

RWE Camster Community Fund

Year 7 Newsletter (1st Sep 2019 to 31st Aug 2020)

About the Fund

RWE, the owner of the Camster Wind Farm, makes an annual donation to this community fund. The Fund is split between the Community Council areas of Latheron, Lybster and Clyth (LLC), Tannach & District (T&D) and Watten (W). This year, each area received £57,989.59.

The Fund is administered by Foundation Scotland, an independent grant-making charity. A Community Panel, made up of local residents decides how grants are awarded.

Since launching in 2013 the Fund has awarded 147 grants, distributing over £780,000 to community groups in the area. This year saw 26 awards distributing £136,894 from the Fund, including two microgrant allocations.

How to apply to the Fund

There are two rounds per year with deadlines of 31st March and 30th September. Application forms are online at www.foundationscotland.org.uk/camster/ along with guidelines on how to apply.

If your project costs are over £25,000 please contact Eilidh Coll using the details below before submitting a form.

Microgrants

Each Community Council (CC) area has a budget of £2,500 per year to be distributed through the CC as microgrants. Each area operates the microgrant in a slightly different way and your CC can offer further guidance. The ethos of the microgrant is that it can fund smaller projects, non constituted groups or individuals and test new ideas.



Year 7 Highlights

- 24 applications for funding received
- First Ever Community Voting Event in the Tannach and District area
- 21 Awards Made by the Panel
- 5 awards made by the Community through the Public Voting event
- £132,894.13 awarded
- two micro grants awarded
- 76% of the Year 7 donation allocated to projects
- one Panel member stood down
- one new Panel member joined

<u>Year 7 Financial Statements</u>	General Account	Latheron, Lybster & Clyth	Tannach & District	Watten	TOTAL
OPENING BALANCE (1 Sep 2019)	£523.98	£31,042.99	£116,338.80	£149,024.36	£296,930.13
INCOME:					
Year 6: donation E.ON Climate & Renewables		£57,989.59	£57,989.59	£57,989.59	£173,968.77
Grant returned or reallocated to the Fund		£1,626.25	£5,000.00	£750.32	£7,376.57
TOTAL INCOME	£0.00	£59,615.84	£62,989.59	£58,739.91	£181,345.34
EXPENDITURE:					
Grants allocated during period		£30,130.70	£70,018.22	£31,745.21	£131,894.13
Microgrants allocated during period		£2,500.00	£2,500.00		£5,000.00
Endowment: area specific		£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	£45,000.00
Endowment: Caithness wide		£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£30,000.00
Panel meetings: Hall Hire	£20.00				£20.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£20.00	£57,630.70	£97,518.22	£56,745.21	£211,914.13
CLOSING BALANCE (31 Aug 2020)	£503.98	£33,028.13	£81,810.17	£151,019.06	£266,361.34

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Year 7 Fund Distribution

Latheron, Lybster & Clyth area

- **Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Council** £2,500 to fund microgrants which are distributed to groups or individuals throughout the year by the community Council.
- **Clyth Burial Ground Association** £1,764 to replace the group's lawnmower and strimmer so that volunteers can continue to maintain the grounds to a high standard.
- **Lybster Outdoor Bowling Club** £12,000 to pick and point all exterior clubhouse walls to make them waterproof and to replace broken guttering and downpipes which will prevent damp from affecting the building which is over 100 years old.
- **Caithness Community Connections** £6,050 to provide short term funding for the group's activities to prevent a break in services in the Latheron, Lybster and Clyth area which includes Youth Club's for primary school age children, a popular Teen Café after school on Friday's and messy play sessions for families with young children.
- **Science 03** £2,000 to run a series of shows and workshops at Lybster primary school for the 2020 Science Festival.
- **Lybster Golf Club** £1,000 to contribute to the cost of bringing the groundskeeper back to work to keep the grounds well maintained until golf activities can return after

Tannach & District area

- **Thrumster Community Development Association** £2,500 to fund microgrants to be distributed to groups or individuals throughout the year across the community in the absence of a Community Council to oversee this.
- **Bilbster and Thuster Hall Committee** £6,024 to renew the flat roof of the extension to the rear of the hall which had been in place since 1981 and had been patched and given temporary fixes by the Committee and is now in need of replacement.
- **Stirkoke Rifle Club** £3,282 to purchase a second sight to compliment existing equipment to use with the group's visually impaired system to enable a greater number of blind or visually impaired users to enjoy the sport and reduce waiting time between turns.
- **Caithness Community Connections** £41,601.18 to fund the group's weekly youth club in Thrumster Hall for the next two years and to introduce messy play sessions in the area.
- **Thrumster Community Development Association** £10,000 to develop a dedicated response for vulnerable people to the covid-19 crisis including food parcels, hot meal delivery, prescription and shopping delivery and a checking in service for isolated people.
- **Yarrows Heritage Trust** £100 to contribute to ongoing running costs and activities.
- **Caithness Voluntary Group** £100 to contribute to venue hire, catering and transportation costs for Befriending Caithness who have a number of Befriendees in the area.
- **Thrumster Game Fair** £100 to contribute to the ongoing running costs of the Game Fair.
- **Home-Start Caithness** £100 to fund publicity materials so that local people can be more aware of the group's activities.
- **Stirkoke Rifle Club** £100 to make improvements to the Club's entrance lobby.

Watten area

- **Watten School Parent Council** £2,300 to replace an old and no longer useable interactive display board.
- **Watten School Parent Council** £5,146 to fund a 5-day residential trip to for 11 P7 pupils which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to covid-19. Most of this award is expected to be returned.
- **Watten Wee Ones** £5,200 to buy play materials, safety equipment and fund the group's initial running costs.
- **Watten Pre-School Playgroup** £968.40 to replace the groups failing computer with a new locally provided computer including installation and ongoing IT support.
- **Watten Rifle Club** £7,800 to fund new electronic target equipment and junior equipment for the Club to encourage new membership.

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Projects which crossed areas or benefitted the wider Caithness area

- **North Apex Gymnastics Club** £464 to contribute to the cost of three local children attending Gymfest in Perth, November 2019 which provides an opportunity to perform at a professional level to an audience of 3,000 people without the pressure of a competition.
- **Lyth Arts Centre** £3,000 fund an education and outreach project across Caithness which includes 15 workshops across the Fund Area including at local primary schools, halls and other areas.
- **Latheron Hall Committee** £18,340 to clear overgrown areas and resurface the hall car park which will increase the number of available parking spaces and improve the useage of the car park, particularly for disabled users.
- **Rumster Outdoor Centre Management Group** £3,430 to fund two composting toilets to encourage new activity at Rumster Forest as part of wider activity to encourage other users such as Green Gym, Playgroup visits and youth groups.
- **Ice and Fire Distillery** £9,098.09 to make World Health Organisation approved hand sanitiser for distribution throughout the community to assist in combating the spread of Coronavirus.

Year 7 in Pictures



Above: Watten Wee ones received an award of £5,200 in Vovember 2019 to help the group buy equipment and toys and help with the group's start up costs.

Above: Caithness Community Connections received a two year award of £41,601 to run the Thrumster Youth Club and an award of £6,050 to keep the Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Fund running for a short period to prevent a break in services.



Above: Science 03 received an award of £2,000 to run a series of shows and workshops at Lybster primary school as part of the 2020 Science Festival. Unfortunately the programme had to be cancelled part way through but the children were able to benefit from some of the activities.

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Below: Thrumster Game Fair received an award of £100 through a community vote to use towards the running costs of the Fair.



About The Panel

A Panel of 12 local people makes decisions on the Fund made up of one Community Councillor and three elected community representatives from each of the three CC areas. Panel members stand down after four years and the opportunity to join the Panel is advertised through the local press. During Year 7 the Panel members serving were:

- **Latheron, Lybster & Clyth** - Alan Tanner, Alison Kirk, Pat Hendry, Lorna Jenson (who has now stepped down) and Steven Swan who has recently joined.
- **Tannach and District** - Elizabeth Henderson, George Heppel, Jo Scott and Linda Bremner.
- **Watten** - David Thomson, Jim MacDonald, John Sinclair and Lesley Anne Young.

Fund Priorities

The Fund invests in activities and initiatives that help to build a vibrant local economy, supports thriving communities and makes the areas attractive places to live, work and visit for people of all ages. It aims to ensure:

1. There are more and better opportunities to take part in sports and recreational pursuits
2. Access to and through settlements is safer
3. People of all ages enjoy more, better and varied activities and services
4. Community life is enhanced and maintained through a wide range of activities, events and improved amenity of settlements
5. Economic activity is encouraged within the Fund area
6. People have more vocational skills and experience
7. The natural and cultural heritage is more valued, experienced and understood by both visitors and residents
8. Energy use in homes and community buildings is more sustainable
9. Tourism opportunities are promoted and created in the Fund area

Foundation Scotland

Eilidh Coll, based in Caithness is happy to help with any queries
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