



Foundation
Scotland

Co'path & Cove Community Fund

Fund Report

Sept 24 - Dec 25



Cockburnspath & Cove
Community Council

Foresight



Berwickshire
Community
Renewables

res
power for good



Fred. Olsen Renewables

FERNEYLEA 1 LTD

Highlights



Co'Path & Cove
Community Fund
launched in
November 24



£212,000
total funding
distributed since
fund launch



Decision-making
Panel of 9 residents
convened to agree
on fund distribution



£72,500 awarded to a flagship project to upgrade
Siccar Point - the largest award to date



Five rounds of funding complete



Fifteen successful applications



The Fund is a vehicle through which six
different funds are administered

Highlights

This is the first annual report prepared by Foundation Scotland since becoming the Co'path & Cove Community Fund administrator in 2024.

In the lead-up to 2024, Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council requested that Foundation Scotland administer **six community benefit funds** from various wind farm operators. This arrangement was designed to support the Community Council with Fund administration, governance, as well as streamline the grant application journey for applicants.

The Co'path & Cove Community Fund launched in 2024, consolidating all six Funds and making it easier for community groups to access funding through a single, unified arrangement. The Fund **receives just under £70,000 annually (index-linked)** for the operating life of the wind farms, with payments distributed throughout the year.

Since the Fund's launch in September 2024 through to December 2025, the Fund has **awarded just over £212,000 across 15 grants to support projects benefiting the Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council area**. This substantial investment demonstrates the Fund's immediate impact in strengthening local infrastructure, environment, heritage and community services.

Key achievements in the Fund's first year include:

- Support for children's education and wellbeing through swimming lessons and extracurricular school activities.
- Investment in sustainable community facilities, including solar panels and energy efficiency improvements.
- Enhancement of community spaces and recreation facilities, including allotments, a beach hut and the bowling club.
- Support for heritage access through the Siccar Point geological site improvement project.
- Youth services and cultural activities to enhance community engagement.

Together, these projects reflect the Fund's commitment to creating a vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable Cockburnspath & Cove community.

2024/2025 has seen a wide range of supported projects spanning quality education, outdoor activities, and heritage. The Fund operates under four priority areas, with each award primarily aligned to a specific priority (although several awards also contribute to others as well). The awards were distributed across priorities as follows:

- **35% (£72,708)** – Vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities
- **34% (£72,553)** – Preserving culture, heritage and the environment
- **16% (£34,796)** – Enhancing quality of life for local residents
- **15% (£32,390)** – Promoting community spirit and encouraging community activity

Typical grant sizes in 2025 ranged from £1,000 to £5,000, plus six awards exceeding this range to support larger strategic projects. The total investment of just over £212,000 across 15 awards demonstrates the Fund's commitment to meaningful community impact. For more details, please refer to the grantmaking section of this report.

Overall, the Fund's performance metrics remained strong, with an 88% application success rate and supported projects totalling just over £1,000,000 in value. This means that every £1 of Fund investment attracted £3.91 in additional funding, demonstrating the Fund's ability to leverage resources and maximise community benefit.

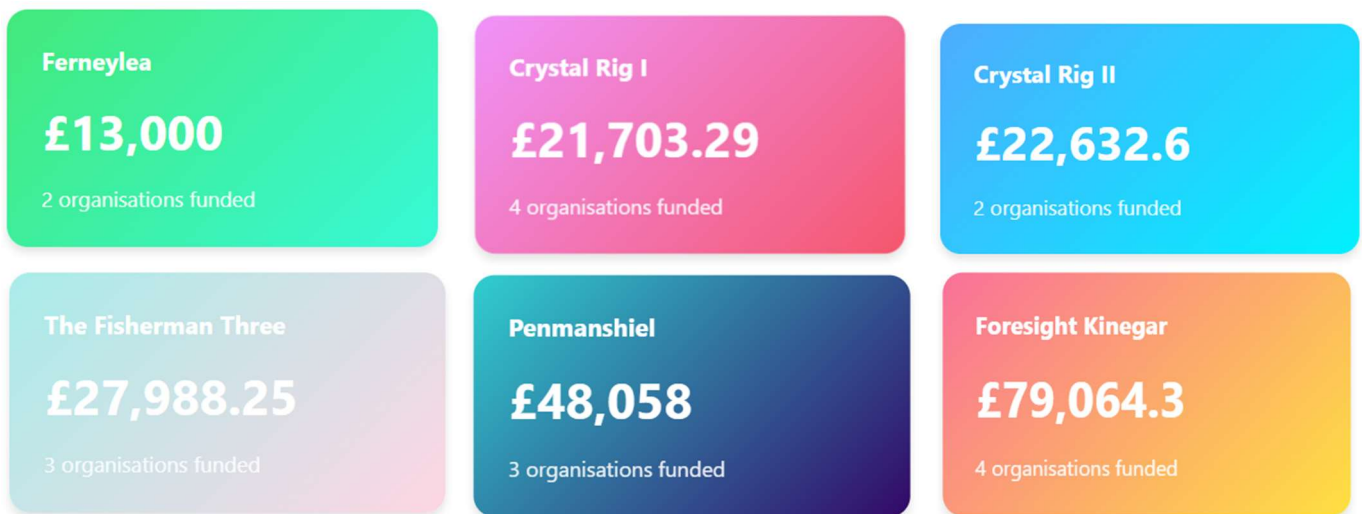
The funded projects this year have primarily contributed to achieving seven different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The largest proportion of funding has been to projects contributing primarily to **SDG11 (Industry Innovation & Infrastructure), 46% and towards SDG3 (Sustainable Cities & Communities) 18% of funds awarded.**



Awards by Fund breakdown

As mentioned above, 15 awards have been made over the reporting period. However, these awards required 18 separate funding allocations, as some individual awards were funded by drawing from multiple Funds. This explains why the number of funding payments (18) exceeds the number of distinct awards (15) and awardees.

The breakdown below shows how funding has been distributed across each of the six Funds, each emanating from different wind farms.



Local decision making

All decisions are made by a Panel of up to nine local decision-makers – a combination of Community Councillors and other local residents. The Panel remains a highly engaged and thoughtful decision-making body, ensuring grant funding achieves maximum impact in the area. Members bring invaluable local knowledge and insight to their deliberations, augmenting professional project assessments undertaken by Foundation Scotland.

Introduction

The Co'path & Cove Community Fund supports community projects benefiting those living in the Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council area. The Fund combines six different community benefit funds from the following wind farm operators:

- Fred Olsen Renewables, owner of Crystal Rig I & II wind farms (opened 2004 and 2010)
- Cubico Investments/RES, asset manager of Penmanshiel wind farm (opened 2013)
- Berwickshire Community Renewables LLP, owner of The Fishermen Three wind farm (opened 2017)
- Sedgewick Wind Limited, owner of Ferneylea 1 wind farm (opened 2017)
- Foresight, owner of Kinegar wind farm (opened 2018)

Foundation Scotland has administered the Foresight Kinegar Community Fund alongside the Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council since 2018. Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council had itself administered the other five Funds for several years. In 2024, the Community Council requested that Foundation Scotland also administer the five other community benefit funds alongside the Foresight Kinegar funding it already administered, creating the unified Co'path & Cove Community Fund.

An annual amount of just under £70,000 (index-linked) will be paid into the Fund each year for the operating life of the wind farms.

Fund Purpose

The Fund provides grants to support charitable activities that:

- Enhance the quality of life for local residents
- Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities
- Promote community spirit and encourage community activity
- Preserve, enhance or give better access to culture, heritage and the environment

Applications are made to the Fund through a dedicated [Fund Page](#) on the Foundation Scotland website. The Fund offers two grant sizes: small grants between £500 and £20,000, and large grants over £20,000.

Large grant applications follow a two-stage process. The large grant enquiry has been introduced to allow the Panel to consider substantial applications without placing additional burden on the applicant by requiring a detailed assessment at the initial stage.

This streamlined approach enables applicants to gauge the Panel's interest and receive preliminary feedback before investing significant time and resources in preparing a comprehensive submission. The first step for applicants is to submit a large grant enquiry form, after which the Panel will decide whether to invite a full funding application. Both small and large grant applications are reviewed quarterly during set rounds in Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter.

Grants may support a wide range of costs, for example, the costs of equipment, staff or sessional workers, consultations, running costs for local groups, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities, capital projects and so on. The Panel will consider funding awards for trips (including trips abroad), where it can be demonstrated that there is a community benefit. Applications that do not meet one of the above-listed priorities are still welcome to apply. The priorities act as a guide as to how applications may be prioritised by the Panel.

The Co'path & Cove Community Fund Panel makes decisions on how the Fund is spent and promotes it locally. The Panel comprises up to nine volunteer representatives: up to two Community Councillors and up to seven representatives from the wider community. Each Panel member serves for between three to four years.

The quorum for a meeting is five people, and funding decisions are informed by assessment reports undertaken by Foundation Scotland (which review the strengths and risks of individual applications, the fit with the Fund criteria and the intended impact), alongside any additional knowledge and expertise that individual Panel members contribute. The Panel will aim to achieve decisions by consensus. However, where this is not possible, a vote by show of hands will be taken and decisions based on a simple majority.

Foundation Scotland provides governance and administrative support to the Fund. The Foundation conducts eligibility screening and thorough assessments of all applications based on organisational competence, project impact and need, planning and budget feasibility, and anticipated outcomes.

Financial Overview

The following table summarises Fund finances from September 2024 to December 2025 (table notes below).

FUND STATEMENT	Crystal Rig I	Crystal Rig II	Ferneylea	Foresight Kinegar	Penmanshiel	Fishermen Three	TOTAL
OPENING BALANCE							
Available balance (1 Sept 24)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£91,610.34	£0.00	£0.00	£91,610.34
INCOME							
Wind farm donations 2024/25	£38,575.31	£37,293.52	£56,299.40	£0.00	£109,058.56	£111,708.26	£352,935.05
Income	—	—	—	£36,576.31	—	—	£36,576.31
Total Income	£38,575.31	£37,293.52	£56,229.40	£36,576.31	£109,058.56	£111,708.26	£389,511.36
EXPENDITURE							
Grants awarded	£7,523.29	£13,452.60	£23,920.00	£67,787.80	£29,919.75	£9,850.00	£152,453.44
Less: Grants returned	£0.00	£0.00	-£11,509.60	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	-£11,509.60
Total grants expenditure	£7,523.29	£13,452.00	£12,410.40	£67,787.80	£29,919.75	£9,850.00	£140,943.84
CLOSING POSITION (31 Dec 25)							
Closing balance	£31,052.02	£23,840.92	£43,889.00	£60,398.85	£79,138.81	£101,858.29	£340,177.86
Less: Pending grants	(£14,180.00)	(£9,180.00)	(£316.80)	(£36,276.50)	(£18,138.25)	(£18,138.25)	(£96,229.80)
Available balance	£16,872.02	£14,660.92	£43,572.20	£24,122.35	£61,000.56	£83,720.01	£243,948.06

Table Notes

1. Five of the six sub-funds (all except Foresight Kinegar) were newly transferred to Foundation Scotland in 2024; hence they started with zero opening balances.
2. Foresight Kinegar had an opening balance of £91,610.34 as at 01/09/2024, as it was previously administered by Foundation Scotland since 2018.
3. Grants Returned: £11,509.60 to the Ferneylea Fund represents cancelled payments to Happy Swimmers that were returned and reallocated as participant numbers were confirmed throughout 2025.
4. Pending Grants: Represents multi-year commitments and approved grants not yet paid as of 24th of November 2025.
5. Available balances represent funds currently available for new grant awards. The difference between closing and available balances reflects pending grants (multi-year commitments and approved grants not yet paid).

Donations to the Fund

Income is received into the pooled fund arrangement throughout the year from payments made by Fred Olsen Renewables, Cubico Investments/RES, Sedgewick Wind Limited, and Berwickshire Community Renewables directly to the Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council.

The payment is a calculation of the original baseline amount, determined using the formula: $(CCCC \% \text{ share} \times MW \times \text{£/MW} \times \text{inflation factor})$, where the percentage share reflects the Community Council's agreed proportion, MW represents the megawatt capacity of each renewable energy project, £/MW is the established payment rate per megawatt, and the inflation factor ensures the payment keeps pace with current economic conditions.

The expected payment months and amounts are as follows:

Fund Name	Wind Farm Owner	Expected Payment Month	Baseline Amount	Baseline Year	Est. Annual Payment for 2025
Crystal Rig I	Fred Olsen Renewables	October	£4,375	2004	£8,100
Crystal Rig II	Fred Olsen Renewables	September	£6,424	2010	£11,100
Ferneylea 1	Sedgewick Wind Limited	March/June	£3,750	2015	£5,600
The Fishermen Three	Berwickshire Community Renewables	March	£18,750	2017	£25,000
Penmanshiel	Cubico/RES	April & November	£11,480	2016	£17,000 (received in two installments)
Kinegar*	Foresight	March	£25,000	2017	£31,250

* Kinegar fund is managed under a separate arrangement and is not included in the Foundation Scotland Fund Sharing Agreement.

Under the Fund Sharing Agreement with Foundation Scotland, Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council should notify Foundation Scotland immediately upon receipt of funds and transfer the monies within 14 days.

Grantmaking Activity

The Fund is designed to undertake quarterly grantmaking rounds. Since its launch, it has held five decision-making rounds - November 2024, January 2025, June 2025, September 2025, and November 2025, awarding grants across diverse community priorities. To maintain flexibility, the Fund also supports out-of-round applications that address urgent community needs or time-sensitive opportunities that cannot wait for the next scheduled round.

In January 2025, an exceptional out-of-round decision-making meeting took place to address an urgent request from the Cockburnspath After School Club. This meeting also absorbed applications originally intended for the March 2025 round, which was subsequently cancelled.

Over the reporting period, the Fund received 17 applications. Of these, 15 were awarded funding, and one was rejected at the initial stage as it did not demonstrate sufficient benefit or evidence needed for the Fund area. The other was rejected as concerns were raised over the organisation's financial governance; the organisation was encouraged to reapply should its financial position improve, and robust financial management systems be implemented.

	Approved		Withdrawn		Rejected		Deferred		Total	
	#apps	Amount (£)	#apps	Amount (£)	#apps	Amount (£)	#apps	Amount (£)	#apps	Amount (£)
Main Grants	15	£212,446.44	0	£0	2	£100,000	0	£0	17	£312,446.44
Total	15	£212,446.44	0	£0	2	£100,000	0	£0	17	£312,446.44

The Fund's investment of £212,446.44 leveraged an additional £831,505.99 from other sources. **This means that every £1 of Fund investment attracted £3.91 in further funding.** See Appendix A for a full list of grants awarded during this reporting period.

Awards by Fund

As mentioned above, the Fund operates as an administrative vehicle for six distinct pooled funds. To ensure equitable distribution of resources, funding allocations are carefully managed following each award decision. The allocation process aims to achieve as even a distribution as possible across all six funds, and allocations will continue to be monitored to maintain this balance.

Some grants are awarded from only one of the six funds, while others receive contributions from more than one fund. Depending on the size of the award, funding may be allocated from more than one fund, as was the case for the Siccar Point application awarded in November 2025. Below is a breakdown of amounts allocated from each of the six funds towards the grants awarded in this period:

Below is a breakdown of awards allocated from each of the six Funds towards grants awarded.

Foresight Kinegar Wind Farm Community Fund (Cockburnspath)	
4 awards	£79,064.30
Organisation & Project	Amount
Edinburgh Geological Society <i>Building the Deep Time Trail</i>	£36,276.50
Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO <i>Polycrub 2</i>	£18,075.80
Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO <i>Garden running costs 26/27</i>	£16,514.00
Cockburnspath Village Hall SCIO <i>Community Cafe Chef/Cook</i>	£8,198.00

Penmanshiel Community Benefit Fund (Co'path & Cove Community Fund)	
3 awards	£48,058.00
Organisation & Project	Amount
Cockburnspath Bowling Club <i>Installation of twenty-four solar panels & two battery storage units</i>	£19,920.00
Edinburgh Geological Society <i>Building the Deep Time Trail</i>	£18,138.25
Re- Tweed <i>Upcycling training workshops in Co'Path</i>	£9,999.75

The Fisherman Three Community Benefit Fund

3 awards

£27,988.25

Organisation & Project	Amount
Edinburgh Geological Society <i>Building the Deep Time Trail</i>	£18,138.25
Sea the Change SCIO <i>Cycle for Change</i>	£5,000.00
DunsPlayFest <i>DunsPlayFest26</i>	£4,850.00

Crystal Rig II Community Benefit Fund (Co'path & Cove Community Fund)

2 awards

£22,632.60

Organisation & Project	Amount
Cockburnspath bowling club <i>Cockburnspath bowling club</i>	£13,770.00
Cockburnspath Parent Council <i>Broader Borders</i>	£8,862.60

Crystal Rig I Community Benefit Fund (Co'path & Cove Community Fund)

4 awards

£21,703.29

Organisation & Project	Amount
Cockburnspath bowling club <i>Cockburnspath bowling club</i>	£13,770.00
Cockburnspath After School Club <i>Cockburnspath After School Club</i>	£5,000.00
Connect Berwickshire Youth Project <i>Connect - Rural Reach</i>	£2,500.00
Wee Wildlings <i>Wee Wildlings Beach Hut</i>	£433.29

Ferneylea Community Benefit Fund (Co'path & Cove Community Fund)

2 awards

£13,000.00

Organisation & Project	Amount
Happy Swimmers <i>Happy Swimmers Project</i>	£8,000.00
Coldingham Community Council <i>Coldingham Playpark Upgrade</i>	£5,000.00

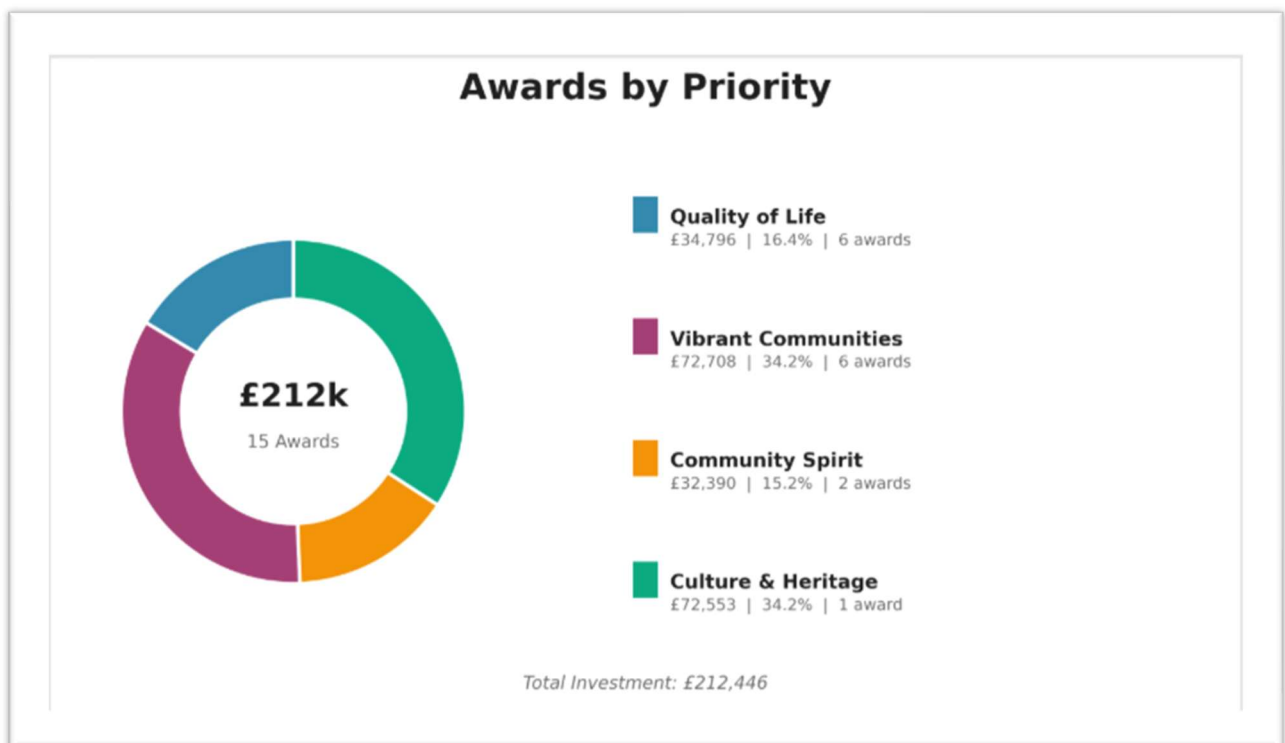
Awarding by Fund Priority

The Fund's priorities are designed to ensure that awards deliver meaningful and lasting benefits to the local community. Each application is assessed against these priorities to determine how well it aligns with the Fund's objectives.

The Fund provides grants to support charitable activities that:

- Enhance the quality of life for the local residents.
- Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities.
- Promote community spirit and encourage community activity.
- Preserve, enhance or give better access to culture, heritage and the environment.

During this reporting period, the 15 awards made have been grouped according to the priority they best align with. This analysis demonstrates how the Fund's investment is distributed across its core objectives and highlights the diverse range of community benefits delivered through the funding programme.



Priority 1: Enhance the quality of life for the local residents

- Re-Tweed: £9,999.75 (*skills training in upcycling*)
- Cockburnspath Parent Council: £8,862.60 (*extra-curricular activities for children*)
- Happy Swimmers: £8,000.00 (*subsidised swimming lessons*)
- Cockburnspath After School Club: £5,000.00 (*childcare provision*)
- Connect Berwickshire Youth Project: £2,500.00 (*youth worker support*)
- Wee Wildlings: £433.29 (*beach hut for outdoor activities*)

Subtotal: £34,795.64 (6 awards)

Priority 2: Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities

- Cockburnspath Bowling Club: £19,920.00 (*solar panels & battery storage*)
- Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO¹: £18,075.80 (*polytunnel for growing space*)
- Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO: £16,514.00 (*allotment's running costs*)
- Cockburnspath Village Hall SCIO: £8,198.00 (*community café chef*)
- Coldingham Community Council: £5,000.00 (*play park redevelopment*)
- Sea the Change SCIO: £5,000.00 (*van for cycling sessions & litter cleanups*)

Subtotal: £72,707.80 (6 awards)

Priority 3: Promote community spirit and encourage community activity

- Cockburnspath Bowling Club: £27,540.00 (*bowling green maintenance*)
- DunsPlayFest: £4,850.00 (*cultural events*)

Subtotal: £32,390.00 (2 awards)

Priority 4: Preserve, enhance or give better access to culture, heritage and the environment

- Edinburgh Geological Society: £72,553.00 (*Siccar Point access improvements*)

Subtotal: £72,553.00 (1 award)

The following summaries provide detailed information about six significant awards made to four organisations during this reporting period. These projects represent substantial investments in heritage, sustainability, food security, and community wellbeing, collectively accounting for 76.6% of the total funding awarded.

¹ SCIO – Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Significant grants awarded in 2024/ 2025 included the following:

£72,500 awarded to the Edinburgh Geological Society (Siccar Point) to contribute towards the costs of improving access to Siccar Point by enhancing a walking route, adding interpretation boards, signposts, benches, and promoting its significance of the Deep Time Trail to boost local engagement and tourism and celebrate a world-renowned geologically significant destination.

The Deep Time Trail project aimed to raise circa £145k to enhance the access and interpretation signage of Siccar Point, one of the most significant locations in the history of science. It was at this location that James Hutton predicted and discovered an important geological junction in 1788, verifying his Theory of the Earth and Deep Time. In essence, he discovered that the earth was not 10,000s of years old as originally suspected at this time but was in fact millions of years old.

This groundbreaking discovery fundamentally changed scientists' understanding of geological processes and the immense timescales over which the Earth has evolved. The unconformity at Siccar Point - where near-vertical layers of grey slate (around 435 million years old) meet the overlying horizontal layers of red sandstone (around 345 million years old) - provided physical evidence that vast periods of time had elapsed between the formation of different rock layers.

The Deep Time Trail aims to make this historic site more accessible to visitors while preserving its natural character, allowing people to experience firsthand the location where modern geology was born and to appreciate the concept of "deep time" that continues to shape our understanding of Earth's history today.

The project aims to improve the existing 1.3-kilometre walking route from the nearest road with new interpretation boards and contemplative viewing points, a new stone shelter structure at the viewpoint above the rocks, signposts, gates and benches. The onsite interpretation will link to online resources providing further information about James Hutton and the significance of Siccar Point.

The project is timed to celebrate the tercentenary of James Hutton's birth on 3 June 2026, with a formal launch scheduled for 29 May 2026. The project is expected to benefit an estimated 2,000–5,000 visitors per year, including local residents, walkers diverting from the Southern Upland Way and Berwickshire Coastal Path, and international visitors who recognise James Hutton's contributions and wish to experience this site of global geological importance.

Indirectly, the project will increase tourism and visitor numbers to the local area, which is anticipated to support local accommodation providers and services in the surrounding area.

Local residents will gain an accessible, safe and engaging place of which to be proud for recreation, exercise and welcoming visitors, with improved infrastructure including benches, clear signposting and bilingual interpretation, making the site welcoming for all ages and abilities. Community engagement through the celebration weekend, time capsule contributions and ongoing involvement with Cockburnspath Primary School will foster local ownership and pride in this internationally significant heritage asset.

Funded by Foresight (Kinegar wind farm), Cubico/ RES Investments (Penmanshiel wind farm) and Berwickshire Community Renewables LLP (The Fisherman Three wind farm).

£47,460 was awarded to Cockburnspath Bowling Club, which received two awards to support with core running costs and upgrading the club house facility to improve energy efficiency and reduce the club's running costs.

Award 1: Professional Bowling Green Maintenance – £27,540

The club provides an important recreational and social facility for the community. The demographic of the playing membership is ageing, which presented a challenge for the physical maintenance of facilities, particularly the bowling green, which requires specialist care and equipment. Professional bowling green maintenance is essential for the club's participation in local and national competitions. Without it, the playing surface would deteriorate, compromising the club's ability to host competitions and provide quality recreational opportunities for members and visitors.

The club applied to the fund for a three-year award to support maintenance and running costs. The Panel agreed to the funding request, which will enable the club to secure professional services and sustain its operations.

Award 2: Solar Panels and Battery Storage – £19,920

Following an Energy Performance Assessment of the clubhouse, it was identified that the installation of twenty-four solar panels and two battery storage units would help the club become more energy efficient and reduce running costs. The club sought funding as part of a wider upgrade aimed at making the facilities more environmentally friendly, welcoming, and financially sustainable. The Panel agreed to award the total project cost, and following installation of the Panels, the Club committee were positive with the initial results and savings.

In 2025, Cockburnspath Bowling Club celebrated its centenary. Three years of guaranteed green maintenance funding, combined with permanent reductions in energy costs from the solar panel installation, have provided the club with financial stability and enabled strategic planning beyond immediate survival. Both projects will benefit approximately 73 direct beneficiaries (club members) plus additional beneficiaries, including community members, visitors, and spectators. The investments will secure the club's immediate future, enable financial planning for sustainability, and preserve a valuable community asset that promotes physical and mental well-being.

Funded by Fred Olsen Renewables (Crystal Rig I & II wind farm) and Cubico Investments/RES (Penmanshiel wind farm).

£34,589.80 was awarded to the Cockburnspath Allotment Association across two grants: one supported the purchase of a new Polycrub polytunnel, and the other covered core running costs, including the salary for the community gardener who oversees the day-to-day running of the allotment.

Award 1: Additional Polyunnel (Polycrub 2) – £18,075.80

The group sought funding to purchase a second Polycrub polytunnel for its allotment site, following the initial success of the first one built in 2022. Demand for additional indoor growing space was high, as covered space has provided essential for growing a variety of food in the Scottish weather. A Polycrub is a polytunnel that uses polycarbonate covering, which is much more thermally efficient than plastic or glass. The polytunnel creates an indoor space that extends the growing season and following the installation of the first one, it proved very popular with members and increased harvest yields.

The Polycrub is shared between paying plot holders (up to ten people per year) who can rent a space. The association uses it for monthly trustee meetings, bringing on seedlings for the community garden, experimenting with more exotic crops (grapes, nectarines, etc.), and the space also contains a small tea and coffee station.

Due to the high demand for indoor growing space, the applicant sought funding for another Polycrub polytunnel to provide more indoor growing space for its members. The additional Polycrub will benefit an additional ten members per year, as well as indirectly benefit the wider community.

The project has benefited 60 members of the group as well as local primary school pupils. Twenty members rent space and use the allotment, whilst the remaining 40 members regularly attend to support gardening activities. Local primary school pupils also attend the space regularly to garden with support from the group.

Award 2: Garden Running Costs 2026/27 – £16,514

The Allotments Association requested funding towards running costs for the allotments and community gardens in Cockburnspath from January 2026 to March 2027. Funding covered the part-time wages of the Community Gardener, the green waste composting scheme, community activities and insurance.

The project was needed to maintain core operations, deliver the nursery and primary school garden learning programme, support volunteers and improve compost quality to generate income.

The Community Gardener plays a leading role in community engagement activities, particularly the monthly volunteering Sundays, where volunteers come together for garden maintenance and projects. 'Volunteer Sunday' takes place on the last Sunday of every month. The role also involves managing the community plot, which was created to provide an opportunity for people who want to try gardening without the commitment of renting a plot. Additionally, the Community Gardener holds workshops for local gardening groups and contributes to the various social and educational events hosted by the Allotment Association.

Supporting the green waste scheme represents another important aspect of the role. Whilst the scheme is mainly operated by volunteers over 60, the Community Gardener provides paid support to help manage this service, which processes garden waste into over 30 cubic metres of compost annually for use in the gardens and sale back to the community. An estimated 150 people will benefit from this project, including 64 members, 18 plot holders, local school pupils, volunteers and wider residents using the green waste scheme and attending events.

Funded by Foresight (Kinegar wind farm).

£8,198 was awarded to the Cockburnspath Village Hall to contribute towards the costs of employing a part-time chef for the community Café, enabling extended opening hours & consistent, quality food offering that will enhance community cohesion and improve wellbeing.

The Cockburnspath Community Café project sought funding for a pilot project to employ a local chef/cook for six hours per week to prepare and deliver a fresh weekly menu with volunteer assistance at the café.

Currently operated on a volunteer basis, the café has reduced its opening hours from three to 1.5 hours due to volunteer constraints, limiting menu variety and consistency.

The employed chef would plan menus, source ingredients locally (including from the nearby Community Shop), prepare and serve food, and coordinate volunteers, allowing the café to extend back to its full three-hours per week. The project budget included hygiene training if needed, mileage allowance for grocery shopping and payroll services. Volunteers would continue to provide baking and cover for the chef during short absences. This pilot would build on the café's previous volunteer-run model and be evaluated for future sustainability.

The need for the Community Café project was evidenced through strong community demand, documented social isolation issues and identified operational challenges within its current operating model. Community consultation conducted during the pandemic resulted in a Community Action Plan that identified restarting the Community Café as a high community priority, specifically suggesting the employment of staff to run it. A February 2024 evaluation confirmed the "overwhelming desire for the café to continue", with 91% of survey respondents stating the café had successfully brought the community back together and reduced social isolation.

The project is anticipated to benefit approximately 80 to 100 community residents per month.

Following a recruitment process in November 2025, the Village Hall Committee appointed a chef who had originally volunteered with the café. This appointment marked a significant transition for the community facility.

A committee member of the Village Hall reflected on the progress:

"Our Tuesday café is bedding in well as it starts its new phase with the support of Foresight Kinegar. It took us a little longer than we expected to find a service provider as we moved away from the volunteer-only model. We're at the initial review stage and gathering feedback on the transition, but in short – so far so good!"

Funded by Foresight (Kinegar wind farm).

Summary of awards September 2024 /December 2025

Year	Grant Application Name	Project Description - Summary	Amount
2025	Cockburnspath Parent Council	To contribute to a programme of extra-curricular and additional learning activities at Cockburnspath Primary and Nursery School, thereby supporting educational attainment and health and well-being for all pupils.	£8,862.60
2025	Happy Swimmers	To subsidise swimming lessons for primary school children whose families are unable to meet the cost themselves, thereby providing an opportunity to improve/ learn a life skill and improve the individual's health and wellbeing.	£8,000.00
2025	Re- Tweed	Re-Tweed plans to deliver 2 x 8-week intensive skills-based training in Cockburnspath. These courses will teach core skills and allow participants to learn about the creativity, innovation and enterprise potential in upcycling.	£9,999.75
2025	Cockburnspath Village Hall SCIO	To contribute towards the costs of employing a part-time chef for the community Café, enabling extended opening hours & consistent, varied food offering that will enhance community cohesion, reduce social isolation, and improve wellbeing.	£8,198.00
2025	Cockburnspath Bowling Club	To contribute towards the costs of installing solar panels and battery storage units at Cockburnspath Bowling Club, reducing carbon emissions, improving energy efficiency, and ensuring sustainable operations for the benefit of members and the community.	£19,920.00
2025	Coldingham Community Council	To contribute towards the redevelopment of Coldingham's village play park, providing safe, inclusive and accessible play equipment that will enhance physical activity, outdoor play and social connections for children aged 0-16 and their families.	£5,000.00
2025	Edinburgh Geological Society	To contribute to the cost of improving access to Siccar Point by enhancing a walking route, adding interpretation boards, signposts, and benches, and promoting its significance to boost local engagement and tourism.	£72,553.00
2025	Sea the Change SCIO	To fund a van for children's cycle sessions, bike maintenance & litter cleans ups in East Berwickshire, including Cockburnspath & Cove, enhancing cycling access, confidence, promoting health and independence as well as helping to maintain the natural env.	£5,000.00
2025	Connect Berwickshire Youth Project	To fund a 12-month pilot project employing a youth worker to engage rural young people, improve access to support, co-create solutions, and strengthen community understanding of youth needs through outreach, drop-ins, and collaboration.	£2,500.00
2025	Wee Wildlings	To fund costs for building a beach hut at Coldingham Bay to support encouraging outdoor activities and improve the community's good health and wellbeing.	£433.29

Year	Grant Application Name	Project Description - Summary	Amount
2025	Cockburnspath After School Club	To contribute towards startup and operational costs over 5 years for Cockburnspath After School Club, establishing an essential after-school childcare provision that will enhance employment opportunities for parents, community sustainability and growth.	£5,000.00
2025	Cockburnspath Bowling Club	To contribute towards the costs of professional bowling green maintenance services for three years, enabling the Club to provide quality facilities that enhance community wellbeing, social interaction, and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages	£27,540.00
2025	DunsPlayFest	To support the rural extension of DunsPlayFest to deliver cultural events for the community in Cockburnspath.	£4,850.00
2025	Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO	To fund an additional polytunnel, which will provide access to more indoor growing space and meet the growing needs of the community, which will benefit their health and well-being.	£18,075.80
2025	Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO	To contribute to the cost of running the allotments and community gardens, including the Community Gardener, Green Waste Scheme, community activities, and insurance, promoting sustainability, food security, and community engagement.	£16,514.00
		Total	£212,446.44

What Difference is the Fund Making?

Foundation Scotland has evolved its reporting systems to better align project activities with the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). Since inception (see chart), **grants have contributed to achieving at least seven of the SDGs**. It is the case that most projects contribute to more than one SDGs; however, Foundation Scotland seeks to identify the 'best fit' primary SDG for illustrative purposes. The largest proportion of funding has been to projects contributing primarily to **SDG11 (Industry Innovation & Infrastructure), 46% and towards SDG3 (Sustainable Cities & Communities) 18% of funds awarded.**



The following spotlights provide more detailed examples of how the Fund is making a difference

Spotlight: Cockburnspath Parent Council



The Cockburnspath Parent Council secured funding from the Co'path & Cove Community Fund to broaden the experiences of local pupils through outdoor learning, cultural access and library spaces projects.

About the Group

Cockburnspath Parent Council (CPC) fosters collaboration between staff and parents/carers at Cockburnspath Primary. The group works with the school to support activities that enhance pupils' education and wellbeing, strengthening connections between families, teachers, and the local community through improved educational opportunities.

The Need

Cockburnspath Primary School faced interconnected challenges limiting pupils' educational experiences. The school's rural location created barriers to cultural experiences, with poor transport links making educational trips financially prohibitive. Transport and admission costs restricted learning beyond the classroom. Additionally, lack of weather-appropriate clothing prevented consistent outdoor learning, limiting pupils' engagement with nature-based activities and local partnerships like the Cockburnspath Allotment Association. The school also lacked a dedicated library, with limited books stored only in classrooms, restricting reading choices and independent literacy development. These factors created educational gaps that traditional curriculum delivery couldn't address.

Funding Decision

Cockburnspath Parent Council submitted a funding request to the Cockburnspath & Cove Community Fund. The Panel agreed to award the full requested amount of £8,862, recognising the potential for educational impact across the entire school community and invited the group to reapply if it required further support from the Fund. This project was funded by Crystal Rig I & II Community Funds.

Next Steps

Elements of the project are still ongoing, such as the library furniture that has been ordered and is currently awaiting delivery. However, the new wet weather playsuits have provided the pupils with the opportunity to explore and learn no matter the weather and enhance their learning journey. Finally, the pupils' opportunities to go on school trips with their peers to learn and be exposed to new experiences have enriched their education and broadened their horizons.

Final Thoughts - Broader Implications

The project's success illustrates how partnership working between parent councils, schools, and local groups can maximise limited resources to create educational impact, which benefits the community in the long term.



Spotlight: Happy Swimmers



Happy Swimmers delivers essential swimming lessons for children in rural coastal communities

About Happy Swimmers

Happy Swimmers is a constituted voluntary organisation officially established in March 2023, following a successful pilot project in Reston during 2022. The project operates across Berwickshire coastal communities, including Cockburnspath & Cove. The organisation's mission centres on enabling community members to learn to swim by removing cost barriers for individuals and families. Happy Swimmers provides free children's swimming lessons and subsidised swimming pool membership across all age groups.

The Challenge

This project addressed critical gaps in water safety education within Scotland's coastal communities. Swimming is not mandatory in Scotland's primary curriculum, resulting in 40% of children leaving primary school unable to swim - one of Europe's lowest proficiency rates. Scottish drowning rates are more than double England's per capita. The cost-of-living crisis compounds this, with annual swimming lessons costing £300 per child - equivalent to household electricity bills - making swimming unaffordable for many families rather than an essential safety skill.

Project Scope

The project provided subsidised swimming lessons for 24 children facing financial hardship. Through negotiations with three local pools (Duns, Eyemouth, and Dunbar), Happy Swimmers secured reduced annual rates of £250 per child, saving approximately £50 per child yearly.

The initiative operated on a referral basis from health visitors, social workers, and GPs, plus direct family applications requiring simple self-declaration of financial hardship.

Panel Consideration

The funding panel recognised the project's potential for significant community impact and the organisation's proven track record of supporting 19 local children to access swimming opportunities during the previous year. Particular attention was given to the project's alignment with community safety priorities and its role in addressing health inequalities.

Award Decision

The panel awarded the full £6,000 requested, but importantly, recognised the project's merit and community need. Realising the opportunity to maximise impact, the panel exercised its decision-making authority to award an additional £2,000, enabling support for a further eight young people. This brought the total award to £8,000, supporting 32 children rather than the original intended 24. This project was funded through the Ferneylea 1 Community Fund.

Community-Led Decision Making

Community benefit funds are most effective when decision-making remains rooted in local knowledge. This spotlight highlights how community-led panels maximise impact by considering broader community benefit beyond specific requests. When panels award funding above requested amounts - as demonstrated here with an additional £2,000 - they transform great projects into greater ones, empowering organisations to achieve maximum community impact.

Final Thoughts

This project demonstrates the important role community-led organisations play in addressing gaps in public service provision. Happy Swimmers' success illustrates how local groups can effectively coordinate resources, partnerships, and expertise to address complex social challenges that larger institutions struggle to resolve.

Equally significant is the Co'path & Cove Community Fund panel's decision-making approach, which highlights how community-led funding can maximise impact. By awarding £8,000 instead of the requested £6,000, the panel demonstrated that effective grant-making involves recognising opportunities and empowering proven organisations to achieve maximum community benefit.

Spotlight: Wee Wildings



Wee Wildings set out to build a beach hut to provide better access to nature and the outdoors for their community.

Background

Wee Wildings is a community group established in 2020 in Coldingham, Scottish Borders, to combat isolation by facilitating wild swimming and nature connection activities for families with young children at Coldingham Bay.

The Challenge

Many parents found spending long periods outdoors with young children daunting without shelter, baby-feeding facilities, or safe rest spaces. Families struggled with storing equipment like wetsuits and toys, while unpredictable weather often cancelled plans. The cost of outdoor gear and safety concerns in natural environments made outdoor adventures feel overwhelming.

The Solution

Wee Wildings leased a beach hut plot at Coldingham Bay from the Scottish Borders Council. The purpose-built facility provides secure equipment storage, shelter, baby-feeding and changing facilities, and safe napping space. It also functions as a community hub for events, yoga sessions, and beach clean-ups.

Funding The Solution

The project cost just over £6,000. Wee Wildlings received funding from the Crystal Rig I Community Fund and Foundation Scotland's Response Fund, with the remainder raised through a GoFundMe campaign and Scottish Building Society.



Outcomes and Impact

Launched in June 2025, the beach hut serves 60 registered families. The warm, dry space enables year-round activities and increased confidence for families with young children or additional needs. The hut hosts welcome events and yoga sessions, strengthening community connections. **Small Scale Projects don't mean Small Impact:** This project demonstrates how small-scale, community-led initiatives enhance local wellbeing and environmental connection by identifying barriers to outdoor participation and creating practical, sustainable solutions.

Rebecca Hill from Wee Wildlings noted:

"The build has been a journey, with donations from local timber yards and a talented boatbuilder who designed a beautiful door. We ensured our hut is inclusive to local families. The launch was special—it means being out in nature is so much more accessible, especially for parents of young children."



Spotlight: Cockburnspath Allotment Association



The Cockburnspath Allotment Association has completed work on a project that's more than just a growing space - it's a hub helping grow the community.

The Allotment Association received one of the first awards from the Fund in November 2024, following the Fund's launch. The £18,000 grant enabled the installation of a second Polycrub polytunnel, as detailed in this case study. The project has neared completion, and it's clear that it has created much more than just a growing space, it has become a warm, welcoming community hub that brings people together and helps the community flourish.

Background and Project Overview

The Cockburnspath Allotment Association has transformed what began as a standard allotment into a vibrant, multi-purpose community hub. Understanding that modern community spaces work best when they serve multiple purposes, the association applied for a second Polycrub Polytunnel to expand its welcoming environment where people naturally feel comfortable joining growing activities and connecting with neighbours. The environment naturally invites people to explore and consider participating, fostering a friendly space where everyone feels comfortable joining growing activities and connecting with their neighbours.

Growing Together, All Year Round:

The latest polytunnel has enhanced the existing infrastructure, enabling year-round cultivation despite Scotland's variable weather and widening access to indoor growing. It has increased growing capacity whilst establishing dedicated educational spaces for local schools.

A Place for Everyone: A small seating area with tea and coffee-making facilities creates a relaxed social gathering space. Enhanced accessibility features include raised beds and widened pathways to accommodate wheelchairs and mobility aids, ensuring equitable access throughout the site. Members travel from Cockburnspath, Cove, Dunbar, and Oldhamstocks to participate. Notably, some gardeners maintain their own home gardens yet still tend allotment plots, valuing the social interaction and wellbeing benefits the community provides.



Multi-Purpose Community Facility: The polytunnel serves as a versatile venue for cultivation, community gatherings, educational workshops, and food preservation activities. During inclement weather, it provides sheltered space where members continue horticultural activities whilst enjoying informal social interaction, maintaining year-round community connections.

Wider Impact and Community Growth

The initial £18,000 Foresight Kinegar investment has created interconnected benefits that strengthen the entire community. The project's success demonstrates how thoughtful community investment creates thriving spaces that positively impact both environment and wellbeing.

In April 2025, Foundation Scotland hosted an open applicant evening in the Fund area, where the Community Fund Adviser and local Panel members met with the group to explore how the Fund could provide further support to the Allotment Association. Following this engagement, the group applied to the Fund in autumn, and in November 2025 received a second award of £16,514 to support salary costs for a paid Community Gardener position, core running costs, and events. This demonstrates the importance of building relationships with applicants that enable flexible, responsive funding for evolving community needs.

Spotlight: Cockburnspath Bowling Club



Cockburnspath Bowling Club secured its centenary legacy through £47,460 of integrated funding that combined professional green maintenance with solar energy installation.

Cockburnspath Bowling Club (CBC) sought integrated support through two complementary projects addressing immediate operational needs and long-term sustainability as the club approached its centenary in 2025. The combined funding request totalled £47,460 over three years: £27,540 for green maintenance (£9,180 per annum) and £19,920 for solar energy installation. These projects secured the long-term sustainability of the community recreational facility, directly benefiting 73 members and indirectly supporting approximately 100 additional community members, visitors, and spectators.

About Cockburnspath Bowling Club

Founded in 1925, CBC served as a community hub in this rural Scottish Borders village with 73 members, offering accessible physical activity for older residents and those with mobility limitations. The clubhouse, constructed in 1992, functioned as a year-round gathering space for Cockburnspath and neighbouring Cove, playing a role in combating social isolation and promoting wellbeing.

Project One: Professional Green Maintenance Services

The Need

The bowling green was essential for CBC's participation in local and national competitions and for providing quality recreational opportunities. However, the ageing membership base could not undertake the specialist maintenance required to maintain a competition-standard playing surface. Professional green maintenance required specialist equipment beyond volunteer labour, chemical treatments that members were not legally qualified to apply, and technical expertise in turf management. Without professional intervention, the playing surface would have deteriorated, compromising the club's ability to host competitions and provide quality experiences.

The Solution

In 2025, CBC sought and was awarded three years of funding for professional bowling green maintenance services at £9,180 per annum, totalling £27,540 funded through Crystal Rig I & II Community Funds.

Impact and Benefits

The project delivered significant benefits to 73 direct beneficiaries, including assured access to a competition-standard bowling green, continued participation in competitions, safe facilities promoting physical activity, and reduced physical burden on ageing members. Indirect benefits reached an estimated 100 secondary beneficiaries, including visiting teams, spectators, community members, and local school children through "TRY Bowls" educational days. This three-year funding created a stability window enabling CBC to build financial reserves, develop income-generation strategies, and work towards self-funding maintenance beyond the funding period.

Project Two: Solar Energy Installation

The Need

CBC's clubhouse had operated with its original 1992 heating system for over three decades with no energy efficiency upgrades. The building achieved a poor Energy Performance Certificate rating of "F" (80), with very high energy consumption and significant carbon dioxide emissions of approximately. High operational costs, particularly electricity expenses, threatened the club's financial viability and restricted facility usage during winter months. At the club's last AGM, members raised serious concerns about these unsustainable running costs.

The Solution

The installation of 24 solar panels with battery storage represented the first phase of CBC's comprehensive facility upgrade plan. The project included one 10kW Single Phase Fox Hybrid Inverter, two 5.8kWh battery storage units, and 24 PV Modules with 9.84kW total capacity. The total project cost was awarded for £19,920 and was funded through Penmanshiel Community Fund. The battery storage units maximised renewable energy usage by storing excess solar generation for use during evening hours and less sunny periods.



Impact and Benefits

The solar installation cut electricity costs, stabilising finances and freeing resources for essential needs. Lower running costs enabled extended winter facility to use, when bowling declined, but community meeting space remained valuable. By generating renewable energy onsite, CBC dramatically reduced its carbon footprint while serving as a community exemplar. The Energy Performance Certificate indicated that comprehensive improvements could achieve Band B rating.

As Jean, a club representative, noted:

"The funding has provided peace of mind, allowing us to free up reserves for other areas while reducing electricity bills. We can keep heating on at lower temperatures, making the space more welcoming, especially in winter."

This improved comfort and reduced costs encouraged year-round usage, made the clubhouse more accessible during colder months, and supported the 30-35 people regularly hiring the space.

The Case for Combined Support

These two projects formed an integrated strategy for CBC's sustainability. Green maintenance ensured the club could continue its core sporting function, whilst solar installation addressed financial pressures threatening operational viability. Together, they created a comprehensive solution securing both the club's sporting facilities and its financial foundation.

Three years of guaranteed green maintenance funding, combined with permanent reductions in energy costs, provided CBC with financial stability, and enabled strategic planning beyond immediate survival, investment in community engagement and youth development, building of financial reserves for future self-sufficiency, and confidence to make long-term commitments to members and the community.

Conclusion

Cockburnspath Bowling Club stood at a critical juncture. Nearly a century of community service faced potential interruption, yet modest, well-targeted support from the Co'path & Cove Community Fund secured this asset for decades to come.



For approximately 173 beneficiaries and a village community gathered around this green for nearly 100 years, this investment represented faith in community, commitment to sustainability, and partnership, ensuring rural communities continue to thrive.

Spotlight: Sea the Change



Sea the Change has secured the remaining £5,000 from Co'path & Cove Community Fund, completing the funding needed to purchase an electric van. This enabled the group to continue its important work within the Fund area and across the wider East Berwickshire region.

About Sea the Change

Sea of Change (SOC) was established in March 2018 and is based on the East Berwickshire coast, as a registered Scottish charity. Its mission is to connect people of all ages and communities to coastlines and encourage positive changes in attitudes and behaviours so every person can enjoy and protect our natural environment.

SOC provides a diverse range of services to the community, including beach wheelchairs promoting accessibility for all, participation in the Greener East Berwickshire Network, and community clean-ups (their last major event attracted 360 participants). The organisation also introduced the Cycle for Change programme in summer 2024, which has quickly become a cornerstone of its community outreach work.

Project Overview and Need

SOC's Cycle for Change programme sought contributory funding towards the purchase of an electric vehicle to support bicycle-related community initiatives and litter picking activities from June 2025 onwards. The total project cost was £15,000, with SOC securing funding for £10,000 from the Drone Hill Fund. The organisation applied to the fund for £2,550 to help bridge the funding gap.

The need for dedicated transportation occurred following a change in circumstances that meant the personal vehicle previously used to deliver its services would no longer be available, putting the continuation of its community services at risk. The van enabled SOC to transport bikes, equipment, and volunteers to various locations throughout Berwickshire, including Cockburnspath & Cove, allowing the organisation to continue to deliver its current services and expand into less accessible rural areas such as Old Cambus (located in the Fund area).

Consultation with the community revealed several barriers to participating in SOC's programmes, including insufficient transportation options for bringing bikes to sessions, lack of access to suitable equipment, and general mobility challenges. These limitations impacted participation rates, with SOC receiving approximately ten enquiries from the Fund area about delivery and collection options that it could not fulfil without appropriate transport.

Project Activities and Delivery

As part of its project delivery, the plan was to support multiple activities across the Fund community:

Cycling Initiatives: SOC would deliver three Dr Bike sessions annually within Cockburnspath & Cove, providing 20-point bicycle health checks, minor repairs, and maintenance guidance. The organisation also planned to offer Cycle Confidence sessions to Cockburnspath Primary School, with up to ten young people per session and at least two sessions yearly.



Environmental Work: SOC coordinates litter picking along the East Berwickshire coastline and villages. From 2020 to 2024, 76 volunteers removed 152kg of waste from the area.

Each September, SOC partners with Cockburnspath Primary School for a large community litter pick, whilst supporting regular clean-ups around Cockburnspath & Cove. The van would allow the group to continue its work.

Impact and Outcomes

This project takes an upstream approach, building cycling confidence from a young age to foster long-term benefits, including road safety awareness and independence.

Approximately 50 to 60 people from Cockburnspath and Cove benefit directly, with an estimated 250 additional people benefiting from the wider East Berwickshire region.

Funding Decision

The group applied for £2,550; however, the Panel recognised the important work delivered by the organisation and how its activities really supported the local Fund community. As such, the Panel decided to award an additional £2,450 to support with the rest of the costs, bringing the total award to £5,000, which was funded through The Fishermen Three Community Fund. This decision reflects the Panel's confidence in SOC's ability to deliver meaningful impact and the organisation's demonstrated strong ties to the fund area community.



Marketing and Communications Activity



To ensure that potential applicants are given the opportunity to learn about the Fund and how it can support their groups and organisations, Foundation Scotland implemented a comprehensive Fund Promotion Strategy throughout the funding year. This multi-channel approach utilised posters, social media campaigns, an open applicant evening, local newsletter updates, news items and press releases, as well as case studies to promote the Fund and showcase the impact of awarded projects.

News Items & Press Releases

Following each funding round, Foundation Scotland drafted a press release or news item for the Fund page to showcase the awards and their impact. The links below provide access to news items and press releases that have been circulated over the past year.

- [Celebrating one year of community impact | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [£45,000 funding boost for Cockburnspath and Cove projects | Border Telegraph](#)
- [Grants worth almost £50,000 will help bowling club go green in more ways than one](#)
- [Co'path & Cove Community Fund continues to swing into action | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [Wind farm funding powers community action across East Berwickshire | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [Cockburnspath Bowling Club celebrates 100th birthday and funding windfall | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [£45,000 funding boost from new Community Fund | Foundation Scotland](#)

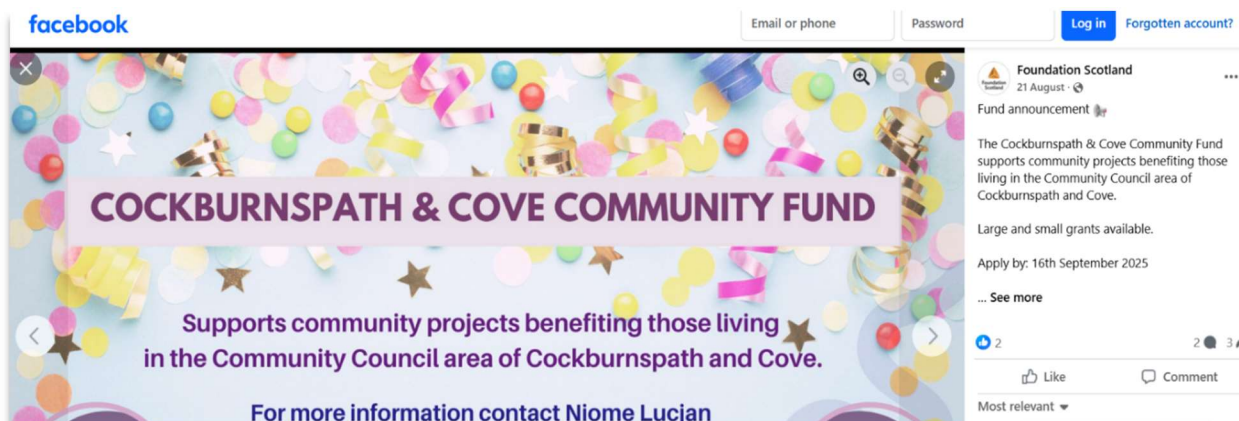
Open Applicant Evening

In March 2025, Foundation Scotland hosted an open applicant evening at the local bowling club to support prospective applicants in preparing strong applications to the Fund. The session provided an opportunity to engage directly with community groups, share detailed information about the Fund's priorities and eligible activities, explore potential project ideas, and offer guidance on the application process.

This face-to-face engagement helped simplify the funding process, build confidence among applicants, and ensure that proposed projects aligned with the Fund's objectives and community needs. Groups that attended included the Cockburnspath Village Hall & Allotment Association, both of which made applications to the Fund and subsequently received funding for each group's projects.

Social Media

Throughout the year, Foundation Scotland, with support from its Communication and Marketing Team, undertook several social media campaigns to raise the Fund's profile with groups in the local area.



Case Studies

To appreciate and understand the remarkable depth and breadth of funded projects, Foundation Scotland undertakes reflective and informative case studies that capture projects at various stages of their development and implementation, revealing both the real-world impact achieved and the invaluable lessons learned throughout the funding journey.

The case studies linked below provide detailed insights into projects through the Co'path & Cove Community Fund.

- [Cockburnspath Parent Council: broadening borders for local pupils | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [Improving access to swimming in rural coast Scotland | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [Building community connection through nature | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [Cockburnspath Allotment Association: Growing a Community | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [Where Children's Voices Matter: A Playground Built by Community | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [Cockburnspath Allotment Association | Foundation Scotland](#)
- [A dual investment in community sustainability | Foundation Scotland](#)

Fund Review

Following the launch of a Fund, it is good practice to undertake an initial Fund review after the 12-month period. This timing allows sufficient data and experience to accumulate to help understand the Fund's progress and make decisions on the Fund's design going forward. A 12-month review enables funders to:

- **Assess whether the Fund is reaching its intended beneficiaries** and addressing the priorities it was designed to support.
- **Evaluate the effectiveness of grantmaking processes**, including application procedures, decision-making mechanisms, and the balance between structured rounds and flexible, out-of-round funding.
- **Identify any barriers to access** that may be preventing certain community groups or organisations from applying.
- **Review the appropriateness of grant sizes and funding criteria** in light of actual community needs and spending patterns.
- **Make timely adjustments** to the Fund's design, ensuring the Fund remains responsive and effective.
- **Demonstrate accountability and learning** to stakeholders, showing a commitment to continuous improvement.

Prior to the review meeting held in November 2025, Foundation Scotland provided a Panel briefing document which outlined the Fund's financial position and grant-making activity since launch, including details of the awards made up to September 2025. The briefing analysed how funded projects aligned with the Fund's four core priorities, highlighted the diverse range of community initiatives supported, from educational programmes and health initiatives to environmental projects and community facilities, and presented the Fund's financial standing with available reserves.

Feedback from the Panel established that it felt that the Fund was performing well, **a member of the Panel noted:** *"It was good to see that a number of local groups have received funding from the fund. This is a good start for the Fund, with local groups representing the majority of recipients, which is a positive sign."*

The Panel raised a question regarding the Fund's promotional strategy to ensure that funded projects received adequate visibility within the community. Foundation Scotland addressed this by advising that it promotes awards and the Fund through the newsletter, and that a press release or news item is drafted for distribution following each funding round, as well as outlining its other promotional measures.

Foundation Scotland reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the Community Council in continuing to showcase both the projects that have been funded and the Fund itself.

To ensure that the Fund continues to have maximum impact and reach, the Panel also reviewed different options to enhance its open grantmaking process. The Panel began to explore the possibility of establishing an Education and Training Bursary Fund in 2026. Please refer to the Looking Ahead section in the next section of this report for further details on the Education and Training Bursary proposal.

Looking Ahead

As the Co'path & Cove Community Fund enters its second year, the Panel is committed to building on the strong foundation established in 2024/25 whilst exploring innovative approaches to maximise community benefit.

Education & Training Bursary Fund

Following the Fund's review, the Panel identified education and training as a priority for the community. In response, Foundation Scotland, with support from the Panel, is developing a Co'path & Cove Education & Training Fund strategy, a dedicated bursary programme designed to support individuals, micro and small businesses, and voluntary sector organisations in accessing skills development opportunities. The Fund strategy is currently in the process of being developed, but initial proposals include:

- **Individual bursaries** to help residents access training, education courses, or apprenticeships that improve employment prospects.
- **Business development support** for micro and small businesses to upskill their workforce and create sustainable employment opportunities.
- **Career development activities** that inspire young people and build connections with prospective employers.

The Education & Training Bursary Fund reflects the Panel's commitment to improving opportunities and livelihoods for people living in the Cockburnspath & Cove Community Council area. By investing in people's skills and confidence, the Fund aims to strengthen the local economy and create pathways to meaningful employment. The Panel anticipates launching this initiative in the Spring of 2026, with further details to be confirmed following final discussions on fund structure and promotion strategy.

Exploring Alternative Distribution Models

The Panel recognises that innovation in grantmaking can enhance community impact. Throughout 2026, the Panel will explore alternative ways of distributing funds to ensure funding reaches those who need them most effectively. Distribution models are tabled as a priority agenda item for 2026 and will consider different funding mechanisms, that may enhance and serve evolving community needs.

Enhanced Fund Promotion

Building awareness of the Fund remains a key priority. The Foundation Scotland is committed to:

- Strengthening promotional activities to ensure all potential applicants know about funding opportunities.
- Increasing the Fund's visibility across the community through targeted outreach.
- Engaging with community groups and organisations to identify emerging needs and funding gaps.

Focus on Impact and Case Studies

To demonstrate the real difference the Fund makes, the Foundation Scotland will continue to prioritise impact measurement and case studies. Future reporting will place greater emphasis on:

- Developing case studies that showcase funded projects and their outcomes.
- Capturing beneficiary voices and experiences to illustrate the Fund's community impact.

2026 Funding Rounds

The Fund will continue to operate quarterly funding rounds in Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter 2026, with the Panel remaining open to considering exceptional out-of-round applications where urgent community needs or time-sensitive opportunities arise.

Conclusion

The Co'path & Cove Community Fund's inaugural year demonstrates the transformative impact of strategic community investment. With just over £212,000 awarded across 15 projects and an 88% application success rate, the Fund has delivered immediate, tangible and long-term benefits whilst leveraging nearly £4 in additional funding for every £1 invested.

From enhancing access to the internationally significant Siccar Point to supporting local children's swimming lessons, the Fund has proven its ability to balance large strategic project funding with grassroots community needs. The diversity of funded projects, spanning heritage, sustainability, education, and wellbeing, reflects the Panel's thoughtful approach to creating lasting community benefit.

As the unified Fund enters its second full year of operation with strong foundations and clear evidence of impact, it is well-positioned to continue supporting vibrant, sustainable and connected Cockburnspath & Cove communities.

Contact

For further information about the Fund, you can visit:

[Cockburnspath & Cove Community Fund | Foundation Scotland](#)

Or contact:

Niome Lucjan, Community Funds Adviser

Foundation Scotland

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Email: niome@foundationscotland.org.uk

Appendix 1

Awards by rounds

November 2024 Awards (£45,371)

Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO - £18,076

Funded an additional polytunnel to provide more indoor growing space and meet community needs for health and wellbeing.

Cockburnspath Parent Council - £8,863

Contributed to extra-curricular and additional learning activities at Cockburnspath Primary and Nursery School, supporting educational attainment and wellbeing.

Re-Tweed - £10,000

Deliver 2 x 8-week intensive skills-based training courses in Cockburnspath, teaching core skills in creativity, innovation and upcycling enterprise.

Wee Wildlings - £433

Funded costs for building a beach hut at Coldingham Bay to encourage outdoor activities and improve community health and wellbeing.

Happy Swimmers - £8,000

Subsidised swimming lessons for primary school children whose families are unable to meet costs, providing opportunity to learn a life skill and improve health and wellbeing.

January 2025 Awards (£5,000)

Cockburnspath After School Club - £5,000

Contributed towards startup and operational costs over 5 years for after-school childcare provision, enhancing employment opportunities for parents and community sustainability.

June 2025 Awards (£60,658)

Cockburnspath Bowling Club - £47,460 (two grants)

£19,920 towards solar panels and battery storage units, reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency. £27,540 for three years of professional bowling green maintenance services, providing quality facilities that enhance community wellbeing and social interaction.

Cockburnspath Village Hall SCIO - £8,198

Contributed towards employing a part-time chef for the community café, enabling extended opening hours and varied food offerings to enhance community cohesion and reduce social isolation.

Sea the Change SCIO - £5,000

Funded a van for children's cycle sessions, bike maintenance and litter clean-ups in East Berwickshire, enhancing cycling access, confidence, and environmental maintenance.

September 2025 Awards (£9,850)**DunsPlayFest - £4,850**

Supported rural extension of DunsPlayFest to deliver cultural events for the Cockburnspath community.

Coldingham Community Council - £5,000

Contributed towards redevelopment of Coldingham's village play park, providing safe, inclusive and accessible play equipment for children aged 0-16 and their families.

November 2025 Awards (£91,567)**Edinburgh Geological Society - £72,553**

Contributed to improving access to Siccar Point by enhancing a walking route, adding interpretation boards, signposts, and benches, and promoting its geological significance to boost local engagement and tourism.

Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO - £16,514

Contributed to running the allotments and community gardens, including the Community Gardener, Green Waste Scheme, community activities, and insurance, promoting sustainability, food security, and community engagement.

Connect Berwickshire Youth Project - £2,500

Funded a 12-month pilot project employing a youth worker to engage rural young people, improve access to support, co-create solutions, and strengthen community understanding of youth needs.



Foresight



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