

Vattenfall Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund

Year 6: 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021



Headlines

- 21 applications for funding were received over the year; 12 were awarded a grant.
 - £157,216 was awarded during the year, equivalent to 75% of the annual donation from Vattenfall.
 - £42,380 of this was awarded in response to emergency situations faced by local people or groups because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 124 grants, totalling £933,989, awarded since the Fund launched.
 - These grants supported projects totalling £77.36M in value; for every £1 awarded from the Fund a further £8.29 was brought in to support community regeneration in the area.
 - No break in grant making as the local advisory Panel continued to meet throughout the pandemic, online.

Fund Context

Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund is provided by Vattenfall AB, the owner of the Clashindarroch wind farm in Aberdeenshire. The Fund supports charitable activity that benefits people living within the community council boundaries for Huntly, Strathbogie, and Tap o' Noth in Aberdeenshire, and the area served by Cabrach Community Association in Moray.

Annual donations from Vattenfall for grant making are index linked (Retail Price Index, RPI). In Year One (2015/16), the donation was £185,000. By Year Six it had risen to £208,876.

The Fund is administered by grant-making charity Foundation Scotland, under contract to Vattenfall. A Panel of people who live, work or volunteer in the four communities advise on grant awards and overall Fund strategy. More information on the Panel is provided on page 12.

The Fund offers grants of over £500 for community-led activity that is strategic, positive, creative and helps create lasting impact in the above communities. Priorities have been set for the Fund, based on local consultations in 2014 and again in 2019, as follows:

- improve community services and facilities
- increase participation in and access to contemporary culture, events and recreational activity
- preserve and enhance the natural environment for residents and visitors
- promote rural regeneration
- celebrate the area's cultural, historic and archaeological heritage.

Grants can support a range of costs and activities including equipment costs, running costs for local groups, consultations, staff salaries directly related to project delivery, and maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities.

Some of the annual funding was ring-fenced for specific types of activity in Year Six as follows:

- *Legacy Grants:* starting in Year 1, £85,000 (increasing annually in line with RPI) has been set aside each year to support the improvement of community buildings. In Year Six, the Panel increased this figure to £120,000, again rising annually with RPI.
- *School Transport Grants:* £7,000 to fund transport costs incurred by primary schools' in providing for swimming lessons.
- *Volunteer Development Bursaries:* £4,000 for bursaries of up to £500 to support volunteers in gaining the skills needed to help increase participation in grassroots sports and physical activity, cultural activity and the arts, or other recreational activity.
- *COVID-19 Emergency Grants:* an initial £20,000 set aside in year five was topped up with a further £10,000 in Year Six, to support provision of help to vulnerable people in difficulty because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and to support community organisations suffering adverse impacts and (uninsured) losses because of the pandemic that put their services at risk. At the end of Year Six, any remaining funds under this strand were to be returned to the main Fund.

In addition, an annual award is offered to each of the three community councils and Cabrach Community Association to run a micro-grant scheme for their areas. The scheme provides awards of up to £500 primarily to non-constituted groups and individuals for charitable activities. The aim is to provide benefit to the communities beyond the activities of constituted groups alone, and to kick-start new community initiatives. Micro-grants are administered by the four local bodies.

Financial Statement

Statement Period: 1 June 2015 to 31 May 2021

Opening Balance	£0.00
Income	
Vattenfall – 2015-2016 Payment	£185,000.00
Interest to 31/12/2015	£94.45
Vattenfall – 2016-2017 Payment	£187,359.00
Interest to 31/12/2016	£182.87
Vattenfall – 2017-2018 Payment	£194,221.41
Interest to 31/12/2017	£171.10
Vattenfall – 2018-2019 Payment	£200,654.95
Interest to 31/12/2018	£245.75
Vattenfall – 2019-2020 Payment	£206,731.07
Interest to 31/12/2019	£363.15
Vattenfall – 2020-2021 Payment	£208,876.00
Interest to 31/12/2020	£390.38
Sub Total	£1,184,290.13
Expenditure	
Grants released	£738,996.67
Grants awarded yet to be released	£194,992.26
Grants returned	(£21,114.49)
Venue hire for Panel meetings	£541.00
Panel member travel expenses	£13.50
Fund review expenses (2018)	£127.99
Sub Total	£913,556.93
Total funds available at 31/05/2021	£270,733.20

Grant-making in Year Six

15 applications were received for project funding during the year across the three scheduled rounds of grant making, a further 5 were received under the Covid-19 Emergency Grants strand and one under the School Transport Grants strand: 21 in total. This compares with 27 applications received in year five (18 to scheduled rounds, 5 under the Covid-19 strand, and 4 for School Transport Grants). Covid-19 restrictions in place from 23 March 2020 therefore seem to have had some impact on application numbers, notably, and understandably, in relation to grants for transport to swimming lessons for school pupils.

Two applications were subsequently withdrawn; both were duplicates of previous applications that had been rejected or deferred pending further information from the applicant.

The Panel made 12 awards for projects as shown in the table below. Leaving aside withdrawn applications, the conversion rate from application to award was therefore 63% over the year (compared with 87% on average over years one to five).

The remaining seven applications for project funding were rejected for various reasons including: failure to meet standard eligibility criteria (two applications); insufficient evidence of need; the proposed project not specifically delivering to people within the Fund area (two); an application for costs that are provided for under another (Scottish Government) funding programme, and; an application for staff salary

costs, which at that time the Fund did not support.

Three awards were made for micro-grant schemes, also shown below. These are paid on receipt of a satisfactory report to Foundation Scotland on the use of the previous year's micro-grant monies.

The total awarded during the year was £157,216, equivalent to 75% of the year's donation for grant making from Vattenfall.

The average award made was £10,481 (compared to £8,086 over years one to five). This increase may in part reflect inflation and other changes in the costs of goods and services.

The total value of projects funded (i.e. from all sources) over the year was £3,681,363, giving a leverage ratio of 95.7% (83.6% in years one to five); for every £1 awarded from the Fund, a further £23.26 was raised from elsewhere.

By 31 May 2021, **124 grants totalling £933,988.93¹** had been awarded from the Fund since its launch in 2015. This funding had supported projects costing £77.36M in total, a leverage ratio of 88%; **every £1 awarded had leveraged a further £8.29** to support the regeneration in the communities.

¹ Includes grants returned totalling £21,114.49, of which £20,000 was a zero-interest loan.

Awards Summary – Year 6			
Awardee Name	Award Value	Total Project Cost	Award Purpose
Alexander Scott's Hospital Eventide Home	£12,053.00	£12,053.00	To carry out building improvements that reduce fire risk and the Home's insurance premium, including a new fireproof canopy and fire suppression system.
Barnardo's Works Cairngorms	£4,369.90	£5,469.90	To purchase 10 laptops and 4G adapters (Multi SIM Cards) to support young people participating in the Rural Steps employability project based in Huntly.
Huntly and District Development Trust	£23,647.00	£620,312.00	Towards the costs of establishing a low-carbon and active travel hub in Huntly town centre.
Huntly Football Club	£25,000.00	£100,500.00	To contribute to the running costs of the Club, to enable it to manage a deficit in income due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
Huntly Heritage and Bookshop Community	£7,968.84	£10,000.00	To fund the costs of setting up the Orb Bookshop in new premises, so as to provide improved facilities and increase its visibility in the town centre.
Huntly ASDitude	£6,000.00	£7,718.00	To fund running costs to enable the group to continue to provide valuable support to members and their families while local fundraising opportunities are curtailed due to Covid-19 restrictions.
Drumblade School Parent Council	£1,373.00	£2,117.98	To fund conversion of an unused bike shelter into an outdoor community space providing opportunities for learning and socialising.
Legacy Grants			
Huntly and District Development Trust	£58,558.50	£2,900,020.00	To fund the re-development of Number 30 The Square, a derelict building in the centre of Huntly, transforming it into a modern multi-purpose community facility.
Covid-19 Emergency Grants*			
Quarriers	£2,520.08	£2,520.08	To fund purchase of supermarket vouchers for 34 adult and young carers experiencing financial hardship and reduced healthy eating choices due to Covid-19 restrictions.
Marie Currie	£6,180.00	£12,360.00	Towards the costs of providing a home-based nursing service for a period of one year.
Grampian Cardiac Rehabilitation Association Ltd (Covid)	£1,143.17	£2,500.00	To fund running costs and PPE for weekly community-based specialist exercise classes for people with cardiac and other long-term health conditions in Huntly over one year.
School Transport Grants			
Drumblade School Parent Council	£570.00	£570.00	To fund transport for pupils attending swimming lessons.
Micro-grant Awards			

Awards Summary – Year 6			
Awardee Name	Award Value	Total Project Cost	Award Purpose
Tap o Noth Community Council	£2,610.95	£2,610.95	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community.
Huntly Community Council	£2,610.95	£2,610.95	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community.
Cabrach Community Association	£2,610.95	£2,610.95	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community.
Totals	£157,216	£3,681,363	

* The grant of £25,000 to Huntly Football Club was also in response to the Covid-19 emergency (see Impact Stories on page 10) but did not fall under this strand as the amount requested was higher than the upper limit to grants under the strand.

What difference is the Fund making?

Awards from Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund are matched with one of the Fund priorities to show the impact the Fund is having in relation to these. The percentage and amount of funding awarded in relation to each Fund priority since the Fund launched to 31 May 2021 are shown in Figure 1 below. Note that some awards contribute to more than one Fund priority, and these have been allocated to the priority that they are most closely aligned to.

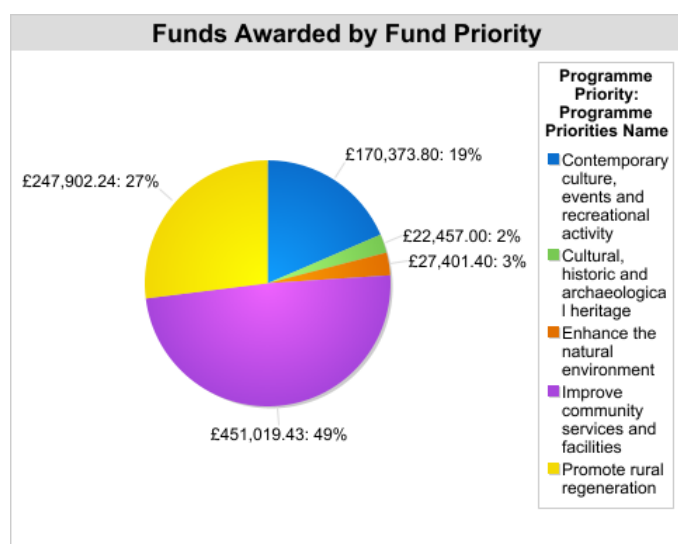


Figure 1: Funds awarded by Fund Priority, to 31 May 2021

Most of the funding has been awarded under the broadest priorities, "Improve community services and facilities" and "Promote rural regeneration", the later including sustainable transport & active travel, employment, housing, tourism, and business development.

Distribution of awards across the Fund area by project location is shown in Figure 2 below. Note that many awards made to groups based in Huntly were for projects benefitting people both within the town and the wider Fund area.

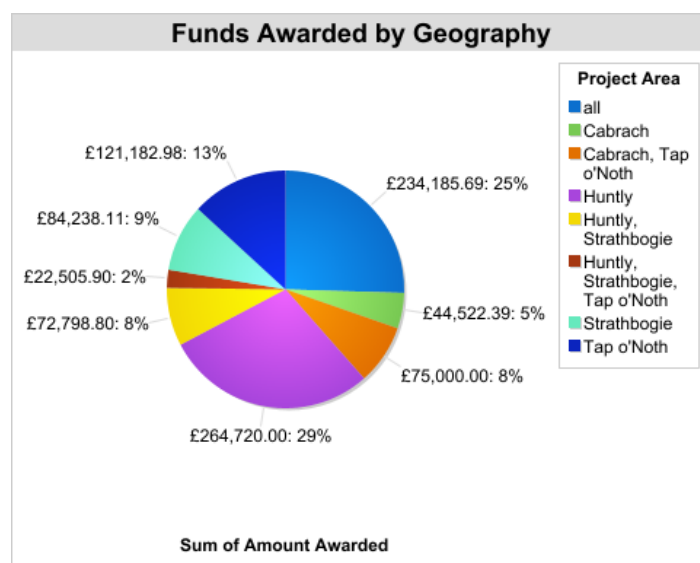


Figure 2: Funds awarded by project location, to 31 May 2021

The following impact stories reveal the difference the Fund is making to communities in the area in more detail, with all three being completed during Year Six.

Barnardo's Works Cairngorms: Supporting young people into employment and training

In June 2020, the Clashindarroch Fund awarded £4,369.90 to Barnardo's to enable the purchase of ten laptops with SIM cards to support young people participating in the Rural Steps employability project based in Huntly.

Rural Steps provides long-term support to young people on a one-to-one and small group basis, with a focus on targeted employability and skills training. When the project started, it soon became apparent that most of the young people supported did not have access to a computer at home, which limited their ability to complete job applications/CVs or participate in on-line training when not attending the project base at Gordon Rural Action in Huntly.

The need for participants to have access to a computer at home then became vital when restrictions came into place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Clashindarroch grant allowed Barnardo's to purchase ten Chromebooks with 4G SIM Cards to give online access. These were lent out to young people supported by Rural Steps.

The computers allowed one-to-one support sessions and group activities to continue during lockdowns, on a virtual basis. These not only helped young people with employability skills - they also played an important role in reducing isolation at a difficult time. As well as working on their CVs and employability skills, participants were able to take online courses such as those offered free-of-charge by the Open University, which enabled some of the young people to complete introductory certificated courses in various disciplines ranging from Marine Conservation to Cyber Security.

The project supported 15 young people during 2020/21 through work placements, taster days with third sector agencies, online learning, digital skills, and CV writing. Seven of these young people have moved into work and three have progressed into further training. The project continues to work with four of the young people and 10-15 new referrals were anticipated in the second half of 2021.

Results of feedback from young people who have been supported shows:

- 71% agreed that working with Barnardo's has helped them to access digital equipment (laptops/phones etc) and improve their digital skills.
- 85% agreed or agreed strongly that they are now more confident they will find work.
- 100% felt that Barnardo's had maintained good communication during the pandemic.

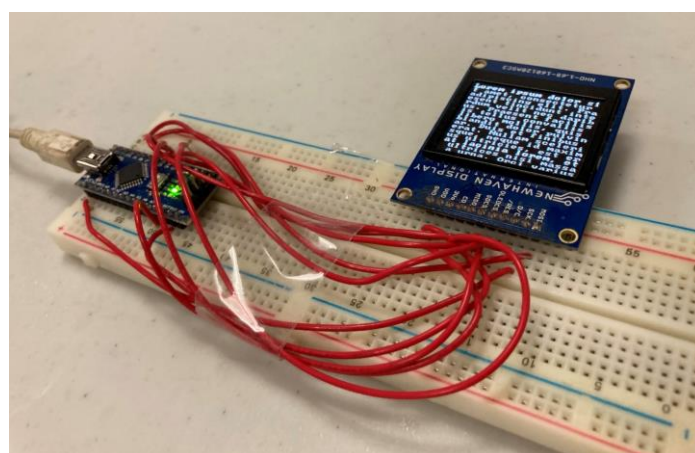
Feedback from participants showed that the support can be life changing. As one participant said:

"I think if I had never got any of this support from Barnardo's I would still be where I was 3 years ago.

In a place where I felt I had no future or aspirations. My confidence would still be at an all-time low and I would still be seeking a job. Now, I have a part time job as a receptionist! Never did I ever think I would be able to do a job like this, but it just shows with the right support and encouragement, as well as hard work, anything is possible."

One participant, suffering from a range of mental health challenges, did not often go out independently, choosing to spend a lot of time in his room. However, newfound access to a portable computer means he has begun to leave his room more and socialise more with his family, for example spending more time in the garden. After having the laptop for a week, he visited the Barnardo's worker to show her a project he was working on and which he has used the new laptop for. He gave incredibly positive feedback about having the equipment and has used it a lot. He had used the laptop to access programming software and build a reader (pictured) that not only reads files from the laptop but also displays air pressure, temperature, date, time, and Unix time.

Vicky Briggs Project Worker, went on to explain: *"He is now actively considering using his skills to try and get into university. This is a massive turnaround for him, and he is beginning to see that his talents and skills could make him a valuable employee."*



Nonetheless, in delivering the project, Barnardo's had to overcome some challenges:

- The usual referral routes for young people were disrupted by the pandemic, as other support services were suspended or switched to remote delivery. This meant that Barnardo's Works Cairngorms had to be proactive in identifying new participants.
- The Chromebooks purchased by the project were a little different to the laptops participants and staff were used to working with. This meant the project had to develop new resources specific to Chromebooks.
- Working remotely was challenging with some young people referred to the project – the easing of restrictions will particularly help in delivering introductory skills to participants.

As the computers were on loan to the young people, as they move on, the equipment is handed on for use by new participants and continue to support young people in the Fund area. Indeed, some of the young people supported have either been able to buy their own laptop or have been provided with one through the Scottish Government's Connecting Scotland Scheme.

New premises increases footfall for Orb's Bookshop

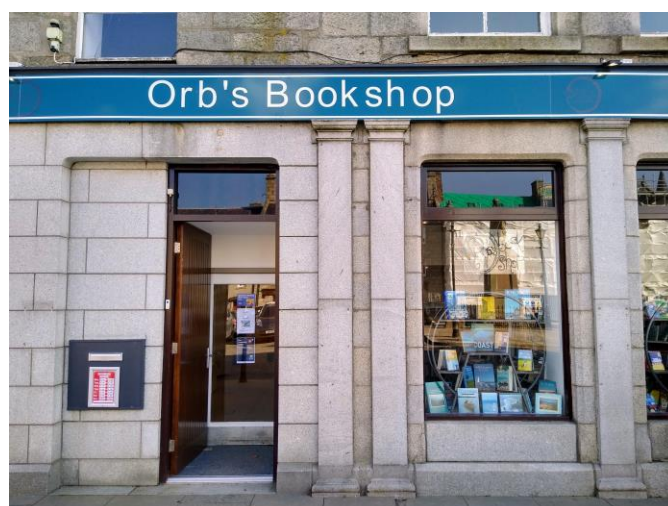
In October 2020, the Fund awarded £7,969 to help a community bookshop set up in new, improved and expanded premises in Huntly town centre.

Huntly Heritage and Bookshop Community was set up in 2013 when the owners of Orb's bookshop retired. The group was formed so that the bookshop, then on Deveron Street, could be retained and continue to benefit the area. A team of more than 20 volunteers operate the bookshop, with previous grants from the Clashindarroch Fund supporting training of these volunteers.

The work of the group goes beyond running a bookshop, providing a range of related activities aimed at supporting reading in the community. The volunteers visit local primary schools, support local writers through events and promotions, and take part in community activities such as the Huntly Hairst and events at the Brander Library. The group provides free books to Scott's hospital and travellers at Huntly station. The old bookshop premises were used by local groups as well as for book launches and author visits, and the new premises will be too through its new video-conferencing capability.

In 2020, Huntly and District Development Trust refurbished the former Royal Bank of Scotland building in The Square, which it owns, and offered the lease on the building to the bookshop. The building was much more spacious than the Deveron Street premises and more central too.

The move to new premises necessitated buying display units, tables, seating and a sales counter. A new laptop was also required to help manage increased stock levels and a dehumidifier to make the basement suitable for book storage. Signage on the shopfront was needed, which required listed building consent. The fixtures from the old shop were repaired and reused where possible.



The move has now been completed with costs being under budget, leading to £1,114 of unused funding being returned to the Clashindarroch Fund. Volunteers contributed hundreds of hours of their

time, transferring and cataloguing stock as well as building additional shelving.

The new shop has more space for books and events and is in a prominent position, encouraging footfall and offering a better environment for customers and volunteers. Takings have since increased ten-fold, putting the shop on a more sustainable footing. The new displays can be easily moved, making the space more flexible for events. The back office is now a well-equipped area for processing online sales, a part of the business which grew during the pandemic.

As Leon Stelmach, Treasurer, explained:

"The move to new premises has allowed Orb's Community Bookshop to have a fantastic new space for the shop. It is modern, bright, clean and warm. A very comfortable place to work in for the volunteers and a fantastic shop for all our customers to enjoy."

Perhaps inevitably the pandemic made aspects of the move more difficult. Plans developed on paper needed revised once it was possible to access the premises to improve the layout. This resulted in some minor changes to costs.



The new shop has a meeting space which is used one day a week by two banks, providing a vital

facility for customers who could otherwise be excluded from financial services as they have difficulty banking online. There are also plans for the meeting room to host a display of local arts and crafts.

The shop is a draw for visitors to the area, providing maps, information on local history, guides to ancestry, and Scottish interest books, particularly the work of George MacDonald, a late nineteenth century author from Huntly who pioneered the fantasy novel.

As Leon went on to say, the benefits of the new shop are being felt by the whole town:

"For the town itself there is a feeling of excitement about our opening ... our brand spanking new shop windows are of great interest to passers-by. Hopefully Orb's Community Bookshop will be the first in a series of new developments in the centre of Huntly which will help regenerate the town. We are very excited that we can be a part of this... 'A bit of life at last' is a frequent quote overheard."

Huntly Football Club: Sustaining an anchor sports club during the coronavirus pandemic

In October 2020, Huntly Football Club was awarded £25,000 to contribute to the Club's running costs and thereby enable it to manage a deficit in income resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Established in 1928, the Club is a member of the Scottish Football Association. It nurtures young talented footballers in the area and provides them with the facilities and opportunities to enjoy their sport. The senior football team is semi-professional, playing in the Highland League, with average crowds of 250 per home game. The Club employs 20 senior players and three coaches and is supported by over 20 volunteers.

The Club also supports an Under-20 Squad, an Under-17 Squad, and other local football clubs. Local schools use the facilities free-of-charge on an

ad-hoc basis. In addition, a licensed Social Club comprising a bar and function suite is also run from the Club premises. While this is a separately constituted entity, its purpose is to both raise funds for Huntly Football Club and support a range of social and recreational activities.

The Club is therefore a hugely important part of the local community with many loyal supporters of all ages. Its activities contribute greatly to the local economy on match-days when local shops, restaurants and bars benefit from the increased footfall.

The first Covid-19 related lockdown saw the cancellation of a range of income generating activities leaving a hole in the Club's actual income against its budgeted projections for 2020-2021. The Club is largely reliant on income from sponsorship and hospitality packages, match ticket sales, and a busy calendar of fundraising events such as 'Marquee in the Park', a golf day, darts match, and sportsman's lunch. Most of this income could not be generated during 2020-2021 due to the restrictions, and the financial situation of local companies that normally offer sponsorship was also adversely affected by the pandemic. Indeed, by the end of May 2020, lockdown had begun to take its toll on the Club's finances.

The Club knew it had to look at new ways of bringing in revenue and drastically reduce running costs to get through this difficult time. The Board completed an initial financial review in June 2020 and, following consultations, the players, Manager and Assistant Manager agreed to take a significant reduction in salary. Travel and equipment expenses were withdrawn. The Club also took advantage of the furlough scheme.

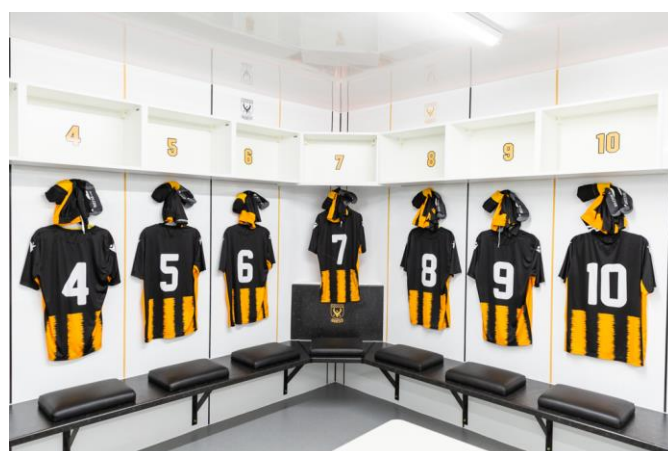
Nonetheless, ongoing running costs for 2020-2021 totalled over £100K, included utilities, staff wages, insurances, some ongoing match and training expenses, ground repairs and maintenance, bus expenses, and professional fees.

As Club Chair, Gordon Carter, explains:

"The massive shortfall in income streams because of Covid 19 made the financial survival of our football club a real concern for the Board. We needed to find a short-medium term strategy to ensure we could see out this difficult period. We had to continue paying for a range of core costs but were not able to have fans into games or any corporate guests. We also had to improve our facilities with player well-being in mind - changing rooms and dugouts needed to be adapted to allow some essential distancing."

The grant was paid in quarterly instalments on the receipt of up-to-date management accounts showing that the Club was still a going concern. In addition, the Club, at that time a company limited by shares, was required to re-structure as a company limited by guarantee with clear not-for-profit status. The shareholders were happy to do so, as the shareholder model had become largely redundant while the new structure was considered to better reflect how the Football Club functions.

Other sources of funding towards the Club's necessary expenditure for 2020/21 included a Scottish Government Covid-19 Grant, Gold League Membership (members prize draw), advertising signage, and some corporate and player sponsorship.



By securing sufficient funding to see it through this extremely difficult situation, Huntly Football Club can continue nurturing young sporting talent and offering sports and wider recreational facilities to the wider community, thereby, helping to maintain good physical and mental health and social cohesion. Without support from the Fund and others there may well have been a different outcome.

Gordon Carter concluded:

I would like to say a huge thank you to Vattenfall and Foundation Scotland for all their support through these challenging times. We have learnt a lot and will continue to evolve as a club, adapting to the changing environment we are operating in”.



A Community-led Fund

A local advisory Panel recommends grant awards from the Fund and advises Foundation Scotland on Fund strategy. The Panel comprises up to 12 members, each serving for up to four years (although members can stand for re-election). Each of the three Community Councils and the Cabrach Community Association may appoint two representatives, and a further 'wider community' representative is sought for each area through an open recruitment process.

By Year Six, eight members had served for longer than the four-year term. One of these members (Ian Angus) stood down during the year. Of the remainder, six were community council / association representatives. The Panel considered that these representatives should be confirmed following the community council elections that were to be held in May and June 2021, as this had potential to bring in new people with fresh experience and perspectives. Also, that this would be the right time to advertise the remaining two 'wider community' spaces.

Panel Members during Year Six were:

Cabrach: Crystal Hill (stood down
27 January 2021)
Margaret Lee*
Patti Nelson*

Huntly: Mike Cowie
Tony Gill*
Hazel McIntosh*

Strathbogie: Ian Angus (stood down
10 November 2020)
David Rogalski*
George Wordie* (Chair)

Tap O Noth: Peter Johnston*
James Matthew*
Lachlan Rhodes

* *community council/association representative.*

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on meeting face-to-face, the Panel continued to

support the usual programme of grant making throughout the year, with rounds in June, October and March. Some Covid-19 Emergency Grant applications were considered by e-mail between meetings where these were of a pressing nature.

Foundation Scotland supported Panel meetings by videoconference and most Panel members adapted quickly to this new way of working, enabling Fund business to continue. However, one or two Panel members felt this did not enable the same level of discussion around applications that is possible in face-to-face settings.

Panel members bring vital local knowledge and insight to award-making and are committed to ensuring the Fund works well for the communities. This includes a pro-active approach to publicising the Fund through local channels online and via posters, word of mouth, and so on. Foundation Scotland also issues press releases after each round of award making, and undertakes social media activity, raising awareness of the projects supported and the subsequent application deadline.

While there was an underspend moving into Year Seven, the Panel and Foundation Scotland are confident that all local groups and organisations are aware of the Fund and the opportunity to apply. In addition, a pipeline of known capital projects in development shows several large projects may seek funding in the next two or three years under the Legacy Grant strand, such as for a new village hall at Glass and a hall extension at Gartly.

Nonetheless, at its March 2021 meeting, the Panel discussed the possibility of investing some of the balance in an endowment with the aim of growing the funding available to the community in the long-term, as very little interest was accruing on the sums held. The idea was to be explored further at subsequent meetings

Further Information

For more information visit <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/clashindarroch>

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