

## EDF Renewables Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund



Years 1 & 2: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021



### Headlines

- Community Panel recruited and trained, with 12 members
- Fund launched 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 via local and regional press and social media
- Two rounds of grant-making delivered in first nine months
- 17 grants awarded, to a total value of £370,087
- Awards made in all four communities served by the Fund
- Awards made across all Fund themes.

activity and impact, Fund finances, promotion and information on the governance of the Fund including the community Panel which makes award decisions.

Despite the challenges and restrictions resulting from the pandemic, the Fund was successfully established, with a decision-making Panel appointed and the first two rounds of grant awards completed. Awards have been made in each of the four communities involved – Cabrach, Dufftown, Glenlivet and Glenrinnies – with a total of £410,160.18 distributed to a wide range of community groups and projects. This figure represents 45% of the £906,361.65 community benefit funding provided by EDF Renewables for the Fund's first two years.

### Summary

This report provides information on the delivery of EDF Renewables Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund since the Fund launch in July 2020. It covers grant-making

The funding is already beginning to have an impact in the Dorenell communities with improvements being made to local facilities such as heating upgrades and repairs; development staff in post and new services being delivered, including mental health support for young people.

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# 1. Introduction

Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is a charitable fund provided by EDF Renewables, the majority owner of Dorenell Windfarm Limited. The Fund exists for the benefit of residents living in the areas served by the following community associations:

- The Cabrach Community Association
- Dufftown and District Community Association
- Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association
- Glenrinn Community Centre

EDF Renewables makes donations into the Fund annually, starting in April 2019, when the Wind Farm was fully commissioned. Approximately £447,000 was paid in the first year. This is equivalent to £2,525 per Megawatt of installed capacity. The annual donation amount rises each year in line with the Retail Price Index.

Each of the areas served by the four community associations is allocated 20% of the annual donation value to support projects benefiting people in that area. The remaining 20% is available for projects which benefit all four communities.

The Fund is open to applications from not-for-profit groups and organisations, statutory bodies, and private businesses that meet with the Fund criteria set out on the Fund [webpage](#).

Foundation Scotland is an independent grant making charity that manages the Fund under contract to EDF Renewables. The Foundation's costs in managing the Fund are provided for by EDF Renewables, over and above its annual donation to the Fund.

Under the main grants programme, the minimum grant award is £1,000 and the maximum is normally £30,000. Applications for more than £30,000 are considered on a case-by-case basis for projects that demonstrate significant community benefit.

Awards can support a wide range of costs and activities including equipment costs, staff or sessional worker costs, consultations and feasibility studies, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities and so on. Funded projects must be community led and charitable in nature, and contribute towards the themes and priorities identified in the Dorenell Community Development Plan 2018 - 2023 as follows.

Theme	Priorities
<b>1: Environment and Heritage</b>	Walking and cycling networks Museum, visitor and heritage centres Preservation and enhancement Village and town enhancement
<b>2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities</b>	Community halls Recreation facilities Opportunities and facilities for young people

Theme	Priorities
<b>3: Local economy and tourism</b>	Access to ICT Tourist accommodation and hospitality Tourist attractions, events and promotion Training and enterprise Partnership work between communities and estates
<b>4: Housing and sustainable development</b>	Housing initiatives ICT Low carbon and green initiatives
<b>5: Transport and access to services</b>	Transport (includes gritting where not covered by local authority) Health and care Access to education Childcare Support for vulnerable children and families

The Fund also provides for a micro-grant scheme, under which each of the four community associations in the area served by the Fund can receive an annual amount to then make grants of up to £1,000 to groups or individuals for charitable activities within their area. The community associations report on micro-grants awarded to Foundation Scotland before the next award is released.

With support from the Dorenell Community Benefit Forum (which includes representatives from the four community associations), the Fund was launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July with local and regional press as well as

social media coverage. Due to restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, no face-to-face events were possible and instead a series of virtual advice surgeries were set up to promote the Fund and help potential applicants.

There were two rounds of grant making in this first partial year of operation, between 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Going forward there will be three rounds in each 12-month period.



## 2. Financial Statement

### Fund Income

Year 1 - EDF Renewables Donation	04/06/2020	£446,968.00
Year 2 - EDF Renewables Donation	09/07/2020	£458,726.30
Interest Payment	31/03/2021	£667.35
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>£906,361.65</b>

### Fund Expenditure

Total Grants Released	£148,059.57
Total Grants to be Released	£262,100.61
Panel Expenses	£0.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£410,160.18</b>

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**Total Balance available at 31/3/2021** **£496,201.47**

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### Sub-Fund Summary

#### Cabrach

Income	£181,138.87
Interest receipt	£133.87
Grants Released	£16,321.18
Grants to be Released	£55,000.00
<b>Balance available at 31/3/2021</b>	<b>£109,951.56</b>

#### Dufftown

Income	£181,138.86
Interest receipt	£126.72
Grants Released	£59,860.89
Grants to be Released	£37,754.00
<b>Balance available at 31/3/2021</b>	<b>£83,650.69</b>

#### Glenlivet & Inveravon

Income	£181,138.86
Interest receipt	£130.57
Grants Released	£48,818.18
Grants to be Released	£81,219.00
<b>Balance available at 31/3/2021</b>	<b>£51,232.25</b>

### Sub-Fund Summary Continued

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<b>Glenrines</b>	
Income	£181,138.87
Interest receipt	£133.29
Grants Released	£18,259.32
Grants to be Released	£0.00
<b>Balance available at 31/3/2021</b>	<b>£163,012.84</b>

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<b>Cross Area</b>	
Income	£181,138.86
Interest receipt	£142.90
Grants Released	£4,800.00
Grants to be Released	£88,127.61
Panel expenses	£0.00
<b>Balance available at 31/3/2021</b>	<b>£88,354.15</b>

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### 3. Grant-making

There were two rounds of grant-making in this reporting period, with application deadlines of 31<sup>st</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> December. The third round for the initial 12-month period of grant-making had an application deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, and therefore grants awarded in that round are not covered in this report.

A total of 26 grant applications were received over these first two rounds. One application was ineligible as it was for retrospective funding (applying for something already bought). Another was deferred with a request for further information to be submitted by the applicant. Seven awards were rejected; the main reason being that the project did not offer sufficient benefit to residents of the area served by the Fund. All rejected applications received feedback from the Panel and in some cases were encouraged to resubmit.

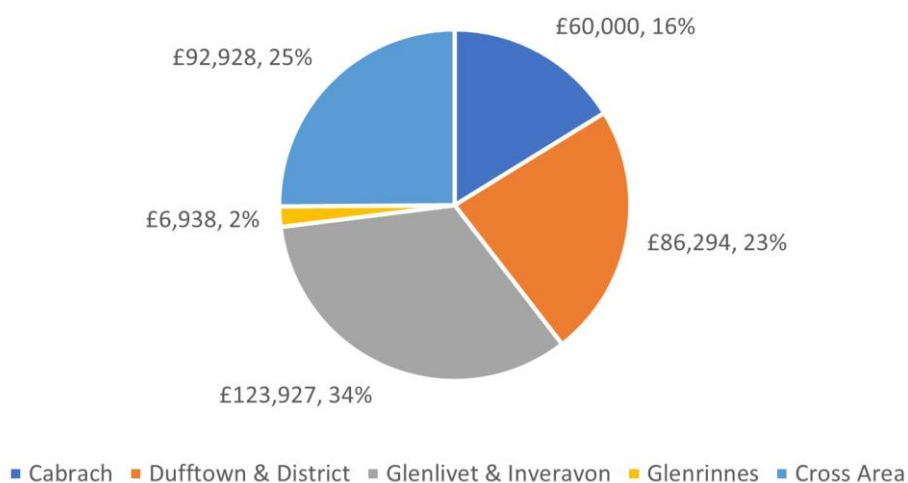
Seventeen applications were successful in being awarded a grant. Excluding the deferred and ineligible application, this gives a conversion rate of 70%.

An additional four awards were made, one to each of the community associations, to allow them to set up a microgrant scheme.

Excluding the microgrant funding, a total of £370,086.66 was awarded to deliver 17 projects, giving an average award of £21,769.80. This includes a £60,000 repayable award for affordable housing in the Tomintoul area (see case study below). Including microgrants, a total of £410,160.18 was awarded to support charitable activities.

Awards were made to deliver projects that will benefit each of the four communities served by the Fund, as well as for several projects that will provide benefit across all the communities (Cross-area Projects). Figure 1 shows the amount and percentage of funding awarded across each of these. A total of 15 different organisations received awards, all of which were not-for-profit voluntary or community sector groups. Details of all awards are provided on the next page.

Fig 1: Total Amount Awarded by Area



## 4. Awards Summary

### Cabrach Area Projects

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Total	Award Value	Theme
A570852	Cabrach Community Association	Towards the creation of new 'all abilities' walking paths as part of a wider project of improvements to local access and the environment in partnership with The Cabrach Trust.	£93,495.66	£30,000.00	1: Environment and Heritage
A570991	Cabrach Trust	Towards woodland planting, new 'all abilities' paths, a wildflower meadow and a pond as part of a wider project of improvements to local access and the environment in partnership with Cabrach Community Association.	£93,495.66	£30,000.00	1: Environment and Heritage
	Cabrach Community Association	To provide a fund for distribution to groups and individuals for general charitable purposes in the form of micro grants.	£11,321.18	£11,321.18	
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>£186,991.32</b>	<b>£71,321.18</b>	



## Dufftown & District Area Projects

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Total	Award Value	Theme
A571282	Dufftown & District Pipe Band	To purchase and install a 40 ft unit as a storage facility and base for the Pipe Band	£23,804.00	£23,804.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A571387	Dufftown Community Centre	To install loft insulation, gas central heating and LED lighting so as to improve energy efficiency and reduce running costs.	£19,207.83	£19,207.83	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A586636	Dufftown & District Community Association	To fund the purchase of three vehicle activated speed signs and their maintenance over 10 years, to improve road safety in Dufftown.	£13,950.00	£13,950.00	5: Transport and access to services
A584402	Dufftown Bowling Club	To upgrade kitchen facilities in the Bowling Club pavilion, and to replace windows, so as to bring the pavilion up to an acceptable modern standard in terms of access, hygiene and energy efficiency.	£10,137.88	£10,137.88	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A585740	Dufftown in Bloom	To fund the purchase of new planters and polytunnel irrigation system to help volunteers continue to create floral displays that enhance the village.	£5,311.86	£5,194.00	1: Environment and Heritage

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Total	Award Value	Theme
A585618	Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association	To construct a covered area in the grounds of Aigan Court, Dufftown so elderly tenants can have shelter from sun or wet weather and maximise time spent outdoors.	£1,800.00	£1,500.00	5: Transport and access to services
A570380	Royal British Legion	To fund kitchen refurbishment to improve the safety and functionality of the facility.	£12,500.00	£12,500.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
	Dufftown & District Community Association	To provide a fund for distribution to groups and individuals for general charitable purposes in the form of micro grants.	£11,321.18	£11,321.18	
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>£98,032.75</b>	<b>£97,614.89</b>	

### Glenlivet & Inveravon Area Projects

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Total	Award Value	
A571370	Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	To employ a part-time Community Development Officer for two years to develop and deliver a range of community projects and events in Glenlivet & Inveravon.	£28,259.00	£42,438.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A586059	Glenlivet Public Hall	To fund replacement showers and shower block roof plus a new fire alarm system, which will increase revenue and improve users' experience at this community-owned and managed facility.	£23,189.20	£16,278.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Total	Award Value	
A585851	Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	A repayable grant (interest free loan) towards the construction of 12 affordable and energy efficient houses, so as to address housing needs amongst the population of Tomintoul and Glenlivet.	£2,195,067.00	£60,000.00	4: Housing and sustainable development
	Glenlivet & Inveravon Community Association	To provide a fund for distribution to groups and individuals for general charitable purposes in the form of micro grants.	£11,321.18	£11,321.18	
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>£2,257,836.38</b>	<b>£130,037.18</b>	

### Glenrinnnes Area Projects

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Total	Award Value	
A573248	Glenrinnnes Community Centre	To replace gutters and install snow guards so as to keep the hall water-tight, reduce maintenance requirements and improve safety.	£6,938.14	£6,938.14	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
	Glenrinnnes Community Centre	To provide a fund for distribution to groups and individuals for general charitable purposes in the form of micro grants.	£11,321.18	£11,321.18	
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>£18,259.32</b>	<b>£18,259.32</b>	

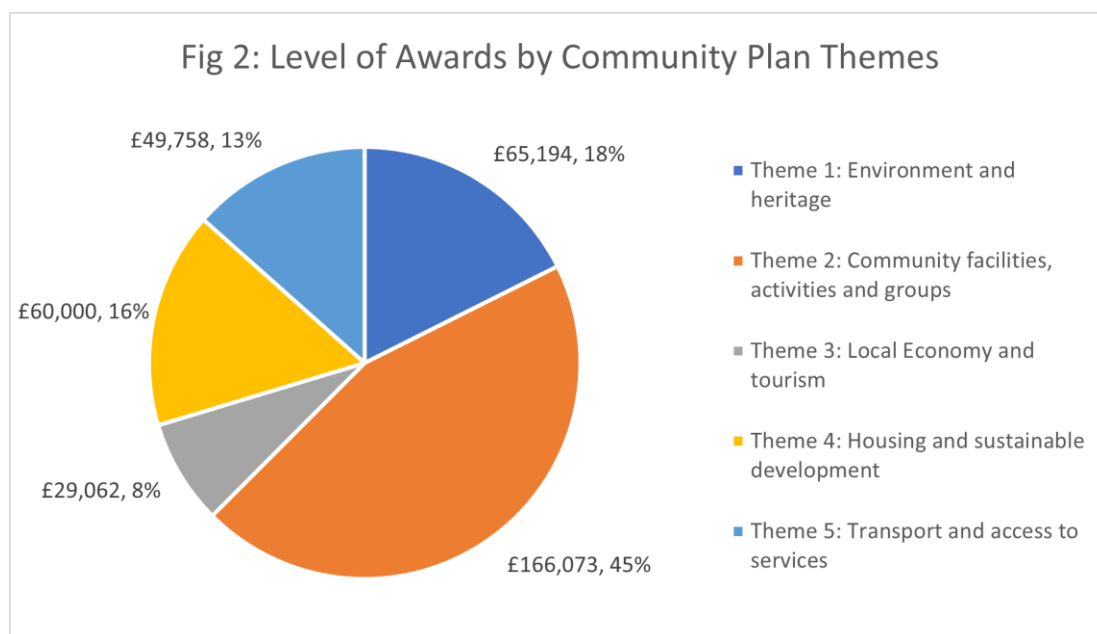
**Cross-Area Projects**

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Total	Award Value	
A570999	Dufftown & District Community Association	To fund play equipment, seating and a BBQ area at Tininver Park so as to enhance recreational facilities for young people.	£54,557.67	£29,557.67	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A571362	Dufftown Golf Club	To fund two golf buggies, a grass cutter and professional youth coaching to enhance club facilities and encourage more young people to get involved in golf.	£29,061.60	£29,061.60	3: Local economy and tourism
A586029	Marie Curie	To provide 240 hours of specialist palliative nursing care to those who are terminally ill in the Fund area.	£4,800.00	£4,800.00	5: Transport and access to services
A586049	Moray Wellbeing Hub CIC	To support vulnerable young people to improve their mental health and wellbeing through evidence-based activity delivered to groups of young people at Speyside High School (above and beyond the curriculum), parents and family groups.	£33,155.20	£29,508.34	5: Transport and access to services
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>£121,574.47</b>	<b>£92,927.61</b>	
<b>Total</b>			<b>£2,682,694.24</b>	<b>£410,160.18</b>	

## 5. What Difference is the Fund making?

Awards were made for projects contributing to all five themes highlighted in the Dorenell Community Development Plan 2018 - 2023. The chart below shows the amount of funding

awarded by theme, according to the main theme addressed by each project. It is recognised however that many projects will deliver against more than one theme.



The following section provides short summaries of six of the seventeen projects funded and is intended to give a flavour of the range and types of initiatives and groups supported in the early stages of award making for the Dorenell Fund. The first award announcements were made in late December 2020 and a combination of pandemic restrictions and severe winter weather has meant that many projects are only just getting underway.

The summaries show a range of capital and revenue projects of varying scales and also demonstrate the potential for the Fund to support groups in a range of ways – from full project funding of essential repairs and building upgrades for community facilities to a contribution in the form of a repayable loan for a much larger community housing initiative.

## Making Dufftown Community Centre Fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Dufftown Community Centre was built before the First World War as a drill hall. In more recent times it was operated by Moray Council as Dufftown Sports & Community Centre. In 2018 it was threatened with closure due to cutbacks and in response the hall users formed a new community group and took ownership of the building in 2020, seeking to keep it open and providing for a range of activities and events at the heart of the community.

The hall is regularly used by several groups including Speyside Youth, Dufftown B.A.L.L. (Be Active, Live Longer) Group, Dufftown Small Bore Rifle Club, Dufftown Parent & Toddler Group, and Dufftown Scouts, Cubs & Beavers, and is also available for private hire.

The Centre is well maintained, and various refurbishments have been carried out over the years. The Trustees felt however that there was significant potential to improve energy efficiency and reduce running costs. There was a range of electrical heating appliances – mostly storage heaters combined with high level fan or radiant heaters in some parts of the building. Energy bills for the centre were very high. The old storage heaters were also not very effective at heating the building as and when required.

DCC commissioned a report from Zero Waste Scotland's (ZWS) Energy Efficiency Business Support Service, which is funded by the Scottish Government to provide free, independent advice on energy and carbon savings. The report recommended the installation of gas central heating as well as insulation and lighting improvements. In addition to the lower cost of gas, a new heating system would provide the ability to

adjust the heating far more easily, as and when required by user groups.

The ZWS report calculated potential savings of £4,280 per year through installing an A+ rated boiler, £500 per year from insulating the loft space and £150 year from LED replacement lighting. The improvements could also generate energy savings of 4,340 kWh and carbon savings of 2.1 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

DCC was awarded £19,207.83 from this Fund in December 2020 to make these improvements, including the cost of a mains gas connection.

This award relates to the Fund priorities of **community halls and recreational facilities**, in particular facilities for **young people** as it provides the venue for a range of youth and family group activities.



This project will bring significant energy and cost savings as well as thermal comfort improvements to a well-used community facility, supporting its long-term sustainability.

Amanda Stuart, one of the volunteers who helps run the Centre, said: "We are so pleased to have been awarded this funding. This will help a great deal by lowering the bills and providing a warm comfortable place for all

user groups to meet. With the changes, over time we should have some funds available to invest in new equipment for the centre and hopefully encourage new user groups to join once the work has been completed.”

## **A Community Development Officer for Glenlivet & Inveravon**

Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT) is the community anchor body for that area. The Trust’s vision is for a vibrant and sustainable Tomintoul and Glenlivet community, providing opportunities for employment, enterprise and cultural regeneration that support the infrastructure necessary for a quality way of life.

TGDT received an award of £42,438 in December 2020 to employ a part-time Development Officer for two years to develop and deliver a range of community projects and events in the Glenlivet & Inveravon area specifically. Projects being considered in the area include acquiring and redeveloping Inveravon school and Tomnavulin post office for community or other use, and upgrades to Glenlivet Hall. It was felt that additional staff time is needed to support local volunteers to investigate these further, in particular to consult with residents and generate consensus, develop plans and raise the necessary funds. There is also a need to support the ongoing development of voluntary groups in the area, such as the Dark Sky Group and Angling Association, with for example governance and fundraising.

The management of key local events was also identified as requiring additional staff support. North East Arts Touring events (for example movie nights), Tea in the Park (a month long pop up community café at Glenlivet Hall) and Wild in the Park (a weekend long autumn

wildlife event also at the Hall) have become key events in the local calendar but require additional support to plan for, coordinate volunteers and so on.

Rebecca Irons was recruited as Glenlivet & Inveravon Development Officer in February 2021, employed 25 hours/week for two years.

Rebecca’s first task in the role was to review the Dorenell Community Development Plan with the community to identify their priority projects. The first stage of this process was a community priorities survey, which saw responses from 76 households. The survey findings were presented to the community in an online open meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May and are available on the Trust’s website. Priority projects identified will be further explored and developed through focus groups from June.

The support of a Development Officer for the area offers considerable potential to build the capacity of local groups, identify priorities and begin work on some significant projects that address these.



*"This post provides an exciting opportunity to develop and deliver projects with the community that can make a real impact and will support a sustainable future for Glenlivet and Inveravon".* Rebecca Irons

## **Improving Access and the Environment in the Cabrach**

This project is a joint initiative being delivered by the Cabrach Community Association and the Cabrach Trust, who are working in partnership to create new footpaths and improve the environment by planting trees and wildflowers. The project is part of their overall plans to regenerate the Cabrach area.

Inverharroch Farm, owned by the Cabrach Trust, covers 170 acres in the lower Cabrach. The Trust has developed a Regeneration Strategy and Masterplan for the Cabrach with the aim of creating jobs, attracting new visitors to the area, and celebrating and protecting the cultural heritage, landscapes and history of the Cabrach. The key element is the redevelopment of Inverharroch Farm steadings into an Historic Distillery and the Cabrach Heritage Centre.

The Trust identified an opportunity to add to its regeneration plans by planting woodland along the River Deveron, creating 'all abilities' walking trails, a wildflower meadow and a wildlife pond. The project is intended to provide the community and visitors with an opportunity to enjoy the natural surroundings of the Cabrach and link with its wider cultural heritage, thereby adding to the visitor experience. and the new paths will link with the wider path network managed by EDF Renewables Dorenell Ranger Service and other local path networks.

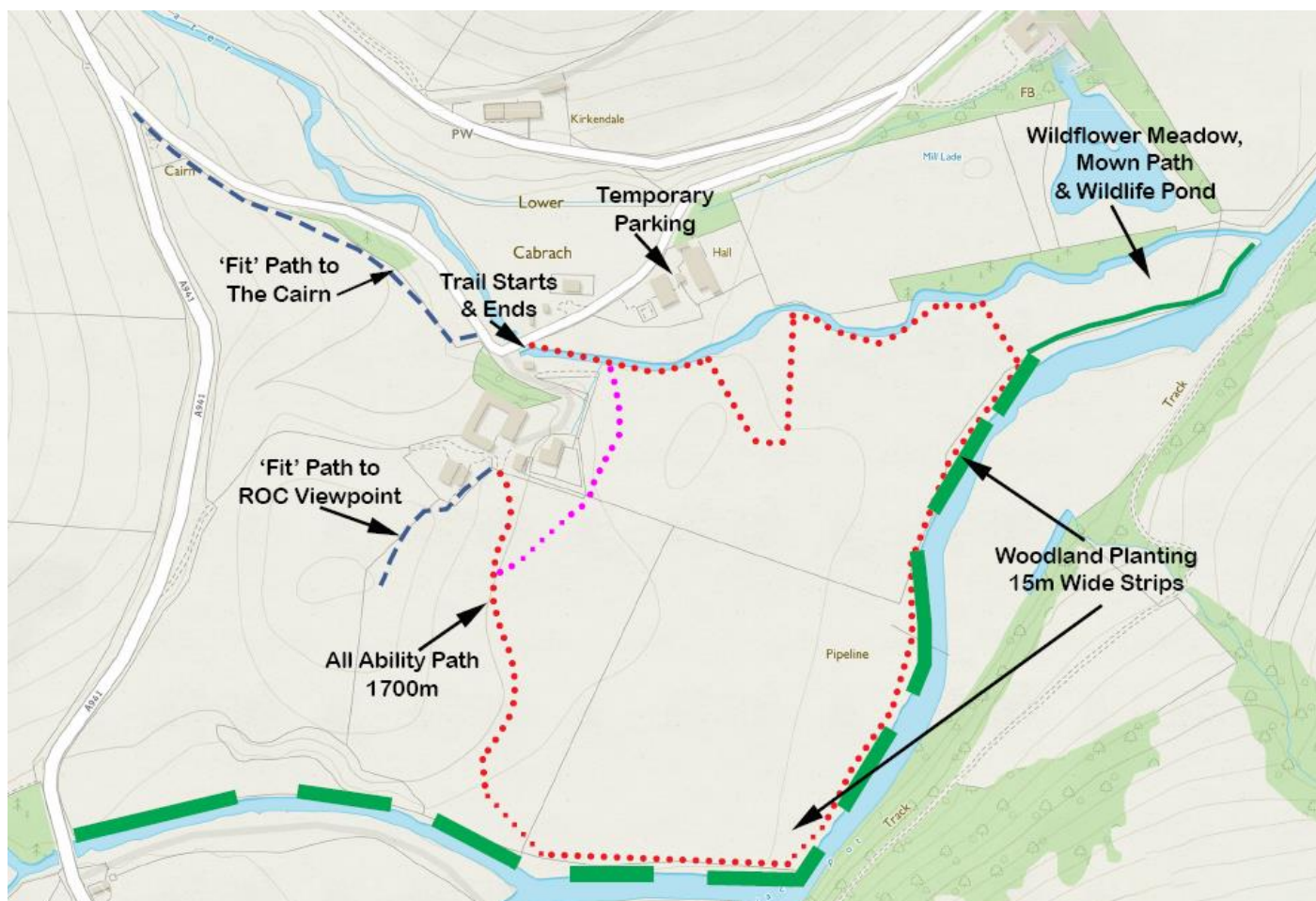
The Cabrach is rich in landscape and long-distance trails but there are no formal (i.e. surfaced and waymarked) walks or woodland trails along the river, in particular any which cater for those with accessibility needs. The project will create 1.7km of new 'all ability' pathways, plus two smaller sections of slightly more challenging paths, enabling those with wheelchairs or pushchairs, or who are simply less able, to enjoy the walks. It will also create woodland and a pond.

The project was developed following consultations with Forestry and Land Scotland, The Woodland Trust, Deveron River Trust and EDF Rangers, as well as drawing from an Outdoor Access & Recreation Woodland Feasibility Study undertaken for the Cabrach Trust. It will be managed by the Cabrach Trust's staff team in consultation and collaboration with the CCA and the partners mentioned above.

The project was awarded £60,000 from the Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund with match funding secured from the Forestry Grant Scheme (Scottish Government scheme), The Woodland Trust and The Gordon and Ena Baxter Fund. Work is due to begin in June 2021 and when complete will see 2km of new footpaths; 10 interpretation panels; 3 benches; 4 bins; 1000m<sup>2</sup> wildflower meadow; 3.28 hectares of trees and hedges in a 15m wide strip along sections of the river.

The project relates particularly to the Fund theme of **Environment and Heritage** and the related priority of walking networks, as well as the priorities of recreational facilities and tourist attractions - all of which will benefit the Cabrach community and its visitors.





## Improving Play Facilities for Local Children

Dufftown & District Community Association (DDCA) is a community anchor organisation in Dufftown, taking a proactive role in local community development. Recent DDCA projects include operating a local food bank and securing ownership of the Dufftown Clocktower on behalf of the community. DDCA has also been involved in upgrades to the main playpark facility within the Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund area, at Tininver Park, such as installing new goalposts and accessible play equipment, and has taken a lead role in recent consultations over further improvements.

The Park is common good land and is maintained by Moray Council. Existing play equipment is mostly very dated and safety surfaces need replaced. Upgrading the playpark was one of the key priorities identified through a Planning for Real exercise held in 2015, and in consultation for the Dorenell Community Development Plan.

DDCA began a detailed consultation process on playground improvements earlier this year. This included a survey, conducted with support from Moray Council and available both online and on paper, which received 179 responses. DDCA also held a public event in the Park (pre-lockdown) and visited the local primary school to discuss options with the pupils. The response was very positive and

provided feedback on the type of play equipment people wanted.

DDCA worked closely with Moray Council who organised the tendering process using the Public Contracts Scotland online platform. Four tenders were received, following which a final phase of consultation was carried out with the community, and local children in particular, to determine which was the preferred option. Illustrations of the bids were posted on the DDCA Facebook page with a voting option. Moray Council staff visited local primary schools to explain the options and support the pupils to vote on their preferred option. In this way, community views were considered throughout the project design phase, along with practical issues such as maintenance requirements and durability of equipment (as advised by Moray Council).

The preferred design (illustrated) will provide over 40 individual play activities. It includes a fenced off area with equipment for younger

children, a jungle swing agility trail and an area of equipment for older children that includes a climbing tower and modern versions of seesaw and roundabout features.

DDCA was awarded £29,557.67 from this Fund towards the cost of the new equipment. A further £25,000 came from community fundraising and there has been considerable in-kind support from Moray Council, who will be responsible for on-going maintenance and insurance of the playpark.

Work is due to start in June 2021.

This project relates to the Fund theme of **Improving Recreational Facilities**, particularly for **young people**, providing a modern, fun and attractive play facility which will benefit the community for many years.



## Supporting Affordable Housing

This project demonstrated the flexibility of the Fund by providing a repayable grant (interest-free loan) towards the construction of 12 affordable and energy efficient houses by a community development trust, to help address housing needs in Glenlivet & Inveravon. It is being delivered by Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT), which already owns and operates several community enterprises including a hostel, museum and business centre.

Like many other rural areas, Tomintoul and Glenlivet face a challenge in retaining and attracting young and economically active families which are critical to sustaining the local economy and services. Feedback gathered by TGDT from local businesses and the wider community showed that a lack of good quality, affordable and secure accommodation is limiting the ability of families to move to or remain in the area, existing businesses to grow, and new businesses to start up. To attract new young, economically active people and businesses this housing shortage needs to be addressed.

The issue of housing was highlighted in the Dorenell Community Development Plan, produced in 2018. The Trust commissioned a Housing Needs and Demand Assessment in 2019 to quantify demand and determine the most appropriate site, size and type of development more accurately. This revealed significant demand for low carbon and affordable housing from both within and outside the Tomintoul and Glenlivet area. 50% of the demand in the Tomintoul and Glenlivet area was from the Glenlivet & Inveravon community, being 14 households.

Following further planning and fundraising, the Trust is now building 12 affordable houses

on the site of the former secondary school in Tomintoul. The new housing will be a combination of affordable to buy (discounted sale) and affordable rental properties, comprising two- and three-bedroom houses, all of which will be protected as affordable through a [rural housing burden](#). Three of the properties will include integrated workspace to support business growth.

This ambitious project will cost £2,195,067, with the bulk of funding secured from the Scottish Government's Rural Housing Fund and Highlands & Islands Enterprise as well as anticipated income from sales and a mortgage from the Ecology Building Society. The contribution of £60,000 as a repayable grant from this Fund will provide cash flow and assist in the overall financial management of the project while ultimately being repaid into the Fund to enable further grant making. Foundation Scotland has established for a written agreement with TGDT that will see repayments made over the next 10 years.

The 12 houses will have a capacity for 54 people, with around 50% of owners and tenants predicted to come from the Fund area.

The project is a strong fit with the Fund theme of **Housing and Sustainable Development** and related priorities of **Housing Initiatives** and **Low Carbon and Green Initiatives**.

Tilly Smith, Chair of TGDT, said *"The interest free loan provided by the Dorenell Community Benefit Fund reduces the overall amount of commercial borrowing against the project and reduces the risk to the Trust and community. The loan will also provide valuable cash-flow to the project which has secured 95% of its costs through grant funding from various sources."*



*Aerial view towards shared space - Andrew Black Architects*

## **A Garden Shelter for Elderly Residents in Dufftown**

Aigan Court Sheltered Housing is a purpose-built residential complex for older people consisting of 22 one- and two-bedroom flats, near the centre of Dufftown. Built in 1988, it is wholly owned by Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association Ltd, a registered charity. Aigan Court Residents Association is run by a small committee of residents who organise activities and small projects for the benefit of residents.

In 2020, the group raised funds to build a patio in the communal garden area of the complex, and which is wheelchair and assisted-walker friendly, allowing all residents to enjoy more time outdoors.

The patio area was particularly beneficial during lockdown in 2020 as it provided for socially distanced meetings, encouraging social interaction and preventing isolation. It also provided a space for other members of the community to visit residents. However, the Committee felt that the space could be enhanced with a simple shelter to allow residents and visitors to enjoy time outdoors

more often, providing shade on hotter days and a shelter when the weather is poor.

The Association received an award of £1,500 from this Fund and, along with an award of £300 from the Co-op, was able to contract a local tradesman to construct a shelter.

The shelter was built in April 2021 and is already proving popular with the residents, increasing their enjoyment of time outdoors and their opportunities to socialise.

*"Our shelter is up and already in use. It's lovely and looks great in our garden."* Donna Smart, Aigan Court Manager



## 6. Marketing and Communications

A marketing strategy was developed to support the launch of the Fund on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 and to generate interest in advance of the first application deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> August. Considerable local and regional press coverage was achieved (see below) and full use was made of the two main community newspapers – Thistledown and Dufftown Spierins, where regular articles and adverts relating to the Fund are now placed.

Local social media channels were also used and a Fund specific Facebook page (currently 51 followers) was set up to promote deadlines and other Fund related matters, for example advice surgeries. Panel and Forum members played a key role in promoting the Fund through their networks and arranging for posters to be displayed in key locations throughout the Fund area.

Due to the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not possible to

organise a face-to-face launch event or indeed to attend any events in the community to promote the Fund as these were cancelled. As an alternative a series of virtual application advice surgeries was publicised widely and held via zoom. Ten of these one-to-one advice surgeries were held immediately following the launch on 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July and the publicity also generated a number of other enquiries by phone and email.

The Fund has a dedicated page on Foundation Scotland website which includes information on how to apply as well as details on Fund balances, Panel members, projects funded and recent news items. Case studies will be added as newly funded projects are delivered. For the reporting period the website page had a total of 2,975 views of which 2,075 were unique with the bulk of activity following the launch in July 2020.

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/dorenell>

### Press coverage:

30.6.20	Press & Journal	Dorenell Wind Farm fund to help communities shape their future post lockdown
30.6.20	Northern Scot	Nearly £450,000 for folk from Dufftown and surrounding area
7.7.2020	Banffshire Journal	Windfarm to give out £447k
9.7.2020	Huntly Express	£16m wind farm fund launched
10.7.20	Northern Scot	Wind farm to give out £447k
26.8.2020	Press & Journal	Deadline approaches for applications to Dorenell Wind farm community benefit fund
18.8.20	Northern Scot	Deadline nears for Dornell wind farm community funding
29.1.21	Press & Journal	Dorenell Wind Farm: community projects in Moray share first wave of funding from turbines
22.3.21	Northern Scot	Second round of Dorenell Wind Farm funding boosts Speyside community groups

Launch poster:

# DORENELL WIND FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

## Open for Applications

Grants of up to £30,000 are available for projects in any of the following areas:

**Cabrach**

**Dufftown & District**

**Glenlivet & Inveravon**

**Glenrinnnes**



## First Deadline 31st August

For information and to apply: <https://bit.ly/DorenellCommunityFund>  
[marion@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:marion@foundationscotland.org.uk) Marion McDonald 07912 759524



Foundation  
Scotland



## 7. Community Panel

Decisions on grant awards are made by a Community Panel. The panel comprises up to twelve people who live, work or actively volunteer in the Fund area. Two representatives are appointed by each of the four community associations, and another person from each of the four communities is appointed through an open and transparent recruitment process.

There was a lot of interest in joining the Panel after a concerted recruitment campaign during June 2020. The opportunity to self-nominate for a space on the Panel was promoted via press, posters, social media channels and community association networks. In total 12 applications were received for the four spaces that are openly recruited to. Selection interviews were held for all areas except the Cabrach as there was only one nomination form that community. Interviews held in September 2020 by video conference, with the selection Panels comprising community association representatives (from different areas to those nominating themselves) and a member of Foundation Scotland staff.

Foundation Scotland then provided induction for all Panel members as well as a team

building session prior to the Panel's first award making meeting, on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2020. All Panel meetings during the reporting period were held by video conference, and Panel members adapted well to the necessity of this format.

Panel Members during the report period were:

Cabrach	Anna Brennand** Margaret Lee* Patti Nelson* (chair)
Dufftown & District	Claire Porter George Tulloch* June Donald*
Glenlivet & Inveravon	Fred Grant Gemma Duncan* John Shewan*
Glenrinnnes	Bunty Campbell* Doug Stephen Rob Macdonald*

\*Community Association representatives

\*\* left the Panel in February 2021 due to moving away from the area – new representative to be recruited.

## 8. Conclusion

The first year of grant making for the EDF Dorenell Fund has seen significant spending on a wide range of projects throughout the Fund area.

The Community Benefit Forum and the new Panel members adapted extremely well to all the particular challenges of the year with Fund set-up, launch, Panel recruitment and the initial funding rounds all taking place remotely

during periods of lockdown and social distancing.

Delays in finalising core Fund agreements have held up the second year of grant making but with the prospect of these issues being resolved and a long-awaited easing of restrictions on public events and in-person meetings approaching, further significant community investment is anticipated in the year ahead.

### **For further information please contact:**

Marion McDonald  
Community Fund Co-ordinator  
[marion@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:marion@foundationscotland.org.uk)  
07912 759524