

WEST KINTYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WINDFARM TRUST

Annual report 2104

We currently receive monies from three different power companies for three different Windfarms. Beinn an Tuirc and Deucharan Windfarms money is shared between ourselves and East Kintyre, and the monies received from the third Windfarm - Tangy being ring fenced for projects within the Tangy and Kilkenzie area.

We hold disbursement meetings twice yearly in April and October. As in previous years we have helped to support and fund a wide variety of projects such as funding of the drainage of a village sports field, ploughing matches, help with renewals and maintenance of various village halls within our area, help towards the costs of essential rewiring of ancient buildings such as Glen Barr Abbey, help with transport costs for outings and activities for the three Primary Schools within our area, and assistance with equipment costs for clubs and associations within the area to name but a few. Since they were threatened with closure some years ago we the Community Council, also seek funding from the trust to enable us to keep the toilets at Tayinloan ferry terminal open for tourists and locals alike. However, we are currently in discussion with A & B Council regarding a partnership agreement for these toilets which will we hope in the future free up money from the Windfarm trust for other projects within our community.

It is noticeable that increasingly applications are for the full amount of projects rather than for part funding, as it would effectively mean others could receive no funding we are trying to discourage this. However, if an application is for a new project with no other funding stream it we will look upon it in a more favourable way to enable it to progress.

The strict criteria we have to work with when disbursing funds from Tangy Windfarm continues to be problematical as the communities are small and do not always apply for funding due to lack of projects. However, we always look at whether or not those residing within these two communities might benefit from other applications from outwith their area and use some of the funds accordingly.

Where it is shown that people residing in our area will benefit, we award grants from applications received from outwith our area. Examples of this are The Picture House, Campbeltown, The soft play area in Campbeltown, Argyll FM and Tarbert Academy, where children from Tayinloan to Whitehouse attend secondary school.

Lower interest rates continue to affect our reserve accounts but we still maintain these at 10% plus.

Issues

We have some concerns surrounding the timing of the payments from the umbrella fund. This continues to be slow - for instance as of 8th October, we have only received one grant yet have a disbursement meeting scheduled for 20th October. This makes the decision process for trust members increasingly difficult, as we are unsure of the amounts we have for applications received.

With Tangy Windfarm currently in the process of applying for planning permission to re-power, well within the original 25 years we expected, we are unsure what will happen to the current agreement regarding grants for this particular Windfarm trust.

M. Pratt - Convenor WKCC