

East Kintyre Windfarm Trust Annual Report 2020

Throughout the reporting period 2019/20, East Kintyre Community Council (EKCC) consisted of 6 elected members and 2 co-opted member. These members, along with 3 independent trustees, make up East Kintyre Windfarm Trust.

During the financial year ending 31 March 2020, EKWFT received £55,795 in grant payments from Argyll & Bute Council in relation to Beinn an Tuirc 1 & 2 and Deucheran Windfarms. In addition, EKWFT received £2983 from SSE in relation to Tangy 2 Windfarm.

A total of 28 applications for grant funding were received during the year with 22 being approved and 6 refused. All grants agreed, totalling £43,861, were funded in full. However, by the end of the financial year, only £29,575 had been paid out in grants as two larger projects remained unpaid until into the next financial year (Seneval Composting Project and the Hub/Shop consultant's fees).

EKCC owns a significant area of land that includes football and cricket pitches, a play park and fields rented for the grazing of horses. The upkeep of this land and the community facilities built on it requires continuous maintenance and occasional capital costs. During the year a refurbished sit-on mower was purchased and much of the fencing surrounding the fields was replaced. The trust also met the cost of cutting the grass on the pitches and play park.

Although sitting on private land, the trust also funded the building of a new footbridge to connect local footpaths to Carradale Bay, after the existing one was washed away during a storm tide. The beneficiaries of this small project are local residents and visitors who would have difficulty accessing the beach from the East side of Carradale without the bridge.

With 44% of the East Kintyre community over the age of 65, many of the grants made were targeted at this group. Grants made included ones to Shopper-Aide, Carradale Surgery Patient Group, Carradale Medical Equipment Fund, the local Tai Chi Group and Carradale Community Trust First Responders for the installation of a defibrillator box.

The younger generation were also supported with grants made to the Baby & Toddler Group keep fit classes, the local football club, the Play Park Group organised fireworks display and Carradale Music Festival.

Important and popular community assets such as Campbeltown Picture House, which is well frequented by the residents of East Kintyre, and local village halls were also supported with grants. With an eye to the future funding of larger legacy community projects, the trust also made a grant to the East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group, who look to explore options for community shared ownership in new renewable developments in kintyre. This is very much in line with recently published Scottish Government guidance which strongly encourages communities to engage with developers to secure such partnerships.

As grant funding has increased, trustees of EKWFT have sought to support larger projects which are more likely to deliver long term benefits to the community. A development fund, to help finance such community projects, was established in 2016 and currently has a balance of £59,074. Trustees have recently agreed to a grant of £40,000 towards the refurbishment of a community shop, which is conditional on the Scottish Land Fund agreeing to the purchase of the proposed premises to be renovated and adjacent land. If this goes through, it will be the largest grant ever made by EKWFT.

Each year, 10% of all community benefit funds received are transferred into a retention fund (2 bank term deposit accounts) for use by future generations. At 31 March 2020 it had a balance of £55,387.

Wherever possible, trustees look for evidence of match funding from applicants, although a degree of flexibility is often necessary as it becomes increasingly difficult for them to obtain such funding.

NOTE - This report should be read in conjunction with the attached audited accounts.

Alasdair Bennett
Secretary & Treasurer
East Kintyre Windfarm Trust