

# News Update

## Todhill Larbert Stenhousemuir & Torwood Wind Farm Fund

April 2017



### Introducing the Fund

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The Todhill (Larbert, Stenhousemuir & Torwood) Community Wind Farm Fund is provided by Falkirk Tod Hill Wind Limited, the owner of 11.4MW Todhill wind farm.

The overall purpose of the Todhill LST Wind Farm Fund is to preserve and develop LST as a great, friendly place to live, supporting activity that improves the look and feel of the area, brings people together and enhances the community for future generations.

In 2015 the Larbert, Stenhousemuir & Torwood Community Council secured a grant to commission a **Community Action Plan**. The plan identified some long term goals for the area and which were adopted as the

- To improve the physical appearance of our community (including the town centre) and make better use of our public spaces;
- To develop our community services, events and facilities to better meet the diverse needs of local people;

- To preserve and enhance the natural environment for the benefit of those who live in the area;
- To build the skills, capacity and sustainability of our community organisations.

During the first two years of the Fund a total of £48,168 was received from the wind farm owner for distribution through the Fund. This money is administered on the behalf of the community by Foundation Scotland, a national grant making charity. Foundation Scotland assesses applications for the Panel which then reviews the assessments and makes decisions on awards. Foundation Scotland then manages all the grant-making.

Over the first two years of the Fund £40,100 has been distributed. Grants can support a wide range of project costs including equipment; running costs for local groups; staff or sessional workers costs; consultations; maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities or other project / activity development or implementation costs.

## Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council – micro-grants scheme

The balance of funds will be added to the next payment so unspent money is not 'lost'.

A local **Panel of 14 people** has met four times to establish the Fund and make decisions on the first awards.

Current Panel members are Colleen Hurren, Peter Henderson, Brian Liddle, Denis Shovlin, Steph Toms, Lauralin Scott, Scott Henderson, Ken Drummond, Derek Fraser, Mhairi Coleman, Evelyn Kidd, Frances Sharp, Jim Kelly, Anneliese Archibald.

We thank them all for their hard work in the Fund's initial two years.

There will be Community Council elections in October 2017 so we anticipate losing some of the current Panel but will discuss succession and the next round of Panel recruitment at a forthcoming meeting.

During the year in an effort to raise the profile of the Fund the Panel asked Larbert High School students for ideas for a **Fund logo** that Panel members shortlisted, and which were then put to a public vote. The winning logo will appear on future Fund material.



In order to achieve greater reach by the Fund into the community an annual award is offered to the Community Council for it to make awards (micro-grants) to individuals and non-constituted groups. This award is £1,500 and annual installments are paid to the Community Council which administers the micro-grants. As with the main Fund, all awards must be for activities that are charitable in nature.

Applications for up to £250 are made to the Community Council by letter and must set out the nature of the proposed activity / expenditure, amount requested, and anticipated benefit to the community. Each application is discussed and a decision made at the subsequent Community Council meeting. A cheque is issued to successful applicants by the Community Council.

The micro-grant scheme is promoted through word of mouth, the website and Facebook page and at Community Council meetings.

Just 3 awards have been made since the micro-grant scheme opened and the Community Council is keen to invite more applications at any time!

## How has the money been spent ?

The 12 awards made in Years 1 and 2 were used to support a variety of activities. The 'leverage' figure is the amount of other funds secured by the group to proceed with the project. It is always encouraging to see how a local community fund is helping 'bring in' other money to the community and/or helping a group reach its total project cost.

Applicant	Amount Awarded	Project Cost	Leverage	Grant Summary
<b>Preserves and enhances the natural environment for the benefit of those who live in the area</b>				
Torwood Community Woodland Group	£3,150	£8,900	65%	To improve and upgrade sections of core paths through the woodland.
Communities Along the Carron Association (CATCA)	£5,000	£40,000	88%	To contribute to the cost of creating a memorial for the Dorrator Bridge in the Larbert area.
<b>Improves the physical appearance of the community (including the town centre) and makes better use of our public space</b>				
89th Stenhousemuir Scout Group (part award)	£1,940	£1,940	0%	To build four raised beds at the front of the scout hall (and to replace the two toilets in the hall).
Stenhousemuir Primary School Parent Teacher Association	£5,000	£7,191	31%	To extend the newly installed trim trail outside the grounds of Stenhousemuir Primary School.
Dobbie Hall Trust	£5,000	£5,500	9%	To upgrade and redecorate the main entrance hall of Dobbie Hall
<b>Develops community services, events and facilities to better meet the diverse needs of local people</b>				
Tryst Community Sports Club	£5,000	£5,000	0%	To install a community shelter at the Larbert Legacy Cycle project.
Tryst Community Sports Club	£4,500	£5,500	18%	To support a growing and developing a Junior Cycling Club by covering the costs of 6 new bikes and other critical equipment, coaching courses and volunteer costs.
89th Stenhousemuir Scout Group (part award)	£1,940	£2,190	11%	(To build four raised beds at the front of the scout hall and) to replace the two toilets in the hall.
Larbert Old Playgroup	£250	£250	0%	To contribute to the overall service of the playgroup provided throughout the year.
Larbert, Stenhousemuir & Torwood Community	£1,500	£1,500	0%	To provide a micro grant scheme within the area

Applicant	Amount Awarded	Project Cost	Leverage	Grant Summary
Council				
Forth Valley Broadcasting Service (Radio Royal)	£5,000	£23,869	79%	To contribute to the cost of upgrading the group's equipment and core annual costs.
1 <sup>st</sup> Larbert Boys Brigade	£1,260	£1,260	0%	To purchase a projector, laptop and printer.
<b>Building the skills, capacity and sustainability of community organisations serving the area.</b>				
Stenhousemuir Football Club	£2500	£7000	64%	To support the club's mental health football group, Falkirk Users Soccer Experience with transport, coaching and kit costs.

### Tryst Community Sports Club reports that:

*The group purchased a teen shelter for the Larbert Legacy Cycle project, which has been used by 500 people across a number of groups since it was installed in February 2017. The shelter provides a place where people can watch demonstrations, record information or listen to teacher instructions. Falkirk Junior Bike Club use it when giving safety briefings at weekly meetings as it provides a clear view of the majority of the site. It is also an ideal place to store kit bags and valuables out of inclement weather. Pupils have regained a positive approach to cycling activities in wet weather as they are able to shelter out of the elements when waiting their turn. Primary school students have a sense of the shelter as their meeting point, which allows them to better identify with the safety aspects of the activities taking place. It has been a welcome addition as it was highlighted in the original pupil consultation as a desirable part of the project. In addition to use by local schools, the shelter is accessible to the wider community*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Larbert Boys Brigade reports that:

*The laptop brings with it many more benefits than just the connection to the projector. Previously, we used laptops belonging to staff to process paper work or create resources that are later used during our meeting nights. With a dedicated laptop, we can share the resource amongst the staff bring this work more in house without worrying about mixing Boys' Brigade data with personal data. It has also allowed the more senior boys to research topics for their Queen's Badge course and write up reports which they will later submit as part of their Queen's Badge Book. This has an added benefit of promoting one of the organisations key aims of inclusion, to help those boys who may need additional support as they may not be comfortable writing directly into their books....Although it is still early days, we have made good use of the equipment. The general attitude of the boys has improved and they are now becoming more involved. By reducing the work involved in setting up lessons and discussion and adapting a more modern approach, we as a company can spend more time interacting with each other and furthering the aims of the organisation.*

### Plans for 2017

The next closing date is **25<sup>th</sup> August 2017** with a decision expected in October. For more information visit <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/todhill>