

Vattenfall Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund

Year 8: 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023



Headlines

The community benefit in year eight was **£240,971.79**. This is a **35% increase** from the first payment of £185,000 made in 2015.

24 applications were received over the year (including microgrants and school transport awards), of those **19 were awarded a grant** and 9 were assessed in the year 2023 to 2024.

Grants totalling £358,398.43 were awarded during the year, equivalent to 146.6% of the annual donation for grant making from Vattenfall and supported with balances carried forward from previous years.

Grants continued to support a range of **projects in line with the fund**

priorities but there has been a significant focus on **support to capital projects** particularly improvements to local halls. Travel grants to support extra curricula activities for primary school children have also been re-established after a pause during the covid pandemic.

The **closing balance** for the year ending 31st May 2023 was **£292,708.43**. By the end of year eight, at total of 151 grants, totalling £1,579,630.74, had been awarded since the Fund opened in 2015.

This year the funding supported projects totalling £1,279,822.04 in value. **For every £1 awarded from the Fund £7.70 was brought in from other sources** to support local projects.

About the Fund

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 areas of Huntly, Strathbogie, and Tap o' Noth in Aberdeenshire, and the area served by Cabrach Community Association in Moray.

Donations into the Fund from Vattenfall are annual and index linked (Retail Price Index, RPI). In Year One (2015/16), the donation for grant making was £185,000. By year eight it had risen to £240,971.

The Fund has continued to provide grants of over £500 for community-led activity that is strategic, positive, creative and brings lasting impact in the above communities. Priorities for the Fund are 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.

These priorities are due to be reviewed as part of a Fund review that will take place during the Year 9 and complete by March 2024.

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

During Year 8, the locally appointed Panel continued to advise Foundation Scotland on grant awards from the Fund and on funding strategy.

The Panel comprises up to 12 members, each serving a term of up to four years. Panel Members during year eight were:

Cabrach: Sam Dowdall, Patti Nelson, vacancy for a local resident

Huntly: Mike Cowie, Tony Gill, Hazel McIntosh

Strathbogie: David Rogalski, George Wordie, Calum Hislop from the 19th of January 2023.

Tap O Noth: Peter Johnston, David Grant, Lachlan Rhodes

Financial Statement

Period: 1 June 2022 to 31 May 2023	
Income	
Opening Balance	£375,871.04
Year 8 donation for grant making - Vattenfall	£240,971.79
Grants returned	£68,285.52
Interest	£1,573.50
Year 8 contribution to FS - Vattenfall	£20,482.60
Total income	£707,184.45
Expenditure	
Total grants paid	£393,993.42
Total grants pending	£187,040.08
Year 8 contribution to FS - Vattenfall	£20,482.60
Total expenditure	£601,516.10
Closing balance at 31 May 2023	£292,708.43
Available balance at 31 May 2023	£105,668.35

Grant-making in Year 8

Twenty eight applications were received during the year across the three scheduled rounds of grant making, nine of which were received in advance of the panel meeting of June 2023. This compares with thirteen applications received in year seven and twenty-one in year six. This was likely due to a combination of factors including groups continuing to re-emerge after the pandemic and the challenges brought about by the cost of living crisis that really began to make an impact on people's day to day lives.

The Panel made nineteen awards for projects as shown in the table on the following page. The conversion rate from application to award was 100% over the year (compared with 85% in year seven).

This year funding has mainly supported the capital development of community halls and other assets in the area, with support to organisations such as Gartly Community Association, the Cabrach Trust and Glass Community Association.

Supporting the redevelopment of these venues is in line with the Fund purpose of improving community services and facilities.

The halls tend to serve a range of groups and community activity so the various refurbishment, upgrade and energy efficiency improvements that the Fund has supported are also helping to address the Fund priority of increasing participation in and access to culture, events and

recreational activity and promoting rural regeneration.

Four awards were made for micro-grant schemes run locally by the Community Councils or, in the case of the Cabrach, the Cabrach Association. The total awarded during the year was £11,647.40, equivalent to 4.8% of the year's donation for grant making from Vattenfall.

Year 8 Award Summary

Name of organisation	Amount	Purpose of grant
Cabrach Community Association (Micro-grant)	£3,012.15	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community.
Largue Primary Parent Council	£480.00	To fund transport to swimming lessons over April-May 2023.
Forgue Primary School	£450.00	To support travel costs for swimming lessons for the academic year 2022 to 2023
Drumblade Primary School	£540.00	To support travel costs for swimming lessons for the academic year 2022 to 2023
Rhynie Primary School	£900.00	To support travel costs for swimming lessons for the academic year 2022 to 2023
Cairney Primary School	£450.00	To support travel costs for swimming lessons for the academic year 2022 to 2023
Glass Primary Parent Council	£360.00	To support travel costs for swimming lessons for the academic year 2022 to 2023
Mortlach Primary School	£369.60	To support travel costs for the academic year 2022 to 2023
Cabrach Trust	£40,432.00	To develop costed designs for the renovation of the Old School, Cabrach, and to demolish elements of the existing building that are damaged or unsafe.
Huntly Community Council (Microgrant)	£3,012.15	To provide a micro-grant scheme for the local community.
Huntly Football Club 2021 U18 Dev Squad	£2,140.00	Towards the costs of referee's fees and the hire of training and playing facilities for the Huntly FC U18 Development Squad during the 2022/23 season.
Full Colour Coaching	£19,250.00	Towards delivery of group and one-to-one coaching, workshops and activity days at the Gordon Schools and Gordon, Mortlach and Rhynie Primary schools.

Name of organisation	Amount	Purpose of grant
The Cabrach Trust	£70,288.49	To complete a programme of landscaping improvements in and around Inverharroch, Lower Cabrach, bringing local heritage, well-being, and nature recovery outcomes.
Glass Community Association	£1,100.00	To contribute towards production costs for a community Christmas pantomime for Glass Hall, providing for entertainment, connection, and drama skills.
Glass Community Association	£83,126.69	To fund the costs of redeveloping the outdoor space adjacent to Glass Hall, repairs to the Hall, and professional fees in relation to planning consent and building warrant for the re-development of the Hall, in order to provide improved social and recreation opportunities.
Tap O Noth Community Council	£5,995.20	To purchase new and to refurbish existing community noticeboards in Gartly, Kennethmont, Rhynie and Clatt, to ensure residents and visitors can be aware of relevant information on community matters and events.
Gartly Community Association	£118,000.00	To fund renovation works to the hall to provide for a modernised, fit for purpose and energy efficient local facility that can continue to host a range of community activities and events.
Tap O'Noth Community Council	£3,012.15	To provide a charitable micro-grant scheme for the local community.
Total	£353,398.43	

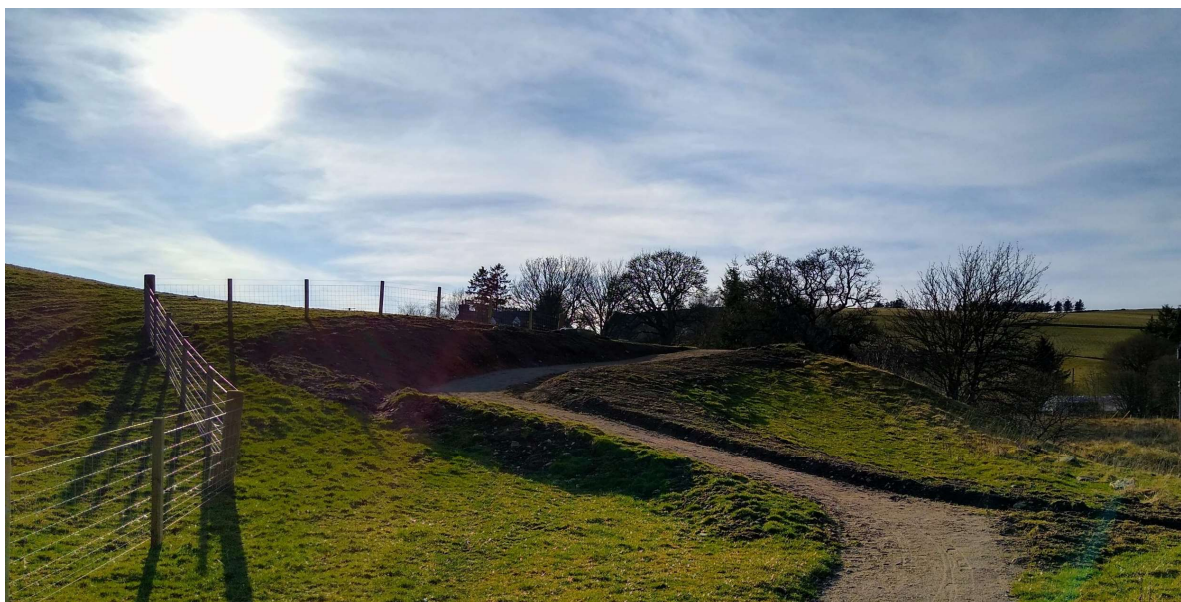


Photo: Cabrach Trust All Ability Nature Trail

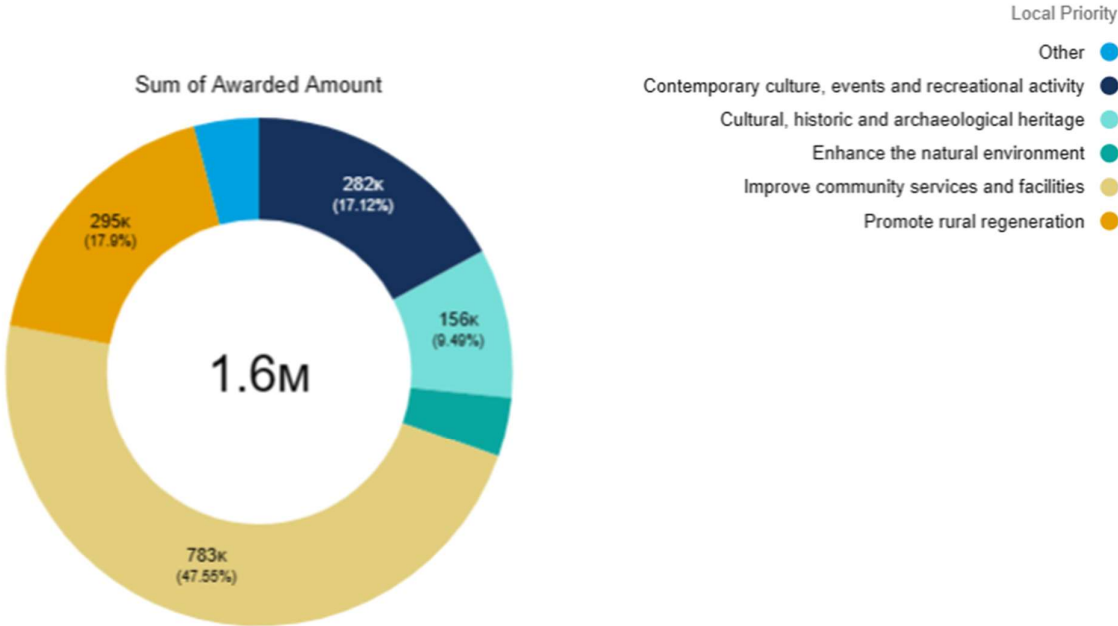
What difference is the Fund making?

Awards are matched with one of the Fund priorities to show the impact the Fund is having in relation to these themes. The percentages and amounts of funding awarded in relation to each Fund priority since the Fund launched to 31 May 2023 are shown below in Figure 1.

closely aligned to. Most of the funding has been awarded under the broadest priorities, "Improve community services and facilities" and "Promote rural regeneration" (which includes sustainable transport & active travel, employment, housing, tourism, and business development) and "Contemporary culture, events and recreational activity".

Note that some awards contribute to more than one priority, and these have been allocated to the priority that they are most

Figure 1: Fund Awarded by Fund Priority to 31/05/23.



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

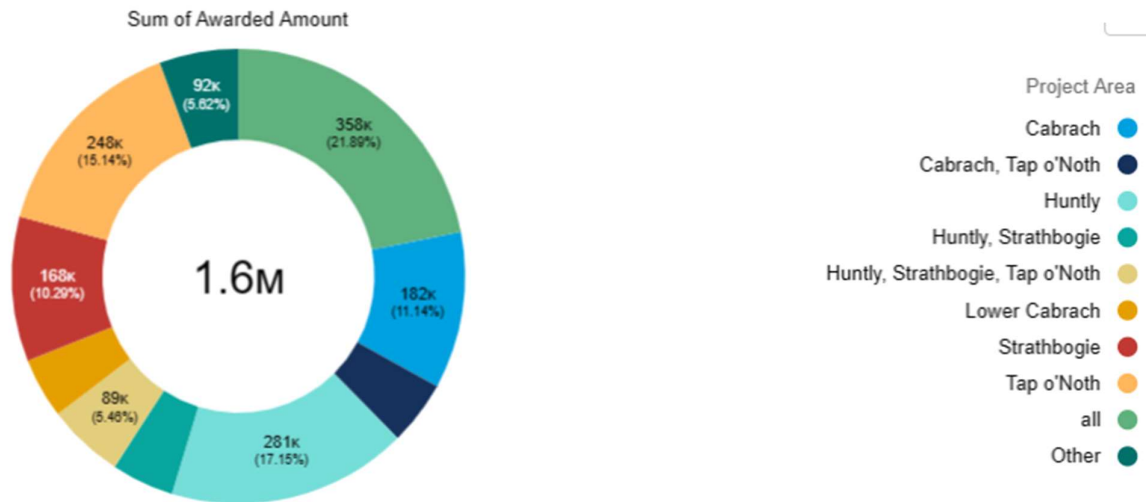


Figure 2: Fund Awarded by Community Area until 31/05/2023

The following impact stories reveal the difference the Fund is making to communities in the area in more detail

Huntly Football Club: Under 18s Development Squad.

In September 2022 the Huntly Football Club were awarded £2,140 towards the costs of fees and playing facilities for the Huntly Football Club Under 18s Development Squad. The club aim to be as inclusive and keep membership fees and costs for the players as low as possible. By providing a modest level of grant support the club can still operate the squad and keep it affordable to play.

The Huntly Football Club Under 18 Youth Development Programme has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and gives young people the opportunity to develop their talents in football by providing the Player Pathway to support their development to play for the senior team.

Individuals also benefit from the development programme that Huntly FC deliver. The club proudly recounts the example of a shy 14-year-old who came to the pre-season open

trials three years ago. He did well, getting selected to play for the squad when he turned 15. He worked hard and became captain of the team and improved his skills as a footballer. As he grew in confidence and skill has secured a soccer scholarship in the USA.

The Club plan to continue developing as an inclusive grassroots community club by doing all they can to support, encourage and develop footballing skills and opportunities for girls and boys. This will involve a lot of work going forward, with greater need for volunteers, sponsorship, fundraising and ingenuity.

Gartly Community Association transform their Community Hall

In June 2022 Gartly Community Association was awarded £118,000 to fund renovation works to Gartly Hall that would provide for a modernised, fit for purpose and energy efficient local facility that can continue to host a range of community activities and events long into the future.

Gartly Community Association have long been custodians of the hall that is known locally as the Tin Hut. The building is nearly 100 years

old and has been an iconic part of this rural community since it was first built.

The building has been the location for many ceilidhs, parties, weddings and events throughout its history. In early 2019 the committee agreed that the hall had seen better days and that it needed to be refurbished and made fit for the 21st century. Plans were drawn up for an extension and the association began the process of applying for permissions and costing out the work. The project was delayed due to the pandemic and then rising materials costs meant that the Association had to go back to the drawing board and review what was needed by the community and how they could meet that need in a cost effective and practical way. They changed their plans from an extension to a renovation of the existing building.

Lynn Rutter explained the impact of the pandemic on the project:

'Everything was delayed, and we could not begin any work as lockdown and then the escalating cost of materials and lack of contractors meant we could not carry out our original plans. We were worried that a project of this size would be too much for a voluntary committee but found that our committee had the skills needed. It was certainly important to have a solid finance person to manage the invoices and budget and people who could understand the technical requirements to deliver the project and create a plan that meant we could meet the needs of the community in an affordable and practical way.'



Photo: Kitchen before refurbishment



Photo: Kitchen after refurbishment

The Association understood the importance of the hall as a hub for use during emergencies and as the only other public building in the area as the local primary school had closed. To take the hub out of action for an extended period of time was not an option as the community needed access to the hall for a range of activities and events, so the plan was developed to undertake any refurbishment whilst keeping the hall open for use as much as possible.

With this in mind the group applied to the Clashindarroch Community Fund for funds to upgrade the kitchen to meet current environmental health standards, create an accessible toilet, replace windows and insulate the building to increase energy efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint, upgrade the interior and paint both the interior and exterior of the premises.

The committee also wanted to ensure that they demonstrated value for money whilst using local contractors who understand the project and care about the work they do.

The project is now close to completion with the last remaining work – installing an accessible ramp – still remaining. The Association hope that this will be completed before December 2023 once planning permission has been confirmed.

Already, the community can see the benefit of the refurbishment and the community have been wholeheartedly positive about the project which has given a boost to the community and the committee. Lynn explained “They were pleased that we didn't go for an extension and that we've kept the spirit of the hall. When we held the opening ceremony and invited all the tradespeople who had worked on the hall, we were also delighted that a lot of older people attended who remembered, and had been involved with the hall, over many years. We learnt that the hall is really more than a building to the local folk.”

The hall is becoming busier with a new toddler group using the hall each week and people keen to participate in coffee mornings and

other events. Lynn commented *'We want to keep the hall affordable and offer a place that all the community can use. Since we began the refurbishment of the hall, we have had many volunteers step forward to help, undertaking small tasks that make all the difference from looking after the outside and planting up flower displays, to helping out with our tea parties and community walks. We are sharing our learning with other villages and hope to be part of a network of village halls in the future.'*

Plans for the future include developing the area outside the hall as a safe play space for children and somewhere to host outside events in the summer. They are looking to create a quiet seating area and improving the parking area. Discussions are also underway to create a container garden growing fruit and vegetables for the community to harvest. Increasing the events and activities in the hall is important too, with plans for a pop-up restaurant, film nights, coffee mornings and quiz nights or bingo. The Association also want to equip the hall as an emergency shelter for when power cuts or storms hit the area during the winter months.

Pantomonium reigned at Glass Community Hall.

See Thru Productions amateur drama group's first-ever seasonal pantomime packed out the Glass Community Hall for three nights in November 2022. Results of a Glass Community Consultation in early 2022 showed that local people wanted a pantomime performed by its local group at Glass Hall. Funding from the Clashindarroch Fund helped this happen as the grant enabled the group to engage a professional musician, a full tech-team and have the stage-set painted – all of which without funding, would not have been afforded and the investment lifted the performances to a professional level. As a result of the high-quality performance, the group signed up several new members and one of the main

cast members is now studying drama at school, inspired by their involvement with this production.

SEE THRU PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

PANTOMONIUM!

Will you get your happy ever after?

17TH, 18TH, 19TH
NOVEMBER 2022
GLASS HALL

TICKETS

CONCESSION THURSDAY 17TH - 2PM MATINEE: £10 (12s & UNDER FREE)
FRIDAY 18TH & SATURDAY 19TH - 7.30PM : £15 (5-16s £7 UNDER 5s FREE)

WAYS TO BOOK: text 07910 159028 or email glasspanto@gmail.com
or online*: <https://fixr.co/organiser/893298899> *subject to booking fee

Fiona Hill of See Thru productions said

'We are absolutely thrilled to have received such a generous grant from the Clashindarroch Fund. This really gave our group a boost enabling us to successfully produce and present our show in mid-November. Putting on a pantomime comes with considerable costs from sound, lighting, music and costumes. Without this generous offer we are in no doubt that we would have struggled.' She continued *'Glass community is small but the enthusiasm and energy that See Thru Productions brings spreads far and wide.'*

Further Information

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

Debbie Herron, Community Funds Adviser

Email: deborahherron@foundationscotland.org.uk

Tel: 07584 323 850