clashindarroch area were identified:

- Loss or lack of local services and facilities, keeping existing services and facilities operational (including the impact of supermarkets) (27)
- Wind-farms and other environmental pressures (14)
- Price of fuel, lack of public transport, (lack of) sustainable transport routes (15)
- (Lack of) rural investment (9)
- De-population, ageing population (7)
- Employment, training and development opportunities (8)
- Housing (new builds vs renovation of older properties), planning (or lack of), lack of affordable housing (6)
- Fuel poverty (5)
- Lack of activities for young people (5)
- Lack of connectivity (digital) (4)
- Rural isolation (4)
- Land use and ownership (2).

These kinds of challenges are unfortunately fairly common in rural areas. Infrastructure such as banks and post offices are gradually becoming more centralised and supermarkets more prolific which impacts on local shops and services that are unable to compete and therefore closures are a common feature of rural high streets. Young people often move away when

they begin college, University or go into work or training and don't generally move back to rural areas until later in life.

The loss or lack of local services and facilities was of significant concern along with the challenge of keeping existing services and facilities operational.

Some that were specifically mentioned included:

- Closure of pubs in Rhynie and nearby Lumsden
- concern about the Grouse Inn
- loss of shops in Huntly town centre
- threatened closure of Clatt school
- limited public transport.

Contributors described the cost of maintaining local services and assets and the impact of supermarkets within the area. For example, *'the two supermarkets have killed the town centre. Now too many shops are closed or close at 2.30 on a Saturday. Unless you can attract people into the centre this will only get worse.'*

Respondents also cited some particular challenges for individual areas including concern about the state of the Glenfiddich and Cabrach Estates; Cabrach's significant de-population; and the refurbishment needs for Glass Hall.

Respondents were asked to identify **opportunities** for the area, feedback included:

- Increased participation in clubs, local organisations and activities across all age ranges (45)
- Development of existing local assets (14)
- Rural regeneration (10)
- Development of sustainable transport links and path networks across the whole area (10)
- Enhancement and protection of the natural environment (9)
- More housing and employment opportunities for local people (7)
- Cultural and archaeological projects (7)
- Visitor attractions and tourism development (4)
- Strengthening of already cohesive communities and community spirit (4)
- Strategic project development and implementation (2)

- Improved connectivity (digital) (2)
- Partnership working between local groups and businesses (2).

Localised opportunities for individual areas included:

- Capitalise on the success of the Nordic Ski Centre (Huntly)
- Huntly Development Trust / Greenmyres Farm (Huntly)
- Rhynie's historic legacy – 'a very royal place' (Rhynie)
- Dark Skies status (Cabrach)
- Hall refurbishment (Glass).

Respondents identified what they hoped the Fund would achieve in the longer term. The responses primarily covered the following:

- The Fund will benefit all communities as well as have a long-lasting impact
- The Fund will provide support for a wide range of community projects
- The Fund will create a legacy of community sustainability
- That the Fund brings together community representatives to think strategically, positively and creatively about how they can best help invest for the long-term
- That the Fund will inspire local communities to come up with ideas for development of the area
- To effect positive change to all communities
- That the Fund will provide support for local projects that might otherwise struggle to keep going through lack of funding.

Respondents overwhelmingly hope that the Fund is fairly distributed, creates long-lasting, positive change and legacy and that it encourages strategic thinking in terms of the activities that it funds.

In terms of respondents' **fears and concerns** about the Fund itself, the following responses were generated:

- That the Fund is not distributed fairly (51)
- That the Fund is wasted / squandered (24)
- Poor decision-making (14)

- That the Fund creates divisions within communities (10)
- That the Fund doesn't leave a legacy (6)
- That assets are purchased and then not used (6)
- That people line their own pockets and manipulate the system (6)
- That the Fund focuses on short-term projects (6)
- That the Fund goes to projects that aren't sustainable (5)
- That the Fund is mismanaged (4)
- That the Fund will be difficult to access (4)
- That an Endowment Fund won't be created (3)
- That the administration of the Fund is either too costly and not local (4).

The most commented fear or concern is that the Fund is not distributed fairly between the communities within the Area of Benefit. With comments such as, *'that we don't all get a 'piece of the pie' – we should! There is enough to go around!'* and *'that there is a developing conflict between communities due to uneven dispersal'*. This was linked to divisions appearing within and between the communities in the 'Area of Benefit'.

The next most commented area of concern is that the Fund will be wasted or squandered with many comments expressing the fear that, *'the money will be frittered / wasted on projects not worthwhile'* and *'that it will be squandered on something that will only exist for a short period of time'*.

There are concerns expressed about only short-term projects being funded with little or no wider community benefit and that they will be unsustainable and leave no legacy.

There are concerns over the management and administration of the Fund itself, the decision-making process and those involved in that process and that the application process will be too onerous and therefore exclude smaller organisations.

Respondents were asked to list specific projects that they would like to see funded by the Vattenfall Clashindarroch Fund. The suggestions were predictably varied but can be organised under the **following themes**:

- Community Services and Facilities
- Environment

- Rural Regeneration (including employment, housing, sustainable transport, tourism and business development)
- Contemporary Culture, Events and Recreation
- Cultural, Historic and Archaeological Heritage.

It is important to note that the themes are not in any order of priority – their place on the list does not denote that one theme is more important than another.

The second phase Survey Monkey questionnaire found that 82% (42) of respondents agreed that the six key themes that emerged from the initial phase of the 'Community Conversation' encompassed the broad issues affecting the Clashindarroch area, whilst 18% (9) respondents did not agree. In total 51 people responded to this question.

Respondents were given the opportunity to leave further comments regarding the six key themes (20 respondents left comments). The same question was posed at the second phase open meetings leading to the following feedback:

- Creation of an endowment / legacy fund (3)
- Town centre regeneration (3)
- Archaeological / textile heritage (7)
- Art, Creativity and Music should be more prominent (16)
- Educational opportunities (adult learning) / skills and learning (2)
- Renovation rather than new build (1)
- Provision of affordable workshops (3)
- Employment opportunities and infrastructure development (2)
- Fuel poverty / food banks (4)
- Sports and facilities development (2)
- Food poverty (1)
- Tourism (1)
- Partnership working to deliver area-wide strategic outcomes (1)
- Funding should be used for small and large-scale projects to benefit all (1)
- Link to the Aberdeenshire Single Outcome Agreement / LEADER funding (1)
- Local food growing (1)
- Small business (independent) support (1)
- Healthy eating (1)

- Services for older people (dementia café / transport services (4)
- Mental health and well-being (4)
- Affordable accommodation (2)
- Sustainable development and climate change adaptation (2)
- Insulation projects for hard to treat homes (2)
- Solar panel interest free loan (recipients would pay the loan back to the Fund making it more sustainable) (5)
- Community buy-out of the Gordon Arms, Rhynie (119 joined Rhynie Community Trust as members and 114 voted to try and purchase it) (3).

Community Services and Facilities

As anticipated, in phase one many respondents made comments about upgrading, refurbishing or maintaining support for community spaces and existing facilities. Quite often in rural areas a local community asset provides a focal point for activities and when those are removed, either through closure or sale, it can have significant impacts on the social well-being of communities.

- Cabrach Community Centre
- Glass Hall improvement and enlarging (7)
- Refurbishment of Forgue Hall (3)
- Rhynie Community Hall
- New / refurbishment of community halls / centres (10)
- Upgrade of facilities at Christchurch (3)
- Purchasing 'The Acorn' and funding running costs
- Improvement to the Market Muir facilities (5)
- New, bigger performance venue in Huntly (2)
- Reinstatement of the road bridge over the Deveron
- Maintaining and improving the bookshop (3)
- Football park drainage
- Cinema
- Brander Museum (2)
- Help for the aged (1)
- Parking / garaging facility at sheltered housing complexes for motorised wheelchairs

- Men's Shed – men's health and wellbeing (5)
- Advice services
- Creation and ongoing funding for a Credit Union
- Ongoing Christmas lights maintenance and upgrading (5)
- Support for non-profit making community newsletter (3)
- Community shop (2).

As we can see from the above, many respondents wish to see the physical improvement of existing community facilities such as community centres, community halls and churches. This reflects significant levels of support for maintaining and investing in the physical infrastructure in the area because having a physical place to meet and share an activity or project is so significant in connecting people with each other and building the area's social capital. Funding for existing community services such as help for the aged, health and wellbeing and fuel poverty advice were also highlighted as specific projects that could be funded through the Community Fund.

Hall refurbishments are generally short-term projects but require long-term revenue / income streams for management and maintenance costs. New-builds may or may not take longer but once again require ongoing financing.

Environment

Given that a significant proportion of respondents identified the natural beauty of the area and the abundance of natural resources as something they greatly valued, it is not surprising that respondents made many suggestions around the broad theme of 'environment'.

- Demonstration landslide project
- Community wood-fuel (3)
- Tackle fuel poverty (4)
- Archimedes Screw – community hydro scheme
- Management of Moss Wood (3)
- Better use of woodland / forests for community benefit (4)
- Wildlife park and atrium
- Invasive species control (2)

- Salmon interpretation centre
- Areas of common land for bee keeping (2)
- Butterfly farm
- Clean up rubbish and fly tipping (4)
- Bike recycling and maintenance project – encourage cycling and provide learning and training opportunities (4)
- Environmental art competition (2)
- Establishment of permaculture research institute (sustainable agriculture) (2)
- Edible landscapes
- Transition Town group – community food projects
- Outdoor classroom and environmental work at the Meadows (3)
- Insulate homes
- Apply for Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status
- Eco-museum.

Environment focused projects cover a wide range of issues from energy, recycling, community renewable energy projects, woodland management, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, behaviour change, environmental education and art.

Once again some of the above would be short-term projects but require long-term management and maintenance costs whereas the environmental art competition might just need a one-off cash injection. There is also the potential for some of the above – wood-fuel project / woodland management for community benefit and the bike recycling and maintenance project – to generate some of their income and therefore contribute to the sustainability of the project.

Rural Regeneration

Rural regeneration covers a lot of different aspects of rural life however, the overarching theme below focus very much on the physical redevelopment of community services, improving rural transport between communities and the potential for community ownership and income generation.

- Regeneration of empty shops (9)
- IT upgrade / rural connectivity (3)

- Community / creative hub and social enterprise (9)
- Community ownership of assets that provide an income and provide a community service
- Town square redevelopment in Huntly (2)
- Quality buildings and sustainable sites / infrastructure (Huntly specific questions) (24).

Other aspects of rural development and regeneration that were identified by participants included transport, housing, employment & training, tourism and business development.

Transport

Transport is both a challenge and an opportunity for the area and like many rural areas, the Clashindarroch area suffers from a lack of public transport services.

- Community transport (2)
- Improved public transport (9)
- Minibus / share of bus for hospital appointments (2)
- Multi-use path network and biking / creation of walks and cycle routes (21)
- Green Travel Hub
- Deveron Way walk project (3)
- Car Aid Rhynie
- Tap O Noth accessible from the village (2)
- Charging facility for electric wheelchairs in the square (2).

Housing

- Buy houses for local use
- Increase in the amount of affordable housing (5)
- New traditional windows.

Employment and Training

- Local, sustainable employment (3)
- Bursaries for apprenticeships (4)
- Heritage apprenticeships
- Training opportunities for young people e.g. game-keeping (2)
- Youth unemployment
- Manufacturing jobs
- Vocational skills development (2)
- Volunteer schemes

- Encouraging skills and learning (Huntly specific questions) (43)

Tourism

- Bunkhouse, budget and B&B accommodation (4)
- Bothies / huts in the hills for walkers and facilities (2). Including Gordon Highlanders link
- Interpretation panels for visitors
- Restaurants (2)
- Promote as an 'Arts Centre'
- Improving the environment / encouraging visitors (Huntly specific questions) (39).

Business Development:

- Business start-up support and development (3)
- Branding / marketing
- Support to acquire town centre premises (2)
- Promoting business development / growth (Huntly specific questions) (41)
- Promoting Huntly's image / marketing (Huntly specific questions) (29)
- Support for farmers (2).

These suggestions would all contribute to rural regeneration in the short or longer-term. Employment and training suggestions would require ongoing revenue funding but have the possibility of linking in with either regional or Government funded schemes - as would the suggestions around business development. The housing and tourism projects would require capital expenditure and ongoing revenue funding although there is the potential for income generation. Community transport, as well as improved public transport services, are suggested by respondents as both requiring long-term investment. Respondents also suggested the creation of multi-use path networks for individual areas and Clashindarroch-wide. Some of these transport and connection projects could be strategic initiatives involving local organisations collaborating on a single project.

Contemporary Culture, Events and Recreation

*This theme has been changed following phase two of the consultation process in response to the number of comments regarding arts, music and creativity.

Not surprisingly, given the number of groups, organisations and activities that respondents listed during the consultation, events and recreational activities for all ages accounted for a significant proportion of suggestions.

- Improved disabled access for clubs (2)
- Park for children of all ages / Adventure playground (3)
- Youth Club
- Link rural schools to Gordon School activities
- Under 5s nursery / education (2)
- Huntly Explorer Scouts
- Support for youth sporting facilities for the majority not the minority (2)
- Summer schools for young people (2)
- Activities for young people / after school club (7)
- Keep fit for people and physical exercise (3)
- Keep fit classes (2)
- Arts and crafts classes (5)
- Performing Highland dancing
- A secure area for dog walking (2)
- Gardening and outdoors club (2)
- Huntly Book Festival (2)
- Rhynie Gala weekend (2)
- Torch lit walk up the Tap (annual event)
- Premises for Gordon Woodworkers in Huntly (4).
- New bible group
- Nordic Ski Centre development and development programme (6) – Centre of Excellence
- Develop Clashindarroch ski trails (4)
- Horse trekking paths and trails to and from the Clashindarroch Forest (4)
- Biathlon development (3)
- Develop mountain bike trails
- Dirt bike track in Huntly
- Huntly Rifle Club
- Day trips for Alexander Scott's Eventide Home residents (3)
- Activities for older people

- Activities to support older generation in their homes
- Dark Skies status (2)
- Stargazing Club
- Recording local history
- 4G sports facility for Huntly and surrounding district (26)
- Promoting sports, health, arts and culture (Huntly specific questions) (38).

The number of suggestions that focus on events and recreation backs up the responses in relation to the opportunities for the increased participation in clubs, local organisations and activities across all age ranges. The range of activities suggested as potential projects is wide and provides an indication of how active the communities within the Area of Benefit are.

There is diversity in the funding requirements of the suggested projects under this theme – some potentially requiring significant capital funding and others requiring either one-off or small ongoing revenue costs.

Cultural, Historic and Archaeological Heritage

The cultural, historic and archaeological heritage of the Clashindarroch area came through very strongly in the Community Conversation and the projects suggested below correspond to this.

- Explore Rhynie Chert
- Establish a programme of archaeological digs to uncover story of Pictish heritage (6)
- Housing / museum for fragile artefacts (5)
- Rhynie Woman - continued work with the University of Aberdeen (9)
- Clean up / repair of historic Simpson Arch (3)
- Community cultural heritage projects (2)
- Annual art exhibition
- Audio history
- Upgrade of heritage infrastructure
- Celebrate local music and dance
- Observatory (2).

Once again, a mix of short and longer-term projects but some with the potential to have a positive impact on the whole area.

Included in the suggestions above are the six issues that the Community Consultation specifically asked respondents from Huntly. This was to ascertain the relevance of those six issues to Huntly today. Attendees at the Huntly Open Meeting / FS Survey Monkey were asked how important the following issues are to them:

- Encouraging skills and learning (43)
- Promoting business development / growth (41)
- Promoting sports, health, arts and culture (38)
- Improving the environment / encouraging visitors (39)
- Promoting Huntly's image / marketing (29)
- Quality buildings and sustainable sites / infrastructure (24).

One suggested project that doesn't really fit under any of the themes above is that of creating an Endowment Fund (3) that could potentially result in funding for groups, organisations and projects after the 25 years lifetime of the Community Fund.

In phase two respondents were asked if, within any of the proposed key themes, (or new ones suggested) there were any specific priorities for the area. The second phase Survey Monkey questionnaire found that 83% (39) of respondents said that there were specific priorities for the area, whilst 17% (8) said there were not.

*In total 47 people responded to this question.

Respondents were given the opportunity to leave further comments regarding their thoughts on specific priorities for the area (37 respondents left comments). The same question was posed at the second phase open meetings:

- Town centre regeneration (4)
- Rural regeneration (5)
- Community care services for vulnerable, young and elderly (2)
- Small business development / small business support (3)
- Digital connectivity
- Active lifestyles for all ages
- Encourage biodiversity (2)

- Home insulation fund (2)
- Environment
- Art and creativity (5)
- Education
- Sustainable transport and active travel (5)
- Creation of paths network (3)
- Local employment and skills development
- Enhancing skiing and other recreational / sporting facilities (8)
- Community facilities and services (3)
- Promotion of local history and heritage (3)
- Mental health, health and well-being (4)
- Community food skills
- Acquisition of key community assets
- Invasive plant control
- River related projects
- Multi-year funding for projects
- Allotments
- Arts space / centre (2)
- Village hall ongoing funding – they are community hubs (7)
- Community run hotel.

Respondents were asked if any specific ideas could be developed within the proposed priorities (and any new suggestions) that may be considered less of an immediate priority. The second phase questionnaire found that 63% (24) of respondents identified less immediate priorities for the area that they would like to see developed, whilst 37% (14) said there were not.

*In total 38 people responded to this question.

Other Priority Areas

Respondents were given the opportunity to leave further comments regarding their thoughts on less immediate priorities for the area. 23 respondents left comments as outlined below.

- Community facilities (extend/refurbish)
- Huntly Cultural Fund (2)

- Creation of paths network (including signage/guides) (3)
- Promotional activities for the area (2)
- Annual events calendar
- Promotion of archaeology
- Support for apprenticeship schemes
- Traditional Scottish Musician in Residence
- Improvement of Nordic Ski Trails Network/Nordic and Outdoor Centre
- Huntly Youth Football
- Reduced rates for small shops
- Promotion of local history
- Maintenance of local bookshop
- Support / encourage young people into farming
- Bistro / restaurant facilities for Huntly
- Rural regeneration
- Ensure fair distribution of funding
- Transport / pedestrianisation of Huntly square
- Support for poppy wreaths
- Bursaries for visits to international development project partners
- Upgrade of sporting facilities
- Salmon interpretation centre
- Declining public services in rural communities
- Community cohesion across the four areas/partnership working on projects
- Support for teenagers (Skate Park, Basketball Court).

Fund Distribution

Respondents were asked if the funding should be made available on an open competitive grant-making basis, ring-fenced for priority themes or a mixture of both. In total 92% (45) of respondents thought that it should be a mixture of both with 8% (4) stating that all the funding should be distributed through an open competitive grant-making process. No respondents thought the whole Fund should be solely ring-fenced. *In total 49 people responded to this question.

Respondents were given the opportunity to leave further comments regarding their thoughts on how the Fund should be distributed (18 respondents left comments, as outlined below).

The same question was posed at the second phase open meetings:

- Funds should be distributed through an accessible, open and transparent manner (6).
- Should be a mix of both (10).
- All applications should be scrutinised through an application process.
- Ring fencing funding should only be used where maintenance is required.
- Ring fenced funding should be given to the Gordon Schools which will benefit everyone in the area.
- Half of the annual Fund should be invested for the long-term sustainability of the Fund / invested in a long-term ethical way / create a trust fund to reinstate the landscape (3).
- Funding should be used for capital projects only.
- Funds should be open to any idea that enhances the wellbeing of people in the area (2).
- Work with the Local Authority to assist small businesses.
- Funding should be available for area-wide strategic projects as well as smaller projects (4).
- Priorities for funding will change over the lifetime of the Fund (2).
- Projects should be able to receive multi-year funding (7).
- Should be used for long-term investment to create local employment and generate wealth for the local area (2).

The Fund will be able to support projects, organisations and businesses that demonstrate clear public benefit and therefore the majority of the suggestions would potentially be eligible. However, some specific suggestions will likely be ineligible because of limited public benefit and/or not fitting what may emerge as the Fund's priorities.

Respondents were also asked what the upper and lower limits of a prospective open grant making process should be. In total 30 people responded regarding the lower limit and 31 people regarding the upper limit. The same question was posed at the second phase open meetings:

Lower Limit:

Amount	Number of Respondents
No limit / assessed on merit	7
Low	1
£25	1
£100	3
£250	1
£500	7
£1,000	10
£5,000	1
£10,000	1

*Applicants should contribute at least 30%

Upper Limit:

Amount	Number of Respondents
No limit / assessed on merit	12
£200	1
£500	1
£1,500	1
£2,000	1
£5,000	3
£5,000 or £10,000	1
£10,000	6
£20,000	4
£25,000	3
£30,000	3
£50,000	4
£90,000	1
£100,000	2
50% of the Fund	1

Micro-grants of up to £250 may be available from each of the Community Councils / Community Association and will be c.5% of the annual total of the Fund. This small pot of

money is available to local individuals, groups and organisations that are not constituted and is a very quick and easy way to access small amounts of funding.

In terms of the lower limit, £250 would probably be the minimum a group could apply for via the Main Fund. The suggestions re the upper limit are quite varied with the most popular ranging from £10,000 - £50,000. There is the potential for the Fund to have a small, medium and large award programme with varying levels of scrutiny depending on the amount requested. This would also allow for strategic projects to apply to the Fund if not limited by an upper limit.

Finally, respondents were asked if there were any further comments regarding the Initial Analysis report.

*In total 21 people responded to this question.

The comments could be broadly grouped into the following themes:

- **Accountability** – that the money from the Fund will be spent wisely, with a clear and transparent application / decision-making process.
- **Panel** – that the process for selecting / electing Panel Members is open, transparent and widely publicised.
- **Equal opportunity** – all groups within the area should be given an equal opportunity to apply.
- **Business support** – suggestion that small, local businesses should also be able to apply for support from the Fund.
- **Fund management** – suggestion that the money from the Fund should be given to the local schools to manage.
- **Economic, environmental and social opportunity** – the Fund could be used for many purposes to enhance all aspects of local life.
- **Strategic outlook** – that the decision-making process considers longer-term / strategic / partnership projects that benefit the whole area.
- **Good ideas** – where a good idea is proposed, no matter how big or small, it should be assessed on merit, community benefit and not under-funded.

Appendix I: Table of Groups, Clubs, Organisations and Events:

Community Activity e.g. groups, businesses, Council	Community Facilities Indoor	Community Facilities Outdoor	Community Events e.g. annual events, seasonal events
Rhynie corner shop	Fourteen	Playing field	Rhynie Gala weekend – August
Rhynie Gala	Rhynie school	Football park	Santa visits
Brownies	Community centre	Moss wood	Christmas lights switch-on
Rainbows	Mason's hall	Local walks	Halloween party
School	Richmond Avenue industrial unit	War memorial	Hill race – Tap O Noth
Rhynie Charitable Trust	Church	Square	Archaeological dig
Bowling Club	Pub / hotel	Pictish symbol stones at cemetery (ancient)	School plays
Badminton	Public toilets	Craw stane	Football tournament
Rhynie surgery	Public phone box	Tap O Noth	Tug of war tournament
Mothers and toddlers	Clatt church	Rhynie Chert (some of the oldest Devonian plant fossils in the world)	Car Aid soup and sweet
Rhynie Woman	Clatt school	Clatt play park	Ride the North – lunch stop
Youth football	Clatt village hall	Bike recycling	Clatt vintage tractor show
Church	Bike recycling	Walking	Clatt dog show
Sunday school	Crafts	Running	Coffee mornings
Camera club	Arts	Environmental	Afternoon teas
Rhynie online	Mental health and wellbeing support	Allotments	Wellbeing festival
Masons – Tap O Noth	Alexander Scotts Eventide Home	Tennis	The Big Lunch
Parent Teacher Council	Stewarts Hall	Market Muir	AB54 community newsletter
WRI	Pensioners hall	Rugby / football	Weekly coffee morning Stewarts Hall
Rhynie nursery	Linden Centre	Outdoor events	Various fundraising ceilidhs
Car Aid Rhynie	Ski centre	Outside Hall	Monthly farmers market
Scottish country dancing	Glass Hall		Ski centre open day
Books Abroad	Tin Hut (Gartly)		Entertainment in the square in June each year
Community Council			Drama productions *

Community Activity e.g. groups, businesses, Council	Community Facilities Indoor	Community Facilities Outdoor	Community Events e.g. annual events, seasonal events
Rhynie Community band			Family fun day at Christie Park *
Craft club			Christmas lights switch on
Networks of well being			Hairst festival (1 st w/e September)
Huntly cricket club			Music of Tin Hut
Aurora choir / productions			Book festival
Huntly Ethical Trading Initiative *			Beer festival
Himalayan Initiatives			Halloween parade
Film club *			Pipe band parade
Farmers market			Tea dance
Probus club			
Huntly OAP social club			
Field club			
50 club			
Flower arrangers			
Writers club			
Dudendance theatre			
Jesmond dance school			
Glass drama group			
'See Thru' productions			
Badminton			
RWI			
School			
Huntly football club **			
Huntly sports development trust *			
Horse-riding			
Gordon woodworkers			
Huntly Development Trust			
Huntly Horticultural Society			
Walking groups			
Bowling			
Cycling			
Tin Hut (Gartly Hall) – music / events			
Hairst (festival)			
Book festival			
Huntly summer music school			
Floral fund group			

*Feedback from the Community Open Meetings in Rhynie and Huntly.

Appendix II: Activities that take place across the Clashindarroch Fund Area

Gym*	Spinning	Running****	Walking / Hiking *****
Art Classes	Swimming*****	Football *	Children's Activities
Golf*****	Shooting*	Fishing*****	Skiing*
Cricket	Rugby*	Horse-riding*	Charity Events
Bridge Club	Volunteering	Coffee Mornings*	Cycling***
Playgroup	Local Discussion Group	Bowling	Soft Play
Play Park	Tubing at Nordic Centre	Fiddle Lessons	Summer Music School
Farmer's Market	Tin Hut Concerts	Eating Out	Taking Visitors around the Area*
Bird Watching	Cross Country Skiing	Environmental Projects	Animal Related Projects
Keep Fit Activities	Craft Groups		
Functions at Glass Hall (23)	Women's Institute (6)	Badminton Club (4)	Bowling Club (3)
Football Club (3)	School gym at the hall (3)	Has Glass Got Talent Audience (15)	Has Glass Got Talent Participant (2)
Pet Show (11)	Duck Race (21)	Sponsored Walk (11)	Afternoon tea / coffee morning (19)
See Thru Productions Audience (15)	See Thru Productions Participant (6)	Aswanely Horse Trials (17)	Dancing Reels Night (8)
Young Person's Concert Audience (12)	Young Person's Concert Participant (10)	Carol Singing Singer (8)	Carol Singing Listener (21)
Easter and / or Christmas Service in the Kirk (20)			

*Feedback from Glass Community Association Survey Monkey.

Nordic Skiing*	Nordic Ski Club*****	CCA	Rhynie Woman**
Ceilidh Bank	Volunteering***	Photography / Camera Club	Huntly Development Trust**
Working with archaeologists	Cultural Heritage	Astronomy Group	Film Club
Marr Area Partnership	Huntly Cycle Group (embryonic)	Strathbogie Drumblade Parish Church	Village Hall and Church Activities**
Huntly Writers*	Music Central	Walking****	Arts Activities
Group to Save the Bookshop*	Gordon Rural Action	Allotment	Primary School

Aurora Productions	Local Nursing Home	Huntly Ethical Trading Initiative	Handmade in Huntly
Hairst Halloween	Book Club	Rhynie Toddler Group	Huntly Book Festival*
Brander Library Reading Group	Rugby	Cubs / Scouts	Cricket
Football	Fishing	Swimming*	Business Association
Local Festive Organisation	Wind Turbine Opposition	Shooting	Cycling*****
Fiddle	Choir	Musical Theatre	Dancing
Huntly Sports Hub	Skiing**	Mental Health and Well-being	The Deveron, Bogie and Isla Rivers Charitable Trust*
Insch Cycle Club	Mountain Biking	Horse-riding	Nordic Walking
Gartly Primary School	Huntly & District Tourism Action Group	HADTAG Summer Ceilidhs	Gordon Schools Parent Teacher Group
HNSC	Running	Archaeology	History
Dudendance	WRI	Rhynie Charitable Trust	Car Aid Rhynie
Rhynie Community Club			

*Feedback from the Clashindarroch Community Conversation Survey Monkey.

Vattenfall Community Information Day – Groups

Cooper Youth Café - Huntly	Cabrach Community Enterprise Ltd	The Gordon Schools	Deveron Arts
Aurora Choir	Huntly Book Festival	Friends of Jubilee Hospital	Huntly Football Club and Youth Teams
Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and Scouts	Wee Toots Linden Centre	Huntly Nordic Ski Club	Handmade in Huntly
The Walking Institute	Huntly and District Heritage	Clash Ski Trails	Huntly Nordic and Outdoor Centre
The Market Muir	Gordon Highlanders Stags Head	Aurora Productions	Huntly Mental Health
Huntly Growers and Woodlands	Huntly Music Summer School	Huntly Writers Group	Huntly Folk Club
Tin Hut folk nights and concerts	Huntly and District Tourism Action Group	Gartly Primary School	Huntly Amateur Swimming Club

Appendix III: Vattenfall Clashindarroch Community Fund Conversation II – Questions

Please tell us a little about you:

Q1. Are you male or female?

Q2. How old are you?

Q3. Which Community Council / Community Association area do you live in?

Q4. Did you contribute to the original survey or attend an open meeting about the Fund?

Respondents to the original survey were asked to list specific projects that they would like to see funded by the Vattenfall Clashindarroch Fund. The suggestions were extremely varied but can be organised under six key themes.

The key themes identified are as follows:

- 1. Community Services and Facilities**
- 2. Environment**
- 3. Transport**
- 4. Rural Regeneration (including employment, housing, tourism and business development)**
- 5. Events and Recreation**
- 6. Cultural, Historic and Archaeological Heritage**

Q5. In your view do these key themes encompass the broad issues affecting the Clashindarroch area?

Q6. Within any of the proposed key themes (or new ones you are suggesting) are there specific priorities for the area?

Q7. Within any of the proposed key themes (or new ones you are suggesting) are there specific ideas that you would like to see developed but are less of an immediate priority?

Q8. Should money be made available on an open competitive grant-making basis or ring-fenced to for priority themes or a mixture of both?

Q9. If providing funds on an open grant-making basis what should be the lower and upper limits of the award?

Q10. Do you have any further comments regarding the summary report / findings?

The results of this follow-up survey will inform further development of Clashindarroch Community Fund.

Decisions on awards from the Fund will be made by a Community Panel. Further information about Panel recruitment will be available shortly.

Your part in making all this possible is most important and greatly appreciated.