

WESTFIELD WIND FARM CARDENDEN COMMUNITY FUND



PROJECT 4

BOWHILL RETIREMENT GROUP GRANT REQUEST: £1,500

This retirement club is seeking funding to replace its computer system and deliver an activity programme for 43 members, many of whom experience social isolation.

The existing computer can no longer be upgraded to Windows 11, leaving it vulnerable to security risks and unable to run current software essential for club administration and member communications. A replacement system is important to maintain safe, efficient operations and ensure the club can continue functioning effectively. The project aims to improve members' health and wellbeing through enhanced social interaction, skills development, physical activity, and community engagement. The planned programme includes two group drives exploring the local area, three visits to historical sites of interest, and a Christmas party—activities specifically designed to reduce loneliness and enhance quality of life for older people in the community. Together, these improvements will strengthen the club's ability to combat social isolation, providing the practical infrastructure and activities needed to maintain meaningful connections and support wellbeing.

Established in 1967 as Bowhill Old Men's Club by a local businessman concerned about social isolation amongst retired miners, the organisation has evolved significantly. Membership expanded beyond Cardenden in 2005, welcomed women in 2018, and now includes anyone over 55 no longer employed. Despite these changes, its core purpose remains: providing year-round social activities fostering fellowship and companionship. Currently serving 38 members, the group organises five annual outings and a Christmas party, continuing its commitment to combating loneliness amongst retired people.