

WEST KINTYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WINDFARM TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Due to the ongoing restrictions throughout the year, it has been another difficult year for groups wishing to access funding for their development, and for further development of the Community Action Plan. Both the April and October tranches of funding applications saw several applications withdrawn due to the inability to either use local facilities or access such services as builders and other services. However, we were able to help those who were able to operate such as the Kintyre Way, plus supported those groups such as “Shopper Aide”, The Kintyre Food Bank and Friends of Tarbert with funds to support their increased workload due to the pandemic.

The Trust receives funding from five windfarms in the area namely Tangy 1 & 2, Beinn an Tuirc 1 & 2 and Duecheran, with the total funding received covered by the financial year spanning 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 being £99,760.10.

The pandemic restrictions resulted in a significant increase of residents in the area needing to isolate, and “stay at home” which necessitated in “shopper Aide” needing to increase its services of shopping and deliveries to those in need. We were pleased to be able to assist with the increased costs to this vital charity by helping to pay for adaptations to their vehicles to enable them to carry increased amounts of shopping, plus set up a telephone “buddy” service to ensure people were not feeling totally isolated. With our funding help “Shopper -Aide” also set up weekly online quizzes for those wishing to join in which proved to be a great success.

Other funding support also saw Rhunahaorine primary school given funding for an excellent extra-curricular learning opportunity for all pupils in the school. This enabled professional animators and story tellers assist each child to learn the computer skills needed to design their own short, animated film. When the project is completed, they will hold a mini “Oscars” event in Campbeltown picture house where their films will be shown to parents, grandparents and the wider public. Due to school closures during the “lockdown” period this work was put on hold but will be ongoing when schools re-commence in the Autumn with the event planned for later this year or early next year.

The fund has also helped the Mixed Martial Arts Centre in Campbeltown to continue to operate by helping with funding to buy the premises they were leasing when the owner put it on the market and gave them notice to quit. With no other suitable venue, it was felt important that our that young people living in a remote rural community should not be disadvantaged by no longer being able to learn the skills and self-control such a club helps to develop and take forward into their future lives. The club also trains people to the level of certified instructors and leadership with 4 young people currently undergoing this training.

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The Community Council continues to operate and maintain the toilets at Tayinloan ferry terminal, which has since re-opening post lockdown, proven to be an even more vital service this year due to the number of “stay-cations” over the past few weeks.

Following a wave of rescues due to people being caught in riptides at Westport beach we have installed several signs explaining what to do and who to contact in emergency if caught in such an event. Such information is important especially to those visitors not used to such phenomena when the sea looks calm and inviting.

Due to the pandemic the Community Councils planned development of toilets and shower facilities at Westport Beach has unfortunately not commenced. We do however intend to use up to 50k to develop this area as a long-term legacy project so vital to this important beach area for both residents, tourists, and surfers from all over the world. We are currently awaiting dates from architects as to when they can meet with us to start the design and planning process with the relevant parties involved.

We have recently held the first tranche of funding rounds for 2021 which saw applications significantly pick up and will be shown in next year’s report.