



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

**Annual Report
Rounds 13 & 14**



COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Twenty-three applications were received for rounds 13 and 14.

The round 13 Panel meeting was held on 24th October 2018. Eleven applications were considered and 10 were awarded in full with one declined with advice and an invitation to re-apply in future.

Twelve applications were received for round 14. At the Panel meeting on 22nd May 2019, 10 were awarded a full grant, one was declined and one amended application was deferred until the next round of funding to allow the Panel adequate time to consider a fairly recent amendment to their application. One applicant later had to withdraw their application due to unforeseen circumstances and will re-apply to a future round.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Round 13

Botriphnie Social Group	£200.00
Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust	£11,340.00
KCR.FM	£279.98
2nd Keith Scout Group	£2,500.00
1st Keith Guides	£4,371.53
Drummuir 21	£540.00
Botriphnie Primary Parent Council	£6,454.80
Mulben Scottish Country Dancing Club	£200.00
Boharm SWI	£200.00
Keith & Dufftown Railway	£1,836.00
Total	£27,922.31

Round 14

Keith Royal British Legion	£7,000.00
Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust	£1,716.99
Drummuir 21	£700.00
Boharm Public Hall	£17,742.00
Sunshine Developmental Playgroup	£200.00
Keith Country Dance Club	£200.00
The Loft Youth Project	£997.50
Keith Country Show	£10,000.00
Longmore Hall	£10,000.00
Total	£48,556.49

Round 13

Botriphnie Social Group was awarded £200 towards running Costs

Botriphnie Social Group has a full schedule with talks, demonstrations, trips and events each month. The grant covers the hall hire for meetings and some other costs and helps support this group. The group Secretary said, *“The Grant of £200 has allowed us to have another successful & enjoyable year. Other expenses were met by members through the annual subscription and a monthly raffle.”*

Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust was awarded £11,340 for setting up Community Broadband

In common with other local rural areas, the Broadband service in and around Drummuir is very poor. Some households had switched to alternatives such as mobile data (subject to patchy mobile signal coverage) or satellite which is costly. With so much reliance on getting online for everything from homework to running a business getting a reliable internet service and uncapped data was becoming more and more of a community priority.

The Treasurer of the Trust said, *“The Directors of DBCT researched various community broadband systems and it was decided that the Wi-Fi network broadband system would best suit the needs of the community.”*

The minimum number of subscribing households quickly signed up and a specialist, experienced company Scot-Tel Gould carried out the system installation. It was completed in April 2019. At that date, 13 households began benefitting from a faster and uncapped data service, with scope for more to join as their existing provider contracts ended.

KCR.FM was awarded £279.98 for CCTV



KCR has CCTV to keep an eye on their broadcasting equipment. The old system was becoming unreliable and had gaps in coverage in some areas.

The new system has 1 external and 3 internal cameras, which were installed by a KCR volunteer. Now all areas of the studio are covered by cameras, including the soundproof booth. This provides a good back up for lone workers.

2nd Keith Scout Group was awarded £2,500 to buy a trailer



The Scout group is confident this will be well used over the coming years to transport camping equipment safely and securely, as well as for other scouting activities

1st Keith Guides was awarded £4,371.53 for equipment for Camping and the Great Outdoors

Membership of 1st Keith Guides has grown and the Guide Troop goes from strength to strength. A vital part of the Guiding experience is going camping and it is important to have the right equipment – Guides can't go on official camps unless they have a checklist of basics including a mess tent and toilet facilities. A new applicant, 1st Keith Guides did a thorough job in applying and sought best value for money when picking their kit.

They said, "...thank you very much for the grant money we received which enabled us to buy our very own tents and kit required for camping. We have had two camps this year, one at Haddo, which our leader Claire organised and was delighted to receive her Guide camping license and then three of our Guides plus Claire were fortunate to accompany Girlguiding Gordon to Holland to the Jamboree for 12 days.

This money has enabled us to experience camping first hand and rest assured we are looking after our kit with great respect to ensure it serves Guides and leaders for many years to come."

Drummuir 21 was awarded £540 for a shelter for the Storyteller's Chair

A weatherproof shelter was built over the storyteller's chair in Drummuir to protect it and those gathered round for a story from the elements. Loch Park Rural Skills centre built the shelter with the help of their volunteers, providing good value for money.

The picture shows the Loch Park team that built the shelter and some Drummuir 21 volunteers enjoying it.



Botriphnie Primary Parent Council was awarded £6,454.80 for iPads for pupils

The Parent Council applied for funding for iPads, explaining the role they would play in helping develop pupils' digital literacy skills.

Since being purchased the iPads have been used in IT lessons, to set up a Code Club and learn how to programme, to access an online dictionary, to research information, take pictures and videos to share learning with parents and for using apps and educational games.

The School and Parent Council reported on the benefits of the iPads, the skills that pupils had attained and the types of activities they had used the iPads for, as well as how they link to the community and their future plans.

“We are keen to share our learning with parents and help them learn about how we use iPads to develop digital literacy skills as well as help us across the curriculum. We had the iPads set up at a Parents Evening for pupils to share what they had learned with their parents. We also asked parents to ‘sign up’ for more information about specific Apps and then gave them home extra info.



We are lucky to have an iPad per pupil at Botriphnie thanks to HOT Community Fund. Our learners are able to select and make use of high quality digital resources to support learning and engagement across the curriculum.”

Mulben Scottish Country Dancing Club was awarded £200 towards running costs

The dancers said, *“Thank you so much for awarding us a grant of £200 to allow us to stay solvent for the last 12 months. The money has been spent wisely on purchasing new CDs to dance to, ballroom chalk and costs towards the rental of our village Hall.*

We were fortunate to have good numbers at our summer socials, which boosted our funds a little. This together with the award has helped us to continue and we are hopeful that we can continue during the next season.”



Boharm SWI was awarded £200 towards running costs

Members' subscription fees go to the SWI so the costs for hall hire and speakers are met by a members' raffle and members supply free teas and coffees. Being able to apply for a contribution to running costs is a great help to this group. They said,

“We have gained some 2 new members during the last few months and hopefully numbers will continue to increase. We are organising an open meeting in April to encourage people to attend to see what we do and hopefully encourage them to join.

Once again many thanks from all of us for allowing us to continue and to expand our syllabus with new and interesting speakers.”

Keith & Dufftown Railway was awarded £1,836 for publishing ‘Fumac the Good's Adventures’ Book



Following the production of ‘Tales with Trains’ by local author, Ron Smith, the Railway applied for funding towards the cost of a book tying the adventures of local saint, Fumac, to the landscape and wildlife around the railway line.

The books are available for sale in the Railway shop at Keith Town Station and are intended to help with the Railway’s fundraising as well as entertaining passengers from near and far.

Round 14

Keith Royal British Legion was awarded £7,000 towards the costs of refurbishing the toilets

The Legion toilets were in need of refurbishment and, after successfully applying for funding towards the costs of kitchen refurbishment the loos were next on the list. The Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund was a major match funder of this work, along with other funders and some of the Legion's own funds.

Costs included joinery, plumbing, glazing and electrical works as well as new toilets and sinks. The before and after photos clearly show the transformation that has taken place.



Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust was awarded £1,716.99 for and public access defibrillator installation

The defibrillator was installed and two representatives from Kieran's Legacy delivered training to Trust members. This defibrillator is stored in a secure cabinet outside the hall so it is available 24/7. The key code is given out during a 999 call. As the Trust said, it's very much hope the defibrillator is never needed, but it is fantastic to have the security of it being there.

Drummuir 21 was awarded £700 for a St Fumac statue

The Management Committee and Members of Drummuir 21 thanked the Panel for the award of £700 to purchase a replacement statue of St Fumac. The statue was to be installed at Drummuir Station in time for St Fumac's Fair which was to have been held on Friday May 1st 2020. This year the Fair was to be organised by D21 and Botriphnie Primary School, with the children planning the Programme for the afternoon. However, plans were put on hold due to the coronavirus outbreak. The statue is safely in storage with its creator and a welcome party is planned once it is safe.

Boharm Public Hall was awarded £17,742 for railings and gates



The refurbishment of Boharm Hall has continued with replacement of the railings and gates and re-pointing of some of the walls around the car park.

This works follows on from the car park re-surfacing and parking bay markings, making the surrounds of the hall smart and secure.

Sunshine Developmental Playgroup was awarded £200 for being seen out and about

The grant of £200 from the above fund was used to purchase hoodies, fleeces and name badges for the staff.

Sunshine said,

“We will wear our fleeces when we take the children out for a walk and this will let everyone know that we are from Sunshine Playgroup. The badges will make us easily identifiable at any meetings or training events that we have to attend.”

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hill of Towie wind farm for the grant of £200.”



Keith Country Dance Club was awarded £200 towards running costs

Keith Country Dance Club said used their grant to pay towards hall hire and the costs of a teacher. They said, *“Thank you so much for awarding us a grant of £200 to allow us with running costs for the last 12 months. We have gained some new members during the last few months and hopefully numbers will continue to increase. We have had to increase fees slightly and this too will help to sustain our group.”*



The Loft Youth Project was awarded £997.50 for running a young people's Awards Group

The grant allowed the Loft Youth Project to fund an awards group, including staff time, national registration fees, certificates, stationary etc. The scheme is recognised as high quality and is a good way of providing young people with a sense of achievement and tangible record of their work towards the award. Sharon, the Loft Manager said, *"We are very grateful for the support of the Hill of Towie Wind Farm Fund, which allows us to extend the way we support and invest in our local young people."*

Keith Show was awarded £10,000 towards the costs of phase 2 of power distribution in the show ground

Keith Show runs on a not-for-profit basis and has held the annual show for over 140 years, as well as hosting other events throughout the year on the Seafield Park site. The show committee were able to bring a mains connection to the site and applied for funding to distribute this power supply throughout the show ground. The Hill of Towie Community Benefit fund provided 50% of the costs. Volunteers helped out with backfilling trenches.

Having a power supply throughout the site should make it more attractive to more users throughout the year, as well as reducing costs for the show and reducing the environmental impact of using generators.



Longmore Hall was awarded £10,000 towards the costs of stage drapes and hanging rails



Hall committee members and supporters take the stage

Since the Longmore Hall Committee took over running of the hall from the local authority, they have worked tirelessly to improve the amenity of the hall. It is one of the biggest venues in Keith, well-loved and a key part of the Keith year. This grant was used alongside grants from other funders to overhaul the stage, lighting and sound. Having a more versatile and up to date venue should lead to more hall hires and increased sustainability.

FUND GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Governance of the fund is overseen by a local volunteer Decision Making according to the fund aims and objective. All complete and eligible applications are assessed by Panel members and discussed at Decision Making meetings.

The fund is administered by REAP, a local environmental charity. REAP staff can assist with the application process and clarify any questions on the application form. All applications are screened for completeness, and advice is given to applicants where necessary. Application forms and guidance notes are always available on the website and hard copies are available on request.

Grants awarded are published on the REAP website, along with reports from successful applicants.

The fund is advertised in local venues, online and on social media. Press releases are sent to the local newspaper to advise when the next deadline is.

ACCOUNTS

The annual grant fund of £ 92,742.13 for 2019 was received from RES in June 2019.

A total of 18 grants totalling £76,478.80 were awarded in rounds 13 and 14, including some which were awarded only after the 2019 annual grant fund was received. Demand on the fund continues to remain high with almost all the annual grant awarded each year.