

Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund



Year 3: 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022



Headlines:

- Three rounds of grant-making delivered in Year Three
- 22 grants awarded, to a total value of £442,974, over the year
- Awards made in all four communities served by the Fund, delivering against four of the Fund's five themes.
- Three-year evaluation of the Fund completed with independent consultants

Despite another year of challenges and restrictions resulting from the pandemic, the Fund operated its usual three rounds of grant making over the course of the year. Awards were made for projects in each of the four communities – Cabrach, Dufftown, Glenlivet and Glenrinnies – totalling £442,974. Combined with the £410,160 awarded previously, 62% of the £1,371,829 provided by EDF Renewables over the Fund's first three years had been awarded by 31st March 2022.

The funding is beginning to have an impact in the four communities with improvements such as heating upgrades and repairs at local facilities, development staff in post, and new services being delivered, including mental health support for young people. This is evidenced through an evaluation of the Fund conducted during the year, and which also shows that, broadly speaking, the communities are content with the Fund arrangements and early evidence of impact.

Summary

This report provides information on Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund for the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022. This was the Fund's second year of grant-making since its launch in July 2020. The report covers grant-making activity and impact, Fund finances and promotion.

Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Financial Statement.....	5
3. Special Projects Fund	7
4. Grant-making.....	10
5. Awards Summary	11
6. What Difference is the Fund making?	15
7. Marketing and Communications.....	22
8. Community Panel	24
9. Fund Evaluation	25
10. Conclusion.....	26

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 into the Fund 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 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.

Decisions on grant awards under the main grants programme are made by a Community Panel comprising up to twelve people who live, work or actively volunteer in the area served by the Fund. More information on the Community Panel is provided in section 8.

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 must contribute towards the themes and priorities identified in the Dorenell Community Development Plan 2018 - 2023 as follows.

Theme	Priorities
1: Environment and Heritage	Walking and cycling networks Museum, visitor and heritage centres Preservation and enhancement Village and town enhancement

Theme	Priorities
2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities	Community halls Recreation facilities Opportunities and facilities for young people
3: Local economy and tourism	Access to ICT Tourist accommodation and hospitality Tourist attractions, events and promotion Training and enterprise Partnership work between communities and estates
4: Housing and sustainable development	Housing initiatives ICT Low carbon and green initiatives
5: Transport and access to services	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 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 tranche of funding is released to them.

Following the launch of the Fund in July 2020, a pattern of award making has now been established. There are three rounds each year with deadlines set at 31st March, 31st July and 30th November.

The award-making Panel continued to meet online throughout the year, but face-to-face promotional events began to take place again in late 2021 as pandemic restrictions eased.

With support from an external consultant, an evaluation of the Fund was carried out towards the end of 2021 in order to review the management and impact of the Fund to date. The results of the evaluation were broadly very positive. A summary of findings is presented in this report.



2. Financial Statement

Fund Statement (Summary): 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022

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
Year 3 - EDF Renewables Donation	27/05/2021	£465,467.67
Interest Payment	31/03/2022	£894.72

Total Income		£1,372,724.04
---------------------	--	----------------------

Fund Expenditure

Total Grants Released		£460,235.56
Total Grants to be Released		£392,898.84
Panel Expenses		£0.00

Total Expenditure		£853,134.40
--------------------------	--	--------------------

Total Balance available at 31/3/2022		£519,589.64
---	--	--------------------

Sub-Fund Summary

Cabrach

Income	£274,232.40
Interest receipt	£311.80
Grants Released	£95,118.68
Grants to be Released	£79,510.00

Balance available at 31/3/2022	£99,915.52
---------------------------------------	-------------------

Dufftown

Income	£274,232.39
Interest receipt	£288.64
Grants Released	£110,829.14
Grants to be Released	£151,465.90

Balance available at 31/3/2022	£12,225.99
---------------------------------------	-------------------

Glenlivet & Inveravon

Income	£274,232.39
Interest receipt	£269.56
Grants Released	£122,056.61
Grants to be Released	£81,694.54

Balance available at 31/3/2022	£70,750.80
---------------------------------------	-------------------

Glenrinnes

Income	£274,232.40
Interest receipt	£378.86
Grants Released	£24,934.32
Grants to be Released	£0.00
Balance available at 31/3/2022	£249,676.94

Cross Area

Income	£274,232.40
Interest receipt	£313.20
Grants Released	£107,296.81
Grants to be Released	£80,228.40
Panel expenses	£0.00
Balance available at 31/3/2022	£87,020.39

3. Special Projects Fund

The Special Projects Fund is an additional contribution from EDF Renewables of five annual donations, equivalent to 100% of the donation to Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund in Year 1, 75% in Year 2, 50% in Year 3, 25% in Year 4 and a final payment of 12.5 % in Year 5 (2023). The use of the Special Projects Fund is determined by the Dorenell Community Benefit Forum, a group of representatives of the four community associations established to negotiate the community benefit settlement with EDF.

The Forum decided to invest the Fund into a long-term endowment for the benefit of the communities. They selected the Foundation Scotland EQ Impact Portfolio which is managed by EQ Investors. An initial sum of £1,024,377.08 was invested in September 2021, comprising the first three Special Projects donations plus the interest accrued whilst the monies were held on deposit by Foundation Scotland.

The Foundation Scotland EQ Impact Portfolio has a dual mandate; financial returns and social impact. Financial returns are monitored against six comparator indices as well as the Consumer Price Index + 3%. Social Returns are annualised and are shown below along with the carbon emissions associated with the investments. The Fund's carbon footprint is currently 55.72% lower than that associated with an equivalent sum invested in the FTSE 100 index.

Forum members can access all the endowment details, including transactions, fees and returns, live at any time via an online portal.

The investment represents a long-term approach and although it has seen losses in recent months, and there is an element of risk associated with all such investments, it is anticipated that the Fund will see growth over time.

Special Projects Fund Statement

Income		
Year 2 - EDF Renewables donation	04/06/2020	£446,968.00
Year 2 - EDF Renewables	09/07/2020	£344,044.73
Year 2 - Interest Receipt	31/03/2021	£630.51
Year 3 - EDF Renewables donation	22/07/2021	£232,733.84
Year 2 - Interest Receipt	31/03/2022	£930.56
Sub Total		£1,025,307.64

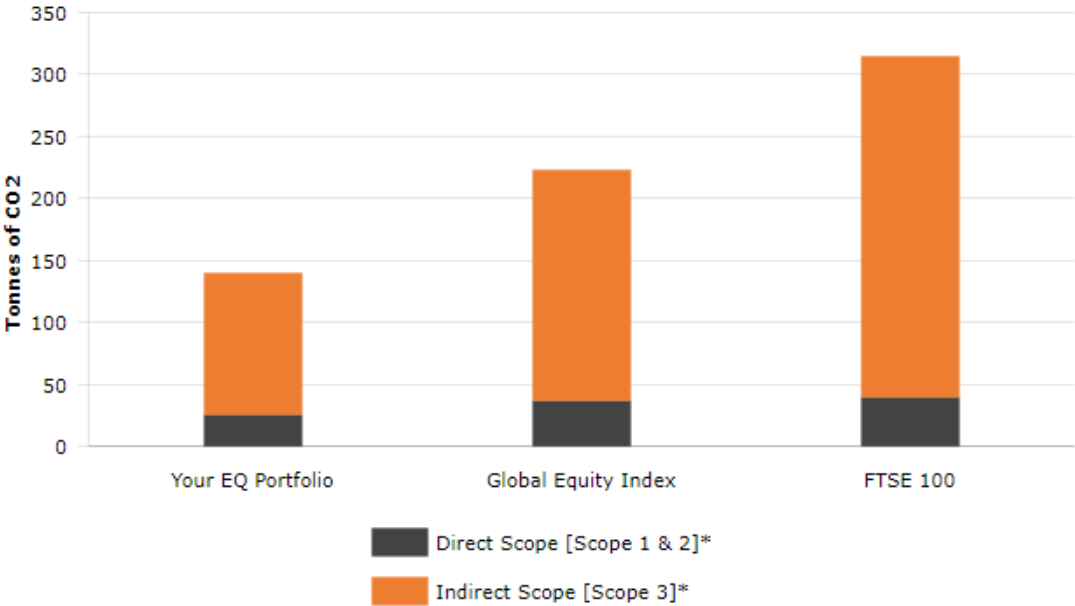
Capital Adjustments		
Year 3 - Unrealised loss on investments	30/09/2021	- £18,892.56
Year 3 - Unrealised gains on investments	31/10/2021	£6,676.26
Year 3 - Unrealised gains on investments	30/11/2021	£5,050.24
Year 3 - Unrealised gains on investments	31/12/2021	£3,500.76
Year 3 - Unrealised loss on investments	31/01/2022	- £126,660.44
Year 3 - Unrealised loss on investments	28/02/2022	- £15,814.92
Year 3 - Unrealised gains on investments	31/03/2022	£37,865.30
Total Capital Adjustments		- £108,275.36

Total funds available as at 31/03/2022	£917,032.28
---	--------------------

Social Return (annualised)



Carbon emissions



*Scope 1 & 2 represents direct emissions as well as indirect emissions from electricity usage, Scope 3 represents other indirect generation

4. Grant-making

There were three rounds of grant-making in Year Three, with application deadlines of 31st March, 31st July and 30th November. A total of 26 grant applications were received.

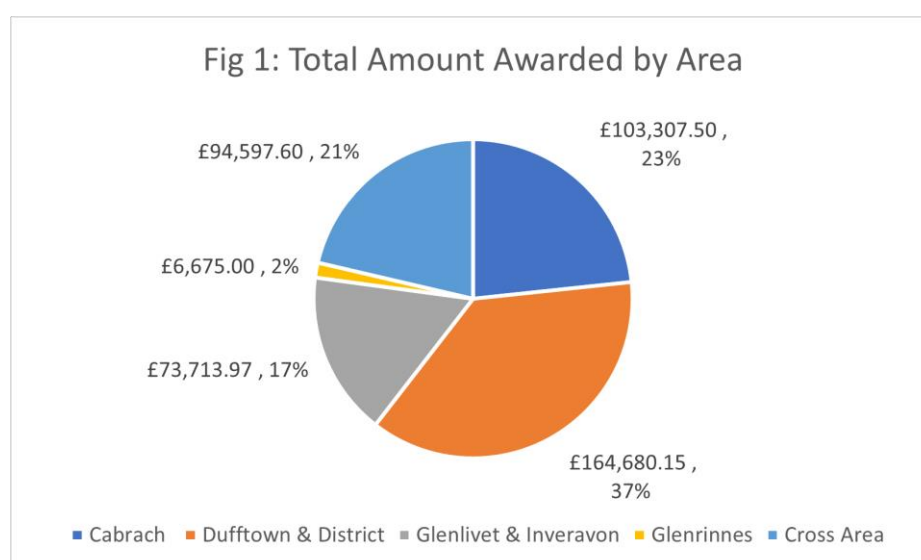
Two applications were subsequently withdrawn prior to the Panel meeting – one due to a change in capacity of the group, and one due to ineligibility issues around governance of the group and likely benefit of the application to residents of the area served by the Fund. One application was deferred with a request for further information to be submitted by the applicant. Another was rejected because the Panel felt that it did not offer sufficient benefit to residents of the area served by the Fund. Unsuccessful applicants received feedback from the Panel and in some cases were encouraged to resubmit once key concerns were addressed.

22 applications were successful in being awarded a grant. Excluding the deferred and

ineligible applications, this gives a conversion rate from application to award of 85%.

A total of £442,974.22 was awarded to support 22 projects, giving an average award of £20,135.19. The smallest award made was £1,340 to refurbish and repurpose two telephone kiosks to create community facilities in Glenlivet. The largest award was £60,000, spread over three years, to Speyside Youth to contribute to staff costs for youth workers at the Youth Cafe and other activities for young people in the Fund area.

Awards were made for 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 four communities. Figure 1 shows the amount and percentage of funding awarded across each of these. A total of 17 different organisations received awards, all of which were not-for-profit groups. Details of all awards are provided on the following page.



5. Awards Summary

Cabrach

Ref	Applicant	Project Description	Award	Project cost	Theme
A599176	Cabrach Trust	To commission a feasibility study and initial building improvement to restore the Cabrach School Hall and House and create a community hub for training, events and activities.	£18,917.50	£18,917.50	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A599194	Cabrach Community Association	To fund construction of 65m of drystone wall plus planting and landscaping to enhance the Cairn Memorial Garden and providing drystone walling training for 30 people.	£26,900.00	£26,900.00	1: Environment and Heritage
A611942	Cabrach Trust	To fund 'Cabrach Lives' project which will engage and train community members in collecting oral history to preserve local heritage and share this through the production of interpretation materials including an online archive and book.	£29,880.00	£38,080.00	3: Local economy and tourism
A626378	Cabrach Trust	To equip the training/volunteer bothy with a stove, seating and storage; deliver a programme of rural skills and wellbeing events; and collaborate with local artists to create outdoor community artworks.	£27,610.00	£27,610.00	3: Local economy and tourism
Sub Total			£103,307.50	£111,507.50	

Dufftown & District

Ref	Applicant	Project Description	Award	Project cost	Theme
A571282	Dufftown & District Pipe Band	To purchase and install a 40 ft unit as a storage facility and base for the Pipe Band (increased payment for year 1 award).	£7,616.00	£31,420.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities

A598882	Dufftown & District Community Association	To part fund a two-year full-time Community Development Leader (Economics) to develop and deliver a range of projects and events to improve the financial sustainability of Dufftown & District Community Association and increase the capacity of the group to support the community	£47,444.03	£94,888.06	3: Local economy and tourism
A599057	Dufftown Highland Games	To fund the building of a steel frame shed to increase storage capacity for equipment used during the annual Highland Games.	£41,850.00	£41,850.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A599069	Dufftown Community Centre	To upgrade toilets and increase storage space to improve the facility for users.	£27,506.52	£27,506.52	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A620876	Dufftown & Mortlach Development Trust Ltd.	To upgrade a circuit of paths around Dufftown to create a local heritage trail to benefit locals and visitors	£29,403.60	£29,403.60	1: Environment and Heritage
A625688	Mortlach Memorial Hall Dufftown	To fund a feasibility study into hall upgrades to make design and energy improvements; and CCTV purchase to improve safety and security around the hall.	£10,860.00	£10,860.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
Sub Total			£164,680.15	£235,928.18	

Glenlivet & Inveravon

Ref	Applicant	Project Description	Award	Project cost	Theme
A599142	Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust	To refurbish and repurpose two telephone kiosks to create community facilities (such as a library, larder or tuck shop).	£1,340.00	£1,340.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities

A599313	Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust	To contribute to the costs of a new all abilities blue graded trail at the Bike Glenlivet Trail Centre.	£3,933.00	£27,366.00	1: Environment and heritage
A604891	Tomintoul and Glenlivet Outdoor Bowling Club	To replace five external clubhouse doors and 12 windows to improve energy efficiency and security and reduce maintenance requirements.	£7,965.43	£13,275.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A625507	Chapelton Hall Committee	To fund consultancy services to establish the feasibility and outline design of a new hall that will replace the existing Chapelton Hall in the Braes of Glenlivet.	£22,800.00	£22,800.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A625664	Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust	To complete the design work associated with creating a mini observatory at Braes Hall.	£3,480.00	£3,480.00	3: Local economy and tourism
A625660	Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust	To employ a Heritage Ranger to undertake ranger duties relating to the heritage environment of Glenlivet and Inveravon, promoting local heritage, enhancing the visitor experience and bringing repeat and longer visits to the area.	£34,195.54	£34,195.54	1: Environment and heritage
Sub Total			£73,713.97	£102,456.54	

Glenrinnnes

Ref	Applicant	Project Description	Award	Project cost	Theme
A599077	Glenrinnnes Community Centre	To cover the costs of purchasing a new ride-on mower and storage shed to help volunteers maintain the grounds around the centre.	£6,675.00	£6,675.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
Sub Total			£6,675.00	£6,675.00	

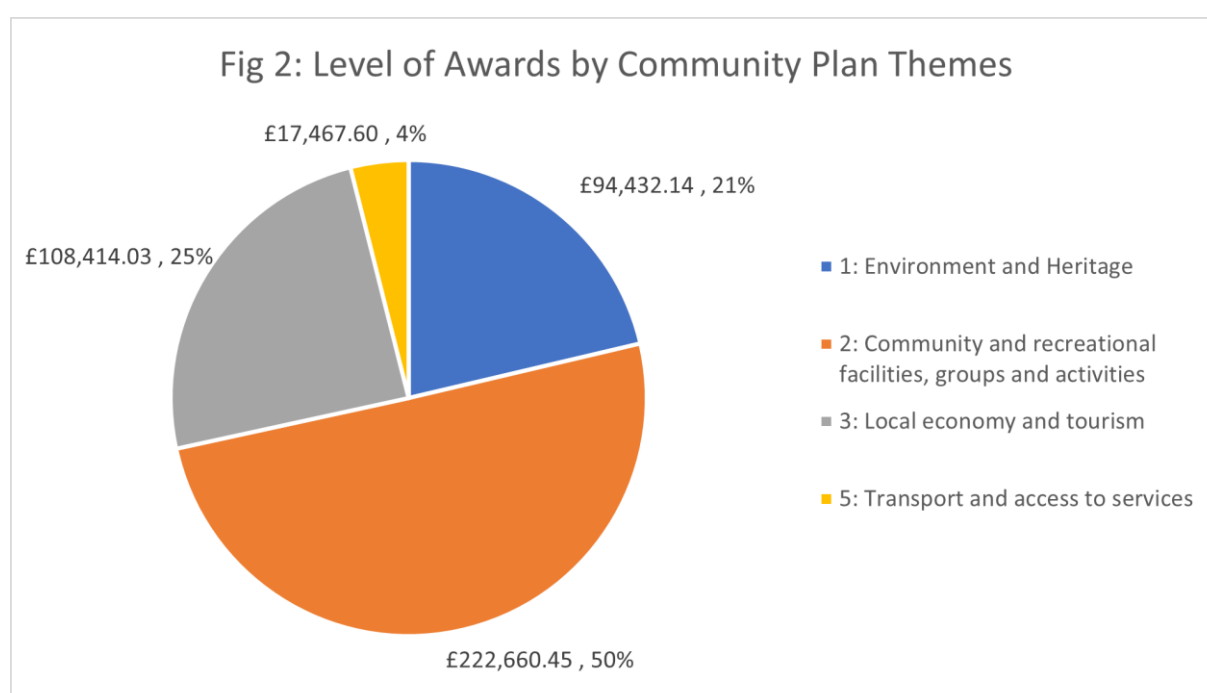
Cross Area

Ref	Applicant	Project Description	Award	Project cost	Theme
A603554	Moray Baby Bank	To contribute to 12 months' running costs for Moray Baby Bank to support families in need throughout Moray.	£2,000.00	£13,680.00	5: Transport and access to services
A607064	Speyside Youth Ltd	To contribute to core staff costs for youth workers for three years to support the Youth Cafe and other activities for young people in and around Dufftown, improving opportunities, skills, confidence and mental wellbeing.	£60,000.00	£138,003.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A625550	Outfit Moray	To deliver cycle skills training, bike maintenance and cycle promotion events for children and adults to increase confidence and uptake of cycling.	£17,130.00	£17,130.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
A625669	Speyside Community Car Share Scheme	To continue the provision of a volunteer-based transport service to reduce isolation and improve access to local services and medical appointments.	£10,000.00	£24,000.00	5: Transport and access to services
A625457	The Cabin	To contribute to costs of hall hire and resources to run a childcare service for two-year-olds in the Fund area.	£5,467.60	£10,723.20	5: Transport and access to services
Sub Total			£94,597.60	£203,536.20	
Total			£442,974.22	£660,103.42	

6. What Difference is the Fund making?

Awards were made for projects contributing to four of the 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 primary theme addressed by each project. It

is recognised however that many projects will deliver against more than one theme. No funding was awarded to projects addressing the theme Housing and Sustainable Development during the year.



The following section provides short case studies of six projects that have received a grant (during 2020 or 2021). It seeks to give a flavour of the range and types of initiatives and groups supported by the Fund, and to demonstrate the impact that the awards are having already on the lives of residents.

The summaries cover a range of capital and revenue projects of varying scales and

demonstrate the potential for the Fund to support groups in a range of ways – from fully funding essential repairs and building upgrades for community facilities to a contribution to the core costs of a key local service.

Breathing new life into community facilities

Dufftown & District Royal British Legion

is a branch of the national charity which was set up to support ex-Service men and women. The Dufftown branch does this by providing social and recreational facilities for members as well as offering a venue to the wider community for a range of activities, such as keep fit, pipe band practice and functions.

The Legion building was a derelict house prior to being renovated in the 1940s by ex-service men, who added on a lounge to the rear. The hall was a later addition, built by and for the wider community. The current committee is carrying out a long-term programme of refurbishment and improvement as well as ongoing repair and maintenance to ensure the facility remains viable. The first phase of refurbishment involved upgrading the heating system and beginning to replace the windows. The toilet facilities were also upgraded and the hall and lounge refurbished.

The kitchen facilities were next on the list. They dated from the 1960s and were badly in need of improvement, with few cupboards, no dishwasher or ventilation and a cooker that was not adequate for commercial catering purposes. The committee wanted to bring the kitchen up to a modern standard and make it easier and safer for staff and volunteers to cater for a wider range of events.

The Legion was awarded £12,500 to undertake kitchen refurbishments. The original grant request also included for work to improve the car park surface and to make some other external improvements. However, the committee had difficulty securing quotes

for this work, which will now be part of a later phase of improvements.

The works to the kitchen were completed in September 2021 and a range of community groups, as well as The Legion itself have already benefited. For example, Dufftown's Food Larder and the monthly Farmers Market have been able to make use of the venue as covid restrictions have eased.

"Project funding has proved invaluable and made a huge difference to the facility. More and more community groups are now enthused and interested in using the facilities and this has breathed new life into the club." (Club secretary)

Work was delayed from an initial planned start of March/April 2021 due to lack of available tradesmen locally, particularly joiners. The delay led to an increase in costs, which were met by The Legion. Contractor availability and issues around rising prices will be factored into any subsequent applications, as the group looks to the next phase of improvements.



Looking after Health & Wellbeing

Moray Wellbeing Hub (MWH) was set up as a Community Interest Company in 2016 aiming to support people in Moray who experience crisis or challenge in their wellbeing through the provision of services such as training and peer support. There are currently 310 members (known as Champions) of all ages, including young people, who have experienced life challenges such as addiction, poverty, suicide, or long-term conditions. Champions make up MWH's Board and may also be trained to take on paid roles in the organisation. However, the number of paid directors meant MWH was not eligible to receive an award from the Fund, so MWH and Foundation Scotland worked on a solution to allow the project to go ahead whereby an eligible partner organisation, Moray School Bank, became the grant recipient with MWH responsible for project delivery.

The aim of the project was to support vulnerable young people to improve their mental health and wellbeing through support, training and other activity delivered to young people at Speyside High School (above and beyond the standard curriculum), parents and family groups. The project intended to address existing issues around mental health and rural isolation, all of which were exacerbated by the pandemic, the impacts of lockdown and prolonged social distancing measures, with disadvantaged and marginalised youngsters particularly at risk.

An award of £29,508.34 was made from the Dorenell Fund with further 10% of total project costs coming from Hill of Towie Wind Farm Fund. Most of the project costs related to staff time for skilled peers to administer and deliver project activity, with a focus on young

people experiencing transitions including the transition from home-schooling where this has been challenging, as well as the transitions around P7-S1, S3-S4 (general education to specific subjects), and S5/S6 to beyond secondary. Activity was based on:

- Parental empowerment support group
- Recruitment and support of Young Champions
- Delivery of 'Living Life to The Full' young person training resources
- Parent and child / family wellbeing walks
- Exploring wild swimming: training for a wild swimming group for mixed ages.

Project reporting to December 2021 revealed a range of challenges and successes, with the ongoing need to deal with covid restrictions, particularly for the High School, but also in the wider community where there was still some reluctance to attend in-person events. Those who did engage with the Parent Empowerment Group and wild swimming reported positive benefits through mutual and meaningful support, and a positive sense of identity and empowerment. Family wellbeing walks also had low attendance but positive outcomes reported from those who did attend, with the benefit of meeting school staff in an informal setting being highlighted.

The Living Life to the Full course was delivered to all age groups at Speyside High and seven potential Young Champions have been recruited.

"Becoming a Champion, I have gained more confidence in supporting others but also feeling that support from others towards me. Taking the tools of Living Life to the Full, I have continued to use these and they have helped me to feel

more calm and grounded...close friends and family have also seen a change in me since I did the course and became a Champion. I seem more happier and am sharing my connections with other people who have a similar experience as I do. Within the Champion collective I feel very supported."

Further information will be available when the project concludes in June 2022.



Blooming Marvellous

In March 2021, **Dufftown in Bloom** received an award of £5,194 to purchase new planters and a new irrigation system for their polytunnels. Dufftown in Bloom (DIB) was formed in 2000 as a Millennium project by the late reverend of Mortlach Church with the aim of making Dufftown more attractive for residents and tourists visiting the area.

But more than just enhancing the look of the community, DIB provides an opportunity for people to socialise, form new friendships, and gain exercise. It helps prevent isolation and loneliness, particularly for older members. DIB invite the local nursery and primary school children and teachers to the polytunnels to help with the planting and care of the flowers. This provides a great inter-generational opportunity appreciated by all.

In years prior to the pandemic, DIB organised a year-round timetable of local events to raise funds including a soup & sweet event, tombola, plant sales and a car boot sale. The group also receives support via donations from local businesses and groups.

DIB purchase plug plants and nurture them to provide floral displays that brighten the community from spring through to autumn. The main planters are located on either side of the Clock Tower and on the roadside at the entrance to the Dufftown. Different teams of volunteers (approximately six in each team) are responsible for each element of maintenance, including preparing the plug plants for planting; maintaining the polytunnels where the plants are potted and brought on; a daily watering rota with regular weeding and maintenance, and finally the clearing of the planters at the end of the season

The existing planters were supplied by Moray Council, but after 20 years of use they were rotting and no longer fit for purpose. The group applied to the Dorenell Fund to purchase 10 new planters. They were also able to purchase a pump so that they could install a self-watering irrigation system for the polytunnels. This meant that time spent

watering the plants could be greatly reduced, freeing up time for other tasks.

"Without the grant, Dufftown in Bloom would have been unable to plant around the town as the pots were not fit for purpose. The award made it possible for Dufftown in Bloom to continue for years to come." (Dufftown in Bloom volunteer)



Planning for the Future

The **Cabrach Trust** was awarded £18,917.50 in August 2021 to commission a feasibility and design study to redevelop the Cabrach School Hall and House for a new community purpose, and to carry out some initial safeguarding building work.

The Trust aims to regenerate the Cabrach and is working on a plan to create jobs, attract new visitors, and celebrate and protect the cultural heritage, landscapes and history of the area. The Trust owns land and buildings at Inverharroch Farm and is building a craft distillery and heritage centre.

The funded project relates to the old Cabrach school, which is also community owned. Built

in the 1800s, it was used as a community centre for a time when the new school was built in the 1970s. However, the building has lain empty since the 1980s and is falling into disrepair. Based on ideas generated during a community consultation back in 2012, the Trust's Regeneration Plan identifies the potential to develop the Old School Hall as a community hub for training, events and activities and to refurbish the Schoolhouse to provide accommodation.

With the school buildings transferred into community ownership in 2018, the Trust wanted to revisit the community plans for the building, identify opportunities to generate income, maximise the design and layout of the buildings and improve energy efficiency.

The contract went out to tender and work is currently underway. A community consultation was carried out by means of an online and paper survey followed by an initial in-person event, with good participation from the local community. Ambitious plans are emerging for a community space and for affordable housing. A follow-up event will be held to feedback findings and design suggestions; the ideas supported will then inform a business plan.

The grant also included for the costs of demolishing an asbestos garage and toilet block which was built next to the school in the 1970s. The space created will be used for additional parking and provide access to new areas of footpaths and woodland. This work was delayed due to bad weather and some issues with the contractor. The Trust hope it will be completed by spring 2022.

Lessons have been learned around time required for effective engagement as well as

the need to engage more stakeholders with the work of the Trust in general so that it can more readily react to specific consultation requests.

"There has been particularly useful learning about being prepared for different ideas to come forward through the community consultation process and to adapt plans and thinking to genuinely reflect that." (Trust staff member)

The project has again highlighted issues with budgeting as costs for materials, labour, travel and so on rise.

The trust report that, although Foundation Scotland have been found to be quite flexible in their approach, providing extra time for quotes to be received for example, it can be difficult to get local contractors to quote due to the Cabrach's remote location, the time lag between quoting and confirmation of an award, and uncertainty as to whether the work will go ahead when dependent on funding approval.



Bowled Over

Dufftown Bowling Club received an award of £10,137.88 in March 2021 to replace the clubhouse windows and upgrade the kitchen. The Club runs an indoor and outdoor bowling facility for around 40 members and typically around 100 visitors each year. Coaching is organised for junior members and the Club takes part in competitions in the Highland and Banffshire Leagues.

Although the bowling green itself was in excellent shape, the indoor facilities needed improvements to bring them up to an acceptable modern standard in terms of access, hygiene and energy efficiency. The pavilion was built around 50 years ago and has had minimal improvements since then. The Club has developed a phased programme of refurbishments, prioritised by members and the committee, which is being progressed as funds allow. In recent years, disabled access has been created, the doors and the windows at the front of the pavilion have been replaced, and the attic space has been insulated to enable indoor bowling and coaching in winter.

This award allowed the Club to replace the remaining single glazed metal framed windows in the kitchen and toilets with double glazing to save energy and make the building more comfortable. It also funded a kitchen upgrade including new units and appliances.

Ongoing covid restrictions have continued to limit use of the facilities to date, and so the full benefit of the improvements has not been fully experienced by Club members.

Nonetheless the work has been seen as a "nice, big morale boost" by the committee who are hopeful that members will benefit from the

upgraded facility in the coming year, and for many years to come.

"We very much appreciate the grant and are excited about upgrading our facilities, which will make a great difference." (Club member)



Support for key services

Speyside Youth was formed in 2015 to address the lack of youth facilities, services and activities for young people in Dufftown and the surrounding area, an issue which was later highlighted as a priority in the Dorenell Community Plan. Speyside Youth is now established as a provider in the area, operating Youth Cafes and organising activities as directed by the young people themselves.

Speyside Youth's services help young people to meet and mix with new people, learn group work and other skills such as running events, and offer community involvement, training opportunities and participation as a Youth Committee member. The activity programme helps to develop young people's confidence and provides opportunities they may not otherwise be able to access.

The team of youth workers employed to run the Youth Café enable young people to develop holistically, working with them to facilitate their personal, social and educational development. This enables them to develop their voice, influence and place in society and to reach their full potential.

Speyside Youth received an award of £60,000 to continue delivering youth work services in Dufftown for the next three years, providing the Youth Café facility, supporting local primary pupils with their transition to secondary school and funding a range of outdoor activities. Recent activity days have included paddle boarding and kayaking. The organisation works with Outfit Moray, a local charity and social enterprise, who deliver tailored outdoor activities through their team of qualified instructors.

The project is also supported by the William Grant Foundation and other charitable trusts.

"Our Youth Work Team deliver a valuable, much needed service to our young people through weekly youth cafes, one-to-one support, learning new skills, and providing a "safe space" for them to socialise. Receiving the award for Speyside Youth means we can continue to maintain and build upon the essential work that has been provided by our youth work team over the past five years." (Chair of Speyside Youth)



7. Marketing and Communications

Ongoing promotion of the Fund during Year Three was achieved through various methods, with a key focus on press and social media channels that have strong local followings. Regular adverts and articles were placed in the two key community newspapers – Thistledown (which focusses on Glenlivet and Inveravon) and the Dufftown Speirins. Both produce quarterly printed copies and have email bulletins (Thistledown) and active social media groups, with a combined print run of 1,900 copies and a Speirins Facebook following of 4,000.

Regional press coverage was achieved as below with regular press releases sent to the Press and Journal and the Northern Scot (amongst others) to promote approaching Fund deadlines and highlight recent awards.

Other local social media channels were also used, and application deadlines and other Fund activity, such as advice surgeries, promoted via a Fund Facebook page. See <https://www.facebook.com/DorenellWindFarmCommunityBenefitFund/>

Press coverage:

Date	Publication	Headline
22.3.21	Northern Scot	Second round of Dorenell Wind Farm funding boosts Speyside community groups
30.3.21	Banffshire Herald	Wind farm funding boosts local groups (press)
Spring 2021	Dufftown Speirins	First Awards made from Dorenell Wind Farm
June 2021	Thistledown	Support for community projects

Panel and Forum members also played a key role in promoting the Fund through their networks.

As covid restrictions eased in late 2021, the first in-person events were held to promote the Fund and support potential applicants. The Fund Adviser offered one-to-one advice sessions at Dufftown Farmers Markets in October and November 2021 and in February 2022, and also attended community events in the Cabrach and Glenrinnies. A newsletter was distributed at these events which gave a summary of the Fund report for Years One and Two.

The Fund has a dedicated page on Foundation Scotland's website which includes information on how to apply as well as details on Fund balances, Panel members, projects funded, case studies and recent news items. During Year Three, the webpage page had a total of 1,167 views of which 946 were unique. See <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/dorenell>

25.9.21	Northern Scot	Eight Speyside projects latest to benefit from Dorenell Wind Farm community benefit grants
1.11.21	Northern Scot	Wind farm divides £100,000 between four Moray causes (web)
Winter 2021	Dufftown Speirins	Dorenell Fund brings multiple benefits to our communities
Dec 2021	Thistledown	Multiple Benefits for our Communities
Spring 2022	Dufftown Speirins	Dorenell funds diverse range of projects

Wind farm funding boosts local groups

By Lorna Thompson
lorna.thompson@thmedia.co.uk

SPEYSIDE community groups will benefit from windfalls in the second round of funding linked to a renewable energy project.

The funding awards provided by EDF Renewables Dorenell Wind Farm support an array of local projects concerned with issues such as road safety, mental health and affordable housing.

In the latest round, several groups have received cash to improve community venues, including Dufftown Bowling Club, the Royal British Legion in Dufftown and Glenlivet Public Hall. The awards will go towards new kitchens and windows, and new shower facilities will be installed for campers at Glenlivet.

Residents at Dufftown's Aigan Court sheltered housing have secured funds to build a shelter in their grounds so that they can spend more time outdoors. Meanwhile, Dufftown and District Community Association was awarded £13,950 to install speed signs to improve road safety in the village.

Dufftown's floral displays will be all the brighter after Dufftown in Bloom received an award of £5194



Dufftown Bowling Club committee members Ian McDonald and Liz Macdonald have welcomed the funding announcement.

to buy new planters and watering equipment.

Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust was awarded a repayable sum of £60,000 to help finance the construction of affordable housing in Tomintoul and Glenlivet. This is part of a

£2 million project organised by the community to redevelop the site of Tomintoul's old high school.

An award of £29,508 was made towards a 15-month Moray Wellbeing Hub project at Speyside High School to support vulnerable young people. The total amount awarded

across the area in the latest round is £159,000.

Ian McDonald, of Dufftown Bowling Club, said: "We very much appreciate the grant and are excited about upgrading our facilities, which will make a great difference."

EDF Renewables director of asset operations Piero Maggio said: "Supporting local organisations with long-term vision and improving the lives of local residents are key aims of the fund."

"It's excellent to see the range of organisations who've been successful in the second round of funding."

Projects that benefit the communities of Dufftown, Auchindoun, Glenrines, Glenlivet, Inveravon or the Cabrach can apply for up to £30,000. Grant awards are recommended by a panel of representatives drawn from those communities.

Grants are available for projects and activities that are charitable in nature, community-led and will benefit local residents.

The next deadline for applications is March 31, then July 31. For details visit the fund website at www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/dorenell

8. 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.

Following on from the original Panel recruitment process at the time of the Fund launch in summer 2020, there was one change in Panel membership in 2021. The original community representative from the Cabrach area, Anna Brennand, stepped down in February of that year. Following a local recruitment campaign, Jonathan Christie joined the Panel in August 2021.

All Panel meetings during the year continued to be held by video conference due to the ongoing restrictions around the pandemic. On the whole the Panel is happy with this format and longer-term plans are to have a mixture

of online and face-to-face meetings, when possible.

The Panel agreed to rotate the position of chair annually, by area. During 2021, chairing was handed over from Patti Nelson (Cabrach) to George Tulloch (Dufftown & District).

Panel Members during Year Three were:

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

9. Fund Evaluation

Foundation Scotland was required to provide an evaluation of how the main Fund and Special Projects Fund were delivered during their first three years (from inception to 31st March 2022). As well as considering the impact that the Funds have made and the extent to which they are meeting the strategic themes and priorities set out in the Dorenell Community Development Plan (2018-2023), the evaluation report was to include views on the adequacy of the Fund's delivery arrangements, the services provided by the Foundation and any changes required.

The evaluation report was produced with the support of an independent consultant, STAR Development Group, who conducted questionnaire surveys of applicants and the wider community and interviews with key stakeholders such as the Community Panel. Their involvement provided both impartiality and professional evaluation expertise.

Although there were delays and difficulties in establishing the agreements underpinning the Fund, and implementation was made more challenging with the restrictions in place due to the pandemic, the evaluation showed that regular grant-making is now well established and a significant amount of funding has been awarded in the first five rounds.

The evaluation also demonstrated that the Fund is well promoted with good general awareness in the four communities (95% awareness of the main Fund, and 58% for the micro-grant schemes).

A majority of respondents to the community survey expressed the view that the Fund is

benefitting their local community (80%) and the wider Fund area (72%).

Applicants to the Fund were generally positive about the criteria for distribution, the application process and the support they received from Foundation Scotland.

The Panel believes that Foundation Scotland is providing a good service. Foundation Scotland staff members are considered professional, accountable, independent, and capable. The Panel has confidence in Foundation Scotland's ability to manage the Fund from both a financial perspective and in the best interests of the communities.

In the main, the members of Dorenell Community Benefit Forum appreciated the independence that Foundation Scotland brought to the role as well as the level of experience and capacity, particularly relation to supporting the Panel. It was recognised that Foundation Scotland has a lot of expertise and processes in place to support fund administration and grant-making.. However, a level of frustration about the time and effort it took to finalise all the Fund agreements was felt by all.

The evaluation process was nonetheless useful in highlighting several areas where processes could be improved, and a list of recommendations will be considered.

10. Conclusion

Year Three of the Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund has continued to deliver significant funding to a wide range of projects throughout the four communities in the Fund area.

Panel and Forum meetings have continued to be held online and local volunteers involved in both groups have contributed greatly to the success of Fund management to date.

Once pandemic restrictions allowed, face-to-face events were held in late 2021. These helped to raise the profile of the Fund among the wider community and give prospective applicants the opportunity to discuss their proposals with the Fund Adviser.

A three-year evaluation of the Fund's impact and management was carried out with independent input and revealed a positive picture of Fund management from the perspective of applicants, key stakeholders and the wider community, as well as pointing to potential improvements and developments for future years.

Awards made since the fund launch in July 2020 are already having tangible, positive impacts across the Fund area with services delivered, capital projects completed and planning underway for a range of new and improved facilities for the area.

For further information please contact:

Marion McDonald
Community Fund Adviser
marion@foundationscotland.org.uk
07912 759524