



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

**Annual Report
Rounds 11 and 12**



COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Twenty-four applications were received for rounds 11 and 12 for a wide range of applications, from improvements to community buildings and outdoor spaces to equipment and running costs.

The round 11 Panel meeting was held in October 2017. Thirteen applications were considered. Eight applicants were awarded grants in full, 2 were awarded partial grants and 3 were declined due to demand on the fund. Those declined were invited to re-submit their applications to a future round.

At the round 12 meeting in June 2018, 11 applications were considered. Nine were awarded the grant applied for in full, 1 was awarded a partial grant and 1 was declined. One applicant later had to withdraw their application but may apply again in future. Total awards of £63,664.02 were made in the 2 rounds of funding.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Round 11

Keith 50+ Group	£199.99
Botriphnie Social Group	£200.00
KCR FM	£886.17
Drummuir 21	£10,000.00
Newmill Hall Committee	£2,123.00
Boharm Public Hall	£7,332.00
Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust	£409.20
Boharm Public Hall	£3,189.00
Boharm Public Hall	£8,319.66
Rrrrallye	£200.00
Total	£32,859.02

Round 12

Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust	£550.00
Keith Golf Club	£5,000.00
Keith Roller Bladers and Skaters	£3,000.00
Taylor Court Residents Association	£350.00
Keith Royal British Legion	£5,925.00
Botriphnie Primary Parent Council	£4,700.00
Keith & District Men's Shed	£13,000.00
Boharm Hall	£1,000.00
Keith & Strathisla Regeneration Partnership	£2,000.00
Total	£35,525.00

Keith 50+ Group was awarded £199.99 for a PA system

Keith 50+ group regularly has speakers attend their meeting. They applied for a PA system so that all members could benefit from the expertise or interest the speakers bring. Since purchase, the PA system has been regularly used and is working well.

Botriphnie Social Group was awarded £200 towards running costs

The social group paid for hall hire and speakers at their meetings with their £200 grant.

“Thanks to the HOT community fund for help with our running costs which have allowed us to increase our membership. We now have a membership of 23 who all regularly attend meetings, with an emphasis on education, friendship and fellowship.”

Botriphnie Social Group Treasurer

KCR FM was awarded £886.17 for outdoor broadcast equipment and feather flags



Keith Community Radio bought a new portable sound system, used at their events and loaned out to other community groups on request.

It was put straight into action at 'T in the Tent' run by a local Scout Group and Gordon Castle Highland Games. The feather flags increase the organisation's visibility when out and about.

Because the portable sound system was on special offer at the time of ordering, KCR promptly refunded £25.76 to the grant fund, taking their original grant award of £891.93 down to £886.17.

Drummuir 21 was awarded £10,000 for All Abilities paths restoration

This application was to restore the beginning of the path, leading from Botriphnie Kirk. A 'Paths for All' approved contractor carried out the work and Paths for All also offered technical assistance to the group. Moray Council installed a bench that was donated by a former Drummuir resident and the Council Ranger re-sited the path counter. The Drummuir 21 Chair said,

“The improved path is much appreciated. See footwear in photo....mud free, smooth path wide enough for 2 to walk side by side. Ranger reports a count of 6000 since March.”



Newmill Hall Committee was awarded £2,123 towards the cost of extending the biomass heating into the hall

The community biomass boiler has supplied heating to the nursery and small hall in Newmill Hall, as well as Newmill Primary School. Satisfied that the boiler had sufficient capacity to heat the main hall too, the hall committee set to finding funding for radiators and pipe work. The work was completed at a total cost of £9,826. The Chair of the Hall Committee said,



“We would like to thank the Hill of Towie for their very kind donation, which was used as part payment to extend the biomass heating into our main hall.

This is proving to be a great success with reduction in our electric bills.”

Boharm Public Hall was awarded £7,223.09 to refurbish the hall store, £1,000 for a noticeboard and £8,319.66 for Mulben Broadband

As well as continuing to refurbish and improve The Boharm Hall, the Committee asked the community what their priorities were and found slow broadband to be a widespread issue. Slow broadband speeds affect households, school pupils and businesses in rural communities. The Hall Committee agreed to apply for funding for improved broadband on behalf of the community. This also turned out to benefit the Hall, as explained by their Secretary:

“The Mulben Broadband is going very well. The Hall broadband is provided free, as we facilitated the scheme for them. At home, we are acting as a minor relay site for a further 4 properties.

All 3 permanent relay sites for which the hall secured funding for, are now in place. Take up has been very good. We are routinely getting 20mbps as download and 3mbps upload at the house, where the data is unlimited!”

Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust was awarded £409.20 for an advertising board



There are regular events at Drummuir Hall including film nights, fundraisers and other entertainment.

The Trust felt that purchasing a large, mobile advertising hoarding to promote these events to those driving past the village would be an easy way to let more people know what's on.

The Trustees said,

“We have had better attendance at our Quiz Nights and Film Nights and we have attributed this to positioning the two-sided board in a prominent position close to the Keith-Dufftown road.

This benefits the whole community as better attendance generates more income for use in the upkeep of the hall and other community projects.

Rrrrallye was awarded £200 towards running costs of the Rrrrallye Fun Day

Rrrrallye is a local charity set up to increase awareness in young people about road safety while driving, and to provide support and education for youngdrivers. It also aims to promote active citizenship in young people by encouraging them to become ambassadors in their community and demonstrating responsible and considerate driving behaviours.

Run by a small and very dedicated team, who fundraise tirelessly, including hosting an annual Fun Day. Being able to apply for some running costs allowed Team Rrrrallye to raise more funds to put towards the costs of driver training, including Youth Drive days for 14-17 year olds to learn safe driving skills.



Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Association was awarded £550.00 for village flowers

The hard-working volunteers of Drummuir once again put on a great show of village flowers and bought their plants from Greenfingers, a sustainable horticultural enterprise which provides training & work experience for adults who have limited access to employment.



Keith Golf Club was awarded £5,000 towards the cost of replacing the flat roof

A leak alerted members of Keith Golf Club committee to problems with the flat roof. On investigation it was discovered that the roofing material and insulation needed replacing.

Thanks to grant funding for a contractor and materials, supplemented by many hours of skilled volunteer labour from Club members, the Golf Club roof is looking smart and the roof insulation has been updated and ladies' locker room refurbished.

The improvements help attract and retain members, as well as delivering financial and environmental benefits through improved insulation.



The new flat roof and newly refurbished locker room

Keith Roller Bladers and Skaters were awarded £3,000 towards extending a half pipe

KeRBS are making good progress through their well thought out, phased approach to refurbishing the skate park and replacing ramps and half-pipes. The committee, a mixture of adults and young people, continues to work together, to fundraise and to apply for funding for this ambitious project. Their applications have been commended by the Panel, and they have also had success with a number of local and national funders, showing great commitment and determination.

The skate park has attracted young people from outside the area and Committee members have taken part in a mentoring scheme with a nearby Primary School and are looking for other, similar opportunities.

Taylor Court Residents Association was awarded £350 towards the cost of the residents' summer outing

Taylor Court is a sheltered housing complex in Keith that boasts a busy and active social committee. As well as putting on regular talks, music sessions and exercise sessions, the committee plan an annual trip. For the more frail residents who may not have family nearby, this is a grand chance to get out and about and enjoy a very sociable day.

Applying for grant funding means that the cost of the trip could be subsidised and therefore available to anyone who wanted to come. The committee was delighted to be awarded grant funding and are grateful to the funder and Decision Making Panel.

Keith Royal British Legion was awarded £5,925 towards the costs of refurbishing their kitchen

The Legion is a well-used venue. It is not only used by veterans and their families, but by many local organisations for fundraisers, classes and social events. The Legion is well known for its catering too, but the kitchen was in serious need of upgrading to comply with regulations and to make it more efficient to use.



Keith & District Men's Shed was awarded £13,000.00 for cladding their portacabin premises

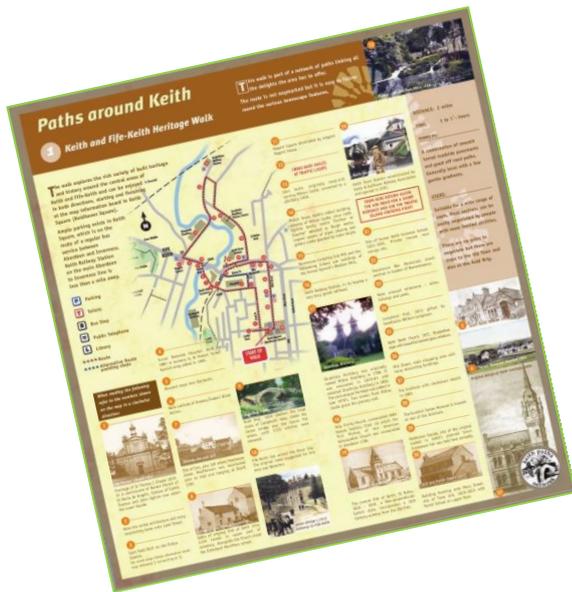


As the Men's Shed premises project progressed, it became clear that cladding the portacabins would improve their energy efficiency, as well as complying with Planning requirements.

The Planning application has been submitted and a suite of premises including a social area and a heated workshop.

Meanwhile the 'Shedders' continue to meet once a week at The Loft for the friendship, the banter and a mug of tea or coffee. Membership is open to all ages and there are currently over 30 members. They also carry out work in the community and continue to fundraise.

Keith & Strathisla Regeneration Partnership was awarded £2,000.00 to re-print 'Paths Around Keith' leaflets



The 'Paths Around Keith' leaflets have proved popular with visitors and residents alike over the last few years. In previous years the work of Keith & Strathisla Regeneration partnership was funded by Moray Towns Partnership but this funding came to an end in March 2018.

The leaflets had been updated and were ready to print. This grant fund will contribute to costs of a print run of 1000 copies of each of the 6 leaflets.

FUND GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

DECISION MAKING PANEL

The Panel is made up of local volunteers from the area of benefit of the fund. This year, it was the turn of the community representatives for Boharm and Botriphnie to stand down, three years since the last election. The role was advertised locally and a volunteer 'job description' was made available but both previous representatives were returned unopposed. We thank them, and all the Panel members for their hard work and diligence.

APPLICATIONS PROCESS AND SUPPORT

Application forms and guidance notes are always available to download from the REAP website. Hard copies are also available on request. The process is open and funding deadlines and grant awards are well publicised. A few commentators have noted the process as an example of good practice and we continue to review all documents and the aims and objectives regularly.

ACCOUNTS

The annual grant fund of £90,480.12 for 2018 was received from RES in June 2018. A total of 24 grants were awarded in rounds 11 and 12 totalling £63,664.02.