



Hill of Towie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

Annual Report

Rounds 9 & 10



COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The scheme is funded entirely by the wind farm developer RES. Interest in the fund has remained high with, as usual, a broad range of applications showing both social and environmental benefit. The Round 9 panel meeting was held on 28th September 2016 and Round 10 meeting was held on 24th May 2017.

Twenty applications were received in rounds 9 and 10, with a total value of £206,551.76. This included one application resubmitted from round 8. Two applications were declined, one from each round. One application was deferred with advice from the panel and encouragement to resubmit, but was later withdrawn after the applicant negotiated a different way of completing the work with the local authority.

Of the seventeen successful applications, fifteen were fully funded. Two were partially funded due to demand on the fund. Awards made totalled £86,709.76.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Round 9

Botriphnie Primary Parent Council: Outdoor Learning equipment	£15,299.66
Keith & Dufftown Railway Association: Install hand dryers	£1,500.00
Keith Rollerbladers & Skaters: Halfpipe	£3,896.11
Boharm Public Hall: Acoustics for hall	£2,500.00
4th Keith Brownie Pack: Residential Trip	£2,000.00
Total	£25,195.77

Round 10

Drummuir 21: Reprint of "Fumac the Good" book	£1,121.59
Keith Football Club: Disabled Spectator cover	£3,000.00
Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust: Village Flowers	£550.00
Boharm Public Hall: Digital Piano	£1,320.00
St Rufus Park Regeneration Group: Upgrade of St Rufus Park	£15,000.00
Boharm SWI: Annual outing	£325.00
Keith & District Sports Trust: Groundsman's Shed	£10,000.00
Keith Primary Frog Squad: Playground equipment	£5,000.00
Keith Grammar School Parent Council: MATE ROV trip	£3,000.00
Keith Men's Shed: Woodworking tools	£6,020.00
Boharm Public Hall: Paving around hall	£14,412.50
Boharm Public Hall: Car park markings and signs	£1,764.90
Total	£61,513.99

Botriphnie Primary Parent Council was awarded £15,299.66 for Outdoor Learning Equipment

As mentioned in 2016 annual report, The Primary Parent Council and head teacher were able to amend their application to meet the local authority's requirements and successfully applied for a range of outdoor learning equipment, a storage shed, and outdoor learning sessions for a specialist local provider, Earthtime. The partnership with Earthtime Forest Schools was such a success that a short programme was made for BBC Radio 4 outlining how the partnership was working together to develop outdoor learning provision at Botriphnie. Both children and staff featured in the radio programme, which was a great excitement for the school.



“Every second spent on the reflection and organisation for the successful application for outdoor equipment for Botriphnie Primary has been invaluable, in terms of enabling us to further develop our curriculum.”

Rachael Smith, Head Teacher Botriphnie and Newmill Primary Schools



We wanted to make our playground an exciting place for children where they can explore, create, collaborate, socialise and “simply be”, simultaneously helping them to develop as responsible citizens who will have a lifelong appreciation of their natural world and the type of community and world they would want to live in.

This is something we have been able to develop with the help of a grant from the Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund.”

Keith & Dufftown Railway Association was awarded £1,500 towards the cost of electric hand dryers



KDRA determined that with 8,000 train passengers per year and numerous other non-travelling visitors to the station, they were using tens of thousands of paper towels each year.

As waste hand towels went to landfill, the railway association looked for a greener solution and applied for funding for automatic hand dryers.

Steve Rhodes of Keith and Dufftown Railway said,

“We have completed the installation of the handy dryers in the toilets at Keith Town Station... These have been so successful that we have stopped the use of paper towels completely.”

Keith Rollerbladers, BMX and Skaters (KeRBS) awarded £3,896.11 towards the cost of a half-pipe



KeRBS have undertaken an ambitious project to renew and improve the skatepark in Keith. They have successfully applied for funding from a number of funders and continue to work hard fundraising at coffee mornings, bag packs and other activities. Young people are active on the committee and take care of the skate park with regular litter picks. They are very proud of their achievements to date and delighted to have installed the half-pipe.

The ramps installed are of high quality, are professionally installed and come with a manufacturers’ guarantee of up to 30 years so this funding is providing a long-lived community asset.

“We appreciate the continued support, assistance and information from the local community, youth workers and Moray Council.



We simply could not do what we have without their support and the support of The Hill of Towie Community Fund.”

Nicola Paton-Cruickshank, KeRBS

Boharm Public Hall was awarded £2,500 for acoustics for the hall, £1,320 for a digital piano, £1764.90 for car park markings and signage and £14,412.50 for paving around the hall

The upgrades and improvements to Boharm Public Hall continued this year. The hall had recently benefitted from a new sound system and to make the most of it, the hall committee applied for funds to install acoustic panelling in the hall. Quotes from specialist providers were obtained and Hill of Towie panel members from Drummuir & Botriphnie Community Trust were able to pass on recommendations from their experience with acoustic panelling installation in Drummuir hall.



Funding was also applied for to mark out parking bays and put in signage on the recently resurfaced car park, to make its use as safe and efficient as possible. The improved car park highlighted the fact the paving around the hall was in need of replacement. The new paving helps protect the building, as well as making access safer for hall users and for maintenance and repairs.



4th Keith Brownie Pack was awarded £2,000 towards the costs of a Residential Trip

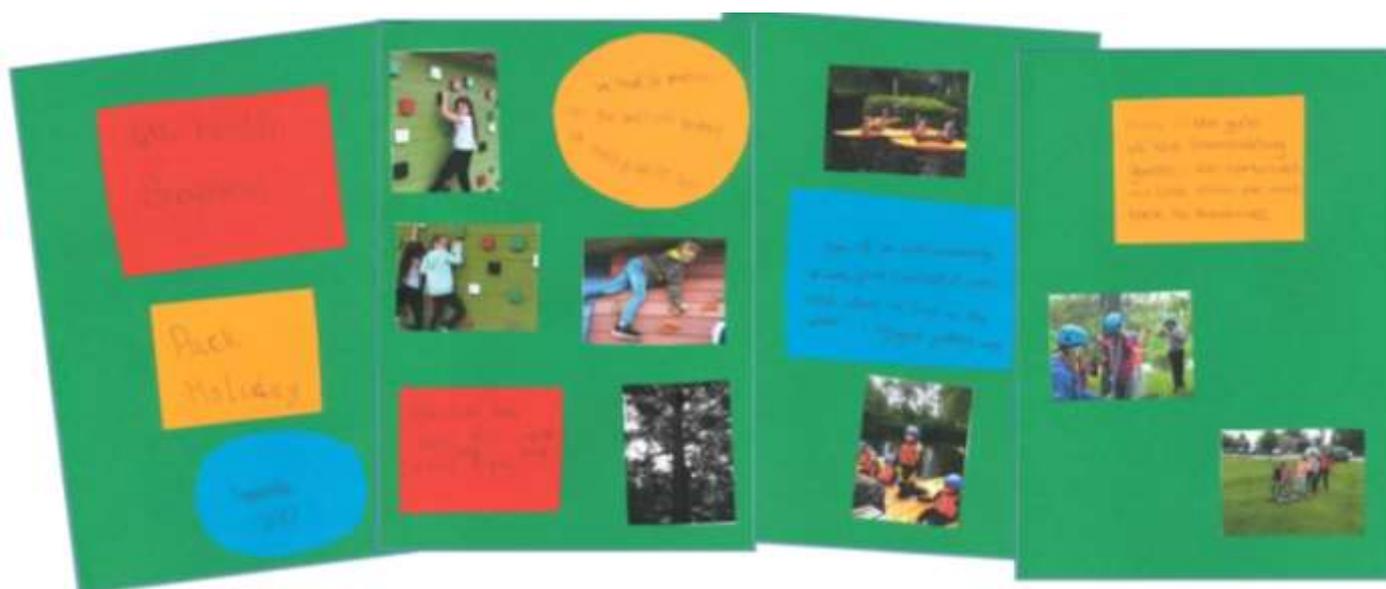
Funding was awarded subject to condition that the applicant provided some more details including where the trip would take place and how it would benefit the Brownies. Once the information was provided, the panel were able to award a grant to fund some of the costs to the trip, helping reduce the cost and allowing more Brownies to be able to attend.

The Brownies had a great time at Lagganalia Centre for Outdoor Learning, undertaking a wide range of activities with qualified leaders and building their skills and self-confidence. The aim of Lagganalia is to help individuals grow in confidence and develop personally through outdoor learning and adventures. The activities provided also tie in with the Curriculum for Excellence.

“Once again many thanks for the £2000 that 4th Keith Brownies received from the windfarm. The girls had a great time and this would not all have been possible without your help.”

Nicola Smith, 4th Keith Brownies

The Brownies produced a booklet about their trip, thanking the Community Benefit Fund too:



Drummuir 21 – awarded £1,121.59 for a reprint of ‘Fumac the Good’ book

According to local tradition, the parish of Botriphnie was home to St Fumac and a fair is held in his honour each year. Local author, Ron Smith, wrote a book about the story of St Fumac.

He found the book was still popular after many years and that people often asked for copies long after it had gone out of print. With a grant from the Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund, he was able to commission the original publishers to reprint it. Ron and other storytellers have been ‘on tour’ since.

“I have been asked to talk to Rothiemay and also Botriphnie primary schools, where the pupils have studied the book and are fascinated by the story”

Ron Smith, Author



Keith Football Club was awarded £3,000.00 for a disabled spectator shelter

Keith Football Club plan to build a steel framed disabled spectator shelter for the comfort of their spectators. The shelter has been purchased and the site is due to be cleared so it can be erected.

Drummuir Community Association was awarded £550.00 for village flowers

As in previous years, the hard work of a small army of volunteers was recognised, and funding was granted for village flowers in Drummuir. These are appreciated by residents, visitors and those just driving through.

Plants were again purchased from Greenfingers, a local enterprise that provides training and work experience for adults who have limited access to employment. They are well known for producing good quality plants at a fair price.



St Rufus Park Regeneration Group was awarded £15,000.00 towards the upgrade of the park

St Rufus Park Regeneration Group was established by a group of concerned community members who wanted to see improved facilities at a local playpark. The group became constituted and began to fundraise for improvements, including holding local fundraising events. They then drew up a detailed, phased plan to install a range of equipment for adults and children and for all abilities equipment. The local authority provided support to the group and agreed to install and maintain any purchased equipment.



Boharm SWI was awarded £325.00 towards the costs of an annual outing

Twenty-three ladies from both Drummuir and Boharm SWI had their annual outing at a private guided tour behind the scenes at Peterhead Prison Museum, followed by a high tea. Liz Harrop, the Boharm SWI secretary reported,

“The museum was an excellent choice and everyone had a great time. The [following] photograph shows all of us with the (now retired) prison officer, Jackie Stuart who was taken hostage during the riot of 1987.

Lots of history and gory stories were told which kept us all entertained. So thank you so much for awarding us the money to organise the coach and the conducted tour. It was a very good day enjoyed by everyone.”



Keith and District Sports Trust was awarded £10,000.00 towards the costs of a groundsman's shed

Despite challenging weather and unforeseen delays to their project, Keith & District Sports Trust are delighted with their new shed, which has markedly improved working conditions.

The shed will last for generations and will allow for the storage of more modern and effective machinery. Secretary David Ross said,

“We very much appreciate the support of the Hill of Towie Community Fund, which has enabled us to provide a facility far in excess of all expectations.”



Keith Primary Frog Squad was awarded £5,000.00 towards the costs of outdoor learning equipment

Suzanne Ross, Depute Head at Keith Primary said,

“The money we received from the Hill of Towie Wind Farm Community Fund was very much appreciated and has helped us further develop our playground space here at Keith primary School.”

We purchased a large shed with some of the money to enable us to store resources for our “Imagination Station”, where we are developing Loose Parts Play – encouraging the children to work and play outdoors, work collegiately, problem solve, get creative and have fun!

We also used the money to get a professional company in to lay playground markings down, which has not only helped to brighten up our playground space but has provided us with lots of exciting games to play with and learn from.



On behalf of all the pupils and staff of Keith Primary School, we would like to thank the Hill of Towie Wind Farm Community Fund for providing us with such a generous grant, enabling us to make our playground a more positive and exciting place for all. Thank you!"

Keith Grammar School Parent Council was awarded £3,000.00 towards the cost of a trip to USA with the MATE R.O.V programme

The MATE R.O.V. team did well and there are plans to build on and develop this work. They sent a detailed report to all their funders and sponsors about their whole time away, their R.O.V vehicle being delayed for a day at Heathrow and everything they got up to during the competition and socially. They said,

“We are writing to you to thank you for your contribution in raising money to fund our trip to Long Beach, California. Your money helped us a lot with the flights and the R.O.V itself and getting it to California. Altogether we scored 437 points which landed us 11th out of 45. It was a great experience for everyone and we all hope that we can win the regional again next year so we can take part in MATE ROV Competition in Seattle 2018. We have made a lot of progress since arriving home. We have been given the tasks set for next year so we are developing new tools and arms to suit our new requirements”



Keith & District Men’s Shed was awarded £6,020.00 for woodworking tools

The Men’s Shed has purchased a workshop package to enable them to carry out repairs and manufacture wooden items for other community projects. The package consists of a saw bench, planer thicknesser, bandsaw, bench pillar drill, belt and disc sander and a cyclone dust extractor. They will be installed in the new premises just as soon as Planning requirements have been met.

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.

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.

APPLICATIONS PROCESS AND SUPPORT

Applications are available on the REAP website all year round, and hard copies can be collected or posted to applicants on request.

REAP are keen to be seen as the friendly face of funding applications and are happy to answer questions and provide support with funding applications. REAP staff check forms for completeness and will get back to applicants to request any missing information, missing signatures or contact information etc. For this reason, we always advise getting applications in well ahead of the deadline. Applications can be submitted any time of year and will be discussed at the next available panel meeting.

Unsuccessful applicants are given feedback, constructive criticism and signposting to other sources of support and to potential other funders. In some cases, applications are declined purely due to lack of funds. If this is the case applicants are encouraged to re-submit applications in future, as well as being directed to other funders meantime. Just some of our feedback over the last year is:

ACCOUNTS

The grant fund of £88,273.29 for 2017 was received from RES in July. Bank interest from October 2016 to October 2017 totalled £17.88 and bank charges were £2.10

A total of 17 grants were awarded in rounds 9 and 10 totalling £86,709.766. 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 £46,879.73 as detailed overleaf.

Hill of Towie Wind Farm Community Fund - INCOME & EXPENDITURE October 16 to October 2017							
Income			Expenses				
					Balance to open		£45,300.41
Date	Amount	Type	Date	Amount	Payee		Balance
01/10/2016	£3.92	interest					
			06/10/2016	£15,299.66	Botriphnie Primary Parents		£30,009.58
			11/10/2016	£1,500.00	KDRA		
			11/10/2016	£3,896.11	KERBS		
			17/10/2016	£0.30	charges		
			19/10/2016	£2,500.00	Boharm Public Hall	Oct	£22,108.26
01/11/2016	£1.69	interest					
			09/11/2016	£2,000.00	4th Keith Brownies		
			15/11/2016	£0.40	charges	Nov	£20,109.55
01/12/2016	£0.84	interest				Dec	£20,110.39
			15/12/2016	£0.10	charges		
01/01/2017	£0.85	interest				Jan	£20,111.14
01/02/2017	£0.85	interest				Feb	£20,111.99
01/03/2017	£0.78	interest				Mar	£20,112.77
01/04/2017	£0.85	interest				Apr	£20,113.62
01/05/2017	£0.83	interest				May	£20,114.45
01/06/2017	£0.85	interest					
			05/06/2017	£1,121.59	Drummuir 21		
			08/06/2017	£550.00	D&BCT		
			08/06/2017	£1,320.00	Boharm Public Hall		
			08/06/2017	£1,764.90	Boharm Public Hall		
			16/06/2017	£3,000.00	Keith Grammar Parents	June	£12,358.81
01/07/2017	£0.61	interest					
13/07/2017	£95,583.71	RES grant					
			14/07/2017	£5,000.00	Frog Squad KPS		
			14/07/2017	£15,000.00	St Rufus Park Regen		
			17/07/2017	£0.50	charges		
			17/07/2017	£14,412.50	Boharm Public Hall		
			18/07/2017	£10,000.00	Keith Sports Trust		
			18/07/2017	£6,020.00	Keith Men's Shed		
			19/07/2017	£7,310.41	REAP fee	July	£50,199.72
01/08/2017	£1.79	interest					
			15/08/2017	£0.60	charges		
			23/08/2017	£3,000.00	Keith Football Club	Aug	£47,200.91
01/09/2017	£2.09	interest					
			14/09/2017	£325.00	Boharm WRI		
			15/09/2017	£0.10	charges		
01/10/2017	£1.93	interest				Sep	£46,879.83
			16/10/2017	£0.10	charges	Oct	£46,879.73