



**Hill of Towie Wind Farm  
Community Benefit Fund**

**Annual Report 2016**

**Rounds 7 & 8**



## COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The scheme is funded entirely by the wind farm developer RES. Demand on the fund has remained high over the last year, and follows particularly high demand in the previous year. The application deadline for round 7 was as usual in September, but round 8 was moved to May to allow decision making in June.

Sixteen applications were received in rounds 7 and 8, with a total value of £132,096.06. Fourteen applications were successful, and awards made (or made subject to condition) totalled £95,790.06. One application was declined and one was initially deferred then later withdrawn.

There has been a strong social community benefit element to applications received over the last year, several of them incorporating environmental benefits as well. As usual the applications have come from diverse organisations for a wide range of projects and activities.

## SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

### **Keith in Flower – Awarded £1,500 for plants**



The grant helped with the costs of plants for the bandstand gardens.

*“The funds were greatly appreciated and helped transform the bandstand. Very positive feedback was received from locals and visitors alike and it gave the volunteers involved added resolve to continue in future years.*

*As it was the first year for Keith in Flower, a special opening of the bandstand was organised, which involved the pipe band.*

*The planting certainly made Keith a brighter place and a photo opportunity for the tourists on the Keith/Dufftown Railway visiting the town. Indeed, further improvements are planned at the bandstand for the coming year with some permanent planting”*

David Ross, Keith in Flower

## **Strathisla Pipe Band - Awarded £5,500 towards the costs of new uniforms**

The Pipe Band is very active in the community, regularly sending musicians to support local events free of charge. Meeting the cost of new uniforms can be a challenge, especially for younger members, who are crucial to the ongoing and future successes of the band. The money was spent in a local business and resulted in the band being “best turned” out at a local Highland Games.



Image credit: The Banffshire Herald

## **Keith Community Radio Ltd – awarded £960 for a new media player and audio switch**

The audio switch replaced an old manual switch which had already failed once and been repaired. As the new switch is automated, it allows KCR to broadcast around the clock, switching between the studio, the sustaining service, and the new Jukebox playout system, even when the studio is unattended.

Previously, KCR had only broadcast in its own right during the evenings. The new equipment allowed daytime broadcasting, taking all of the community based programming such as ‘Community Corner’, ‘Moray Matters’, other interviews with organisations and people, and the wealth of community announcements that KCR broadcasts to a different and much larger daytime audience.



**Botriphnie Primary Parent Council – Awarded £1,692 for playground markings (Round 7) and £15,300 for a range of outdoor learning equipment, classes, training and storage (Round 8)**

The Parent Council wished to replace faded and little used playground markings with new, attractive ones, including traditional games and a fitness trail.

They contributed some of their own funds and selected a supplier who could provide a tough, durable finish. Active playtimes are not only fun, but work well with health and wellbeing elements of the Curriculum for Excellence.



*“On behalf of the Parent Council and children of Botriphnie thank you for providing a grant for playground markings. They have proved very popular and great fun is being had on the fitness trail when trying to beat their personal best time.*”

Joan Ross, Botriphnie Primary School

Building on the success of the new markings, the Parent council applied for more playground equipment. This was awarded, subject to conditions, but on discussion with the local authority, the Parent Council reported that it would not be possible to meet the conditions of grant. Undeterred, they liaised with staff, including the new head teacher, and amended their application.

At the round 9 meeting in September, the panel were happy to make the award for the new application without condition. They were pleased to see that other community groups would benefit from access to an excellent range of fun and educational equipment, backed up with funds for Moray organisations to deliver outdoor learning sessions and training for staff.

*“This is amazing, and will be so brilliant for the all the children at school and the local community!”*

Fiona Macleod, Botriphnie Primary Parent Council

### **Boharm Public Hall – awarded £40,000 for car park tarmac**

The hall, situated in Mulben, has undertaken an extensive programme of refurbishment thanks to the Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund. As well as having a new kitchen and sound system fitted, the roof repaired and new equipment bought, the hall has installed solar panels to improve energy efficiency.

Improvements to the hall improve its sustainability and increase use, so the next logical step was to improve the car park surface. A hall committee member donated time and equipment to prepare the car park for resurfacing, saving some costs.

*“We are absolutely delighted with the tarmac surface on our car park, which now is a more appropriately sized space for the hall capacity.*

*Unfortunately, the surface is not suitable for use by HGV's, as having a "highway" quality surface installed would have been cost prohibitive.*

*So glad to get the work done, which obviously would not have been possible without the Windfarm funding! Thank you!”*

Fiona Burnett, Boharm Public Hall Committee

### **Drummuir Community Association – awarded £583.20 for village flowers**

Drummuir Community Association is a sub-committee of Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust and is supported by stalwart volunteers who put on a beautiful flower display each year. The tubs, planters and baskets enhance the environment for those living in and around the village, as well as those who pass through. Drummuir Community Association use “Greenfingers”, a local organisation supporting adults with learning difficulties, well known for supplying excellent quality plants.



*“As you can see, the flowers brighten up the village. Many thanks, as this would not be possible without the wind farm grant.”*

Fraser Morrison, Drummuir Community Association

### **Botriphnie SWI – awarded £200 for running costs**

Botriphnie SWI use the £200 grant towards running costs to keep their membership fees affordable to keep the group sustainable and continue to attract new members.



As a small group, meeting costs such as venue hire and speakers expenses can be a challenge so help with running costs is appreciated. The group is lively and active, participating in events put on by the local Banffshire Federation and co-organising an annual trip with neighbouring Boharm SWI.

### **Newmill Community Association awarded £5,000 towards the cost of refurbishing Newmill War Memorial**



By Duncan123 (Own work)  
[CC BY-SA 3.0] via Wikimedia Commons

Newmill War Memorial is a 56ft high Scots Baronial clock tower, unveiled in 1923 to a crowd of over 3000. It was paid for by public subscription and completed by a local builder with the help of volunteer labour. It stands in Newmill square, a striking monument to the men of the parish lost in both World Wars.

A programme of restoration was undertaken but cost more than initially estimated. Community Association members worked hard to secure grant funding so the works can be completed.

The Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund grant is going towards the cost of new lighting. Fittingly, village residents were invited to be involved in the decision, attending a specialist lighting demonstration on site and voting on their preferred lighting scheme.

### **Keith Golf Club – awarded £10,000 for purchase of an aerator**

Keith's Golf Club is run on a not-for-profit basis, open to members and visitors. Keeping the greens in top condition is crucial to the playing experience and to attracting members.

Not only does the community benefit from having a well-supported club but other local clubs are set to benefit from the new equipment and the golf club's expertise:

*“Fantastic! It now means we can aerate the golf course greens as and when I want, without having to borrow or hire a machine. Thank you very much. We will also be able to help some of the other sports clubs in Keith by loaning them our new equipment and a staff member to use it.”*

Neil Kidd, Keith Golf Club

## Keith TMSA festival - awarded £999 for staging and lights



The forty-second Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland Keith Festival will take place in June 2017. Musicians and visitors come from far and wide come to take part in a weekend of music, dance and song. Sessions and concerts are held in venues throughout the town, some where there is no existing staging or lighting.

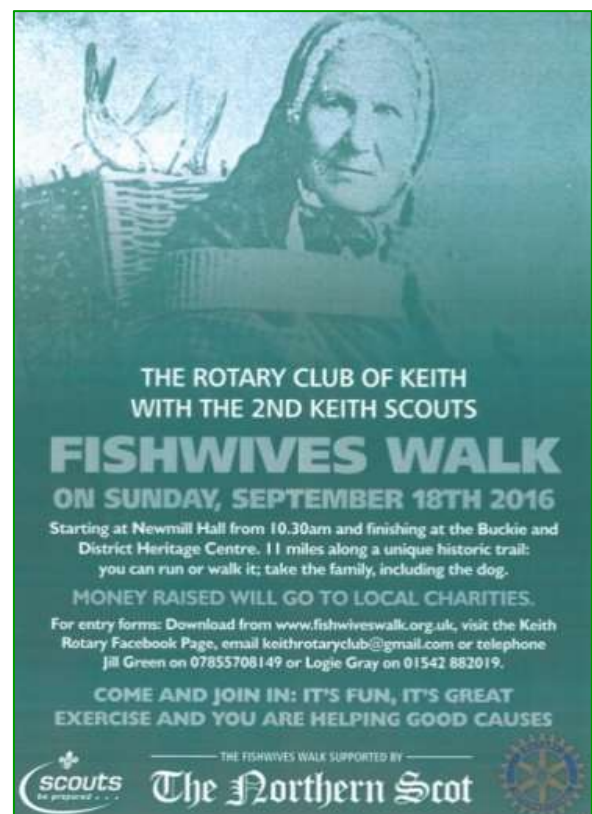
Having successfully applied for a grant from the Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund, the festival committee hopes to continue to attract ever bigger stars of the traditional music scene, and keep the festival going from strength to strength.

## Keith Rotary – awarded £800 towards the cost of advertising the Fishwives Walk

Keith Rotary is well known for their dedicated fundraising. They applied for a grant to increase advertising and attract more walkers to this successful event on the Fishwives Way.

The grant was used as 'seed funding' to boost attendance for this year and in future.

The more walkers there are, the more funds are raised and the more cost effective the walk is. All proceeds go to local charity groups in the Keith area.



*"We hope by doing this we can get local clubs and groups to take part in this event and raise money for themselves and others in the community."*

Graeme Robertson, Keith Rotary

**Keith Community Council Christmas Lights Committee – awarded £7405 for Christmas Lights**



*"The grant means we will be able to complete our current plan for Christmas lights in Keith and replace some of the older displays that have come to the end of their time. It's not easy to find funding for lights and we already spend a lot of time and effort fundraising, so our hard-working volunteers are just delighted.*

*It makes such a difference to have a bonny display through the festive season and we know how much people appreciate it from the feedback we get. Thank you."*

Susan Hutcheon, Keith Christmas Lights Committee

**Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust – awarded £3,844 for portable staging for Drummuir Hall and £2,006.21 for a floor cleaner**

Like Boharm Hall, Drummuir Hall has benefited from a programme of refurbishment, updating and extending the community-owned hall to provide a comfortable, well-appointed venue with a renewable heating system.

The Trust then successfully applied to the Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund to upgrade the hall cottage and build new storage facilities, both of which contribute to the sustainability and versatility of the hall.

Their application for staging will increase the uses the main hall can be put to, while the floor cleaner will make the venue easier to clean and maintain.

*"The funding we have received from the Hill of Towie Wind Farm Community Fund has made such a difference to our Community, by allowing us to purchase equipment, make improvements and to undertake projects, which we would have struggled to do."*

James Mark, Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust



## FUND GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### DECISION MAKING PANEL

This is the fourth year of the panel and in accordance with the constitution, two of the councillors have stepped down and replacements have been appointed – one for Keith Community Council and one for The Moray Council. Next year a further 2 community councillors will be replaced in the same way.

The panel continue to meet twice yearly to assess applications to the fund. Decisions are generally reached by consensus and discussion at panel meetings is felt to be a very useful part of the process. Demand on the fund has been particularly high this year, which has added a further challenge to the decision making process.

### APPLICATIONS PROCESS

Application forms are available for download on the REAP website ([www.reapscotland.org.uk](http://www.reapscotland.org.uk)) or hard copies can be collected from the REAP office or posted to applicants. Applicants can request help completing forms if they need, and new applicants are supported if necessary.

Applications are checked for completeness and supporting evidence before being passed to the panel. Applicants are informed of decisions promptly and unsuccessful applicants are signposted to other sources of funding and support wherever possible.



### ACCOUNTS

The grant fund of £86,120.28 for 2016 was received from RES in June. Bank interest from October 2015 to October 2016 totalled £41.84 and bank charges were £1.60. Bank interest rates will reduce in 2016 but the account will still bear some interest.

A total of 14 applications were received in rounds 7 and 8 totalling £95,790.06. This total includes the award to Botriphnie Primary School, granted subject to condition in round 8 and re-assessed at the round 9 meeting.

This left a balance of £30,004.67 as detailed overleaf.

**Hill of Towie Wind Farm Community Fund - INCOME & EXPENDITURE to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

Income				Expenses				End of Month Balance	
Date Received	method	Amount £	Income Details	Date Paid	method	Amount £	Expenditure Details	Month	Amount £
01 October 2015	via bank	3.21	A/c interest						
				15 October 2015	via bank	0.10	charges		
				15 October 2015	BACS	-866.00	Drummuir 21		
				26 October 2015	BACS	5500.00	Strathisla Pipe Band		
				26 October 2015	BACS	960.00	KCR Ltd		
				30 October 2015	BACS	1692.00	Botriphnie Primary Parents	October	31,479.01
01 November 2015	via bank	3.25	A/c interest	Round 7					
				10 November 2015	BACS	1500.00	Keith in Flower		
				16 November 2015	via bank	0.50	charges	November	29,981.76
01 December 2015	via bank	2.51	A/c interest						
				15 December 2015	via bank	0.10	charges	December	29,984.17
01 January 2016	via bank	2.54	A/c interest					January	29,986.71
01 February 2016	via bank	2.54	A/c interest					February	29,989.25
01 March 2016	via bank	2.38	A/c interest					March	29,991.63
01 April 2016	via bank	2.54	A/c interest					April	29,994.17
01 May 2016	via bank	2.45	A/c interest					May	29,996.62
27 May 2016	via bank	93,252.40	RES Grant						
				02 June 2016	BACS	7132.11	REAP Fee		
02 June 2016	via bank	4.66	A/c interest						
				10 June 2016	via bank	20000.00	Mulben Hall		
				13 June 2016	via bank	20000.00	Mulben Hall		

					16 June 2016	via bank	10000.00	Keith Golf Club		
					21 June 2016	via bank	583.20	Drummuir Community assoc.		
					21 June 2016	via bank	3844.00	D&B Community Trust		
					22 June 2016	via bank	999.99	TMSA Keith Festival		
					28 June 2016	via bank	800.00	Keith Rotary	June	59,894.38
01 July 2016	via bank	8.30	A/c interest						July	59,902.68
					07 July 2016	via bank	2006.21	D&B Community Trust		
					15 July 2016	via bank	0.80	charges		
01 August 2016	via bank	4.93	A/c interest						August	57,900.60
					15 August 2016	via bank	0.10	charges	September	57,900.50
					06 September 2016	via bank	7405.00	Keith Christmas Lights		
					19 September 2016	via bank	200.00	Botriphnie SWI		
01 Sept 2016	via bank	1.69	A/c interest							
01 Oct 2016	via bank	0.84	A/c interest							
					6 October 2016	via bank	15299.66	Botriphnie Primary Parents		
Year totals	TOTAL	93,294.24				TOTAL	97,057.77			
To date totals	TOTAL	444,987.68				TOTAL	414,983.01		Balance	30,004.67