

North Rhins Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds

Year 10, 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021



Overview

- This Fund provides awards to support charitable activities that enhance quality of life for residents; contribute to vibrant, healthy, sustainable communities; promote community spirit; and encourage community activity.
- Established in 2010, it benefits the areas of Cairnryan; Kirkcolm; Leswalt; Lochans; Stranraer; Ochtrelure & Belmont; Stoneykirk; Castle Kennedy; Portpatrick; Old Luce; and New Luce.
- Prior to Foundation Scotland's involvement funding could only be distributed to communities with established Community Councils. In its first years only six communities received grants.
- With guidance and support from Foundation Scotland Greencoat broadened this criterion.
- 2016-2019 saw intensive activity to engage with other types of groups within North Rhins communities and support low-capacity groups to draw down and manage their grant.
- In 2018 Ochtrelure & Belmont Community Council became part of Stranraer Community Council, which now receives and manages North Rhins funds for both areas.
- In 2019 efforts were made to support the establishment of a representative group in Castle Kennedy, now the only eligible area not receiving North Rhins Funds. But with a population of 350 and only one active group, residents did not have the capacity to move this forward.
- This report provides a financial summary, list of awards, overview of communities, and Impact Analysis for 2021.

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North Rhins Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Statement Period: 01 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 Fund Statement & Grant Making Report

Opening Balance		£16,653.11
Income		
Year 10 - Greencoat UK Wind Ltd	25/02/2021	£39,207.54
	Sub Total	£39,207.54
Expenditure		
Grants released in period*		£28,824.00
Grants to be released**		£11,020.00
	Sub Total	£39,844.00
Year 10 - Transfer to Cairnryan Community Fund	25/02/2021	£3,501.00
Year 9 - Transfer to Old Luce Community Fund	20/01/2021	£3,431.41
Year 10 - Transfer to Old Luce Community Fund	25/02/2021	£3,501.00
Year 10 - Foundation Scotland Fee	25/02/2021	£4,200.81
	Sub Total	£14,634.22
Total funds available as at 31/12/2021		£1,382.43

*£28,824 = £3,459 (Kirkcolm CC 2020) + £1,459 (Portpatrick CC 2020) + £2,900 (Stranraer CC part of 2020) + £3,501 x 6 payments for 2021 (Kirkcolm CC, Leswalt CA, Lochans CC, New Luce CC, Portpatrick CC, Stoneykirk CC)

**£11,020 = Still to pay to Stranraer CC £4,018 from 2020 grant + £7,002 from 2021 grant. The reasons for this are explained in more detail on page 6 of this report.

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Fund Distribution

The North Rhins Community Fund operates as a 'devolved fund' which means that block payments are made to selected community organisations who are then responsible for onward distribution locally. This model enables funding to reach small, volunteer driven groups working to improve the North Rhins communities.

Six Community Councils and one Community Association are paid directly. Payments are made to them when Foundation Scotland receives an Expenditure Report that outlines the spend on their previous years grant, a Forward Plan that outlines how the current grant is likely to be spent, and recent signed annual accounts for the organisation. Delays in payments to the Community Council / Association results from one or more of these documents not being returned to Foundation Scotland.

As has been outlined above, and explained in more detail on page 6 of this report, Stranraer Community Council gets double the annual payment. Thus, the annual payments to the six Community Council's and one Community Association covers eight of the ten North Rhins areas of benefit.

Payments for the other two Community Council areas are paid into larger Community Funds for Cairnryan and Old Luce. These are examined on page 6 and 7 in this report.

All grants paid out from Greencoat North Rhins in 2021 are outlined below.

Kirkcolm Community Council - £3,459 (2020) + £3,501 (2021)

Delays in drawing down their 2019 grant payment meant that the 2020 grant of £3,459 was paid in February 2021. With a balance of £834.26 from their previous grant plus the 2020 grant, Kirkcolm Community Council had £4,293.26 to spend. Three awards were paid out from this grant:

Amount spent:	Purpose:
£714	Kirkcolm Community Trust for new heating in the community hub.
£318	To pay a builder for 'Welcome to Kirkcolm' Boat project
£602.62	To buy goodie bags for children in the village during lock-down.
£1,634.62	Total spent

With £1,634.62 spent from the 2020 grant £2,658.64 has been carried over to spend with the 2021 grant. Their 2021 grant of £3,501 was paid in November 2021. It had not yet been spent by the time this report was being completed.

Leswalt Community Association - £3,501

In September 2021 Leswalt Community Association drew down their grant and spent it as detailed below:

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Amount spent:	Purpose:
£1,493.04	Hall improvements
£151.00	Start-up costs new Toddler Group
£286.00	Community Car Treasure Hunt and supper
£44.00	Halloween Children's Party
£138.00	Christmas Concert Tickets/Banners/Selection Boxes
£1,388.96	Dishwasher and flooring for newly fitted kitchen
£3,501	Total Spent

See case study on page 6 of this report for more information about Leswalt spend of Greencoat North Rhins funds.

Lochans Community Council - £3,501

Lochans C.C drew down their grant in April 2021. Between a small underspend from their 2019 grant and only half their grant spent in 2020, the Community Council carried forward £3,003.25 to 2021, giving them a total of £6,504.25 to spend. Some of this was spent by the Community Council, as outlined below:

Purpose:	Amount spent:
£351.71	Lochans in Bloom
£1,318.64	Sports & social events
£328.70	Community Resilience
£1,999.05	Total Spent

This leaves £4,505.20 to carry forward to 2022. A majority of this has been designated to a new Playpark in Lochans.

New Luce Community Council - £3,501

New Luce drew down their grant in March 2021. Along with a balance of £2,345.13 carried forward from their 2020 grant when a lot of social events did not take place, the Community Council had a total of £5,846.13 to spend this year. This was spent as outlined below:

Amount paid:	Group:	Purpose:
£225.99	Gardening Group	For plants, equipment, and materials
£100	NLCC	TV mast
£180	History Club	Web hosting
£477.70	NLCC	Insurance for Shop and Post Office
£360	NLCC	Pest Control
£3,706.56	NLCC	Support for shop and post office
£5,050.25	Total Spent	

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£3,706.56 paid to the New Luce shop and post office was a contribution to staff costs. This was made in four instalments of £926.64 throughout the year to help cover the wages of a self-employed worker who runs the shop and post office. There are few services in New Luce, and the village shop is a central meeting point for the community. Use of funds to support these costs meets 'Charitable Need' as the benefit to the community for the service / shop far outweighs the private benefit to individual staff. Going forward this will be a regular spend of North Rhins funds.

New Luce Community Council has £795.88 left to carry forward to 2022.

Portpatrick Community Council - £1,459 (2020) + £3,501 (2021)

Due to the uncertainty of Covid restrictions and the impact they would have on the community, Portpatrick C.C opted to draw down £2,000 of their grant in 2020. The remaining £1,459 was paid in April 2021 when the Community Council had a clearer idea of what support was needed in Portpatrick. A Monitoring Report for the 2020 grant was received in July 2021 showing the following expenditure:

Amount spent:	Purpose:
£1,000	To provide a service to vulnerable residents by a 'resilience team' during Covid 19.
£615.50	Senior citizens Christmas hampers
£459	Dog foul prevention
£2,074.50	Total Spent

This left £1,384.50 to carry over to the next grant. Their 2021 grant of £3,501 was paid in November 2021. It had not been spent by the time of this report.

Stoneykirk Community Council - £3,501

The grant was paid to Stoneykirk C.C in March 2021. The C.C had £1,372.51 carried over from previous years, giving them a total of £4,873.51 to spend.

Amount:	Group:	Purpose:
£400	Stoneykirk Welfare	Food boxes to homes during Covid
£400	Sandhead and Ardwell Welfare	Christmas meal in hotel
£400	Stoneykirk WRI	Bus and meal for centenary
£400	Sandhead and Ardwell WRI	Meeting and entertainment
£400	Toskerton Welfare	Afternoon tea and music in Friendship Garden
£400	Friendship Garden	Plants, trees, compost
£400	Rhins Mens Shed	Materials
£400	Sandhead P.T.A	Outside play equipment
£400	Bowling Club	Maintenance
£3,600	Total spent	

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Stoneykirk Community Council requests confirmation from community groups if they require funds, then shares North Rhins funds equally or fairly amongst them. This results in a small annual contribution being made to all active groups / projects in the area. Stoneykirk C.C has £1,273.51 to carry over to next year's grant.

Stranraer, Ochtrelure & Belmont Community Council - £2,900

In 2018 Dumfries and Galloway Council officially merged the Community Council boundaries of Stranraer and Ochtrelure & Belmont. Due to the Community Council's large size, and evidence of need in the area, it was agreed with the Community Council and Greencoat that the new Community Council would get payments for both areas. In 2020 Stranraer, Ochtrelure & Belmont Community Council was awarded £6,918 and in 2021 it was awarded £7,002.

Due to a change in Community Council Members, the 2019 grant from Greencoat was only drawn down in February 2020 and spent by December 2020. Progress of the 2020 grant was then affected by Covid restrictions and the consequential lack of community activity. During 2021, Stranraer Community Council drew down £2,900 from their 2020 grant to support local projects and events. They have since advertised widely in newspapers and relevant social media sites and have contacted groups who have had grants from them in recent years. The expectation is that, as restrictions lift and activities start back up again, use of these funds will increase.

As well as payments directly to Community Councils and Association, North Rhins annual grants for two Community Councils are paid into larger Community Funds, set up to receive money from multiple developers. Payments are then made to community groups through an open grant-making process in these areas.

Cairnryan Community Council - £3,501

In 2018 the Cairnryan Community Benefit Fund was established. Between 2018 and 2020 all Greencoat North Rhins payments were paid directly into this Fund, along with funds from another wind farm, for distribution to groups in the community.

Cairnryan Community Council, which holds the contract for this Fund, had been on the verge of disestablishing due to low numbers and ill health of members and the Fund was undersubscribed due to a limited number of constituted groups. Significant work was carried in 2021 by Foundation Scotland to increase the number of residents involved in both the Community Council and Panel as well as examining new ways for these funds to be spent. By the end of 2021 the numbers on the Panel and Community Council had increased, a Community Action Planning process had been put out to tender, and an Education and Training Fund had been established to provide bursaries to individuals in the community.

There were no grants awarded in 2021 from Greencoat Fund, but a multi-year award was granted to Cairnryan in Bloom in early 2022 that will be paid from Greencoat

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funds. This will be paid annually for three years. The first year of this will be reported on in the 2022 report to Greencoat.

A Community Action Plan for Cairnryan is due to be complete in July 2022. This will create a framework for activities in Cairnryan and provide a focus for future funding requests, some of which will be paid out of North Rhins funds.

Old Luce Community Council-£3,501

North Rhins funds are transferred to Old Luce Community Fund for distribution to projects benefitting the communities within the Old Luce Community Council area.

In July 2021 £2,250 was awarded from Old Luce (Greencoat) Fund to Old Luce Community Council to create a connecting pathway between the village skatepark and local woodland. The grant, paid in September 2021, will fund a local contractor to put in a proper surfaced path. This will prevent the ground becoming messy and slippery in the winter and to keep the route safe to use for residents and visitors

Case Study – Leswalt Community Hall

In April 2019, Leswalt Community Association took on a management agreement for Leswalt Memorial Hall. Between 2019 and 2021 a total of £8,641 has been spent from Greencoat North Rhins funds on hall improvements for this community asset. This photo shows some of the work that was paid for by this fund:



Figure 1. Leswalt Hall: photo shows new windows, door, blinds, LED lights, and paint work.

- Replacement doors
- Replacement windows
- Repainting the hall
- Buying new blinds for the windows
- Improved heating system by replacing old electric heaters in dining room and toilets with energy efficient electric heaters.
- Improving energy efficiency by replacing old strip light bulbs with LED tubes.
- Installed thermostat control in main hall so heaters can be put on for limited time periods and not left on indefinitely.

Leswalt, just outside Stranraer, has a population of 2,712. The refurbished Hall will provide a venue for meetings and activities for the community, supporting

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community cohesion and reducing social isolation. These improvements should also significantly lower energy bills compared to previous years.

The treasurer of Leswalt Community Association is now keen to see the Hall used more: "We have now got our hall looking great and hopefully operating more efficiently energy wise, so moving forward are trying to encourage community groups to use our lovely facility."

One of the groups that is now using the Hall is Leswalt Tots, Baby and Toddler Group, which meets every Wednesday for an hour, to 'Play, Learn and Grow Together'. North Rhins Funds supported the group in 2021 with £151 start-up costs to the purchase equipment and play mats.

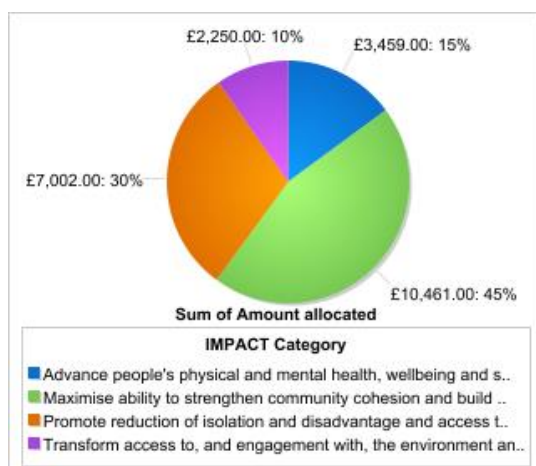


Figure 2. New equipment and Play Mats for new Leswalt Tots and Babies Group.

Impact

For the past few years, Foundation Scotland has aligned community benefit grants to six headline themes with associated outcomes to capture and describe the impact of awards. The themes are:

- Improve life skills, education, employability and enterprise
- Maximise ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity
- Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to local services
- Advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing, and safety
- Connect people with the arts, culture and heritage
- Transform access to, and engagement with, environment and public spaces



This chart shows the Impact of Greencoat Funds that were paid to the Community Council's in 2021 only for those that submitted their Expenditure Reports within this reporting period.

A total of £23,172 shown in this chart is from two 2020 grants (£3,459) that were paid and reported on, four 2021 grants (£3,501) paid and reported on, plus the Old Luce grant to the Community Council (£2,250) paid from Greencoat Funds.

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In comparison to previous years there is a greater proportion of grants addressing different themes. In the past the vast majority of Greencoat funds fell under the heading 'Maximise ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity'. This year 45% of the funds fall into this category but there is more diversity of impact with funds responding to post Covid recovery. There is now a higher percentage of grants used to 'Promote reduction of isolation and disadvantage and access to local services' (30%) and 'Advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety' (15%). The grant paid to Old Luce C.C for a pathway between the skatepark and woodland fits into the category of 'Transform access to, and engagement with, the environment and public spaces' (10%).

The chart below shows the Primary Outcomes for the same grants and gives greater insight into specific outcomes that fall under the above Impact Categories.

'Reducing Isolation' (30%) was the largest Outcome in 2021, primarily through social activities supported in communities post Covid; 'Improve community cohesion' (15%) describes activities that bring communities together; 'Improved community facilities' (15%) is when a village hall has been improved; 'Strengthen organisations through capacity building' (15%) is when groups are supported to work in partnership with each other; 'Support vulnerable people' (15%) increases opportunities for people to access local support; 'Improve quality of local environment and public space' (10%) describes improvements that will increase the number of people accessing / using local outdoor spaces.



In 2021 Foundation Scotland transitioned to using a new Impact Framework. From 2022 onwards, the Impact information outlined and examined in annual reports to Greencoat will be different to the ones that appear here.

Foundation Scotland

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