

Fund Report



Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company

Year 2

This report covers awards made through the Fund from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017



Introduction

Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company (ANCBC) is funded by ScottishPower Renewables community benefit fund for Harestanes windfarm in Dumfries and Galloway. The fund primarily supports projects located within or directly benefiting one or more of 42 community council areas in Annandale and Nithsdale.

ANCBC is a company limited by guarantee with a voluntary Board of twelve directors elected from the membership. Members are nominated by each of the community councils within the area of benefit.

Foundation Scotland manages the grant-making process on behalf of the company and supports the ANCBC board.

It is anticipated that £300,000, index linked, will be made available for distribution annually.

ANCBC will support charitable activities that support the rural regeneration and sustainability of communities within the area of benefit.

Awards can support a wide range of costs and activities including equipment, running costs for local groups, staff or sessional worker costs, consultations, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities and capital costs to purchase or develop community assets.

Applications which address any of the following issues are particularly welcome:

- Community facilities, services, rural transport, affordable housing, community development
- Community or local events
- Environmental projects
- Heritage
- Skills, employment, tourism, reducing poverty and disadvantage, improving rural business opportunities, building the capacity of community and voluntary organisations, supporting innovation and social enterprise
- Sport, recreation and improving the health of residents
- Youth and education, tackling out migration of young people, achieving parity with national educational attainment levels
- Promoting care and support of vulnerable people; improving community safety.

Financial Statement

Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company

Statement Period: 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017

Opening Balance **£90,871.25**

Income

ScottishPower Renewables £307,870.01

Bank Interest and Compensation £583.50

Sub Total **£308,453.51**

Expenditure

Payment of Community Council Grants £50,000.00

Grants released in period £115,641.25

Grants to be released £105,460.00

Sub Total **£271,101.25**

Fund Expenses

Support Costs (1/3/16 to 28/2/2017) 15/09/16 £21,000.00

Support Costs (1/3/17 to 28/2/2018) 07/03/17 £24,000.00

Governance Costs £2,327.09

Sub Total **£47,327.09**

Total funds available as at 31st March 2017

£80,896.42

Fund Overview

ANCBC registered as a company in November 2014 and the Board has been meeting regularly since. The Board is supported by Foundation Scotland.

ANCBC receives an annual donation from ScottishPower Renewables of c.£300,000. The Fund is split between open grant making and Local Grants. Each constituted Community Council in the area of benefit is eligible to apply for an annual grant of up to £2,000 to respond to a locally identified need from a community group for a project that will clearly demonstrate a community benefit. Allowing decisions to be made locally and appropriately by Community Councils. During year two 25 community Councils claimed their Local Grant, which meant £50,000 of the fund was allocated to Local Grants.

The Fund was experiencing exceptionally high demand towards the end of year one. To help address this, the ANCBC Board made some changes to the fund criteria during the year. These changes included limiting organisations to one application per annum, reducing the maximum amount of award to £20,000 and introducing a requirement for match funding.

Between April 2016 and March 2017, ANCBC distributed £221,101.25 through open grant making to deliver 24 projects which represented 72% of the 2016/17 total fund income of £308,392.84. There were 64 approaches during this period, however, 7 were withdrawn and one was a large grant enquiry which did not convert to an application, leaving 56 applications giving a conversion rate of 43%.

There were 9 awards made of between £500 and £5,000; 15 between £5,001 and £20,000.

The 24 projects funded by ANCBC covered a diverse range of community initiatives across Annandale and Nithsdale.

The largest grants of £20,000 were awarded to three organisations; Lochmaben Amateur Football Club, towards building a sports pavilion; Bankfoot House (Moffat) Ltd towards building an extension that will accommodate 6 residents and to Dumfries Baptist Church to contribute towards the costs of a cafe and catering kitchen in their new community centre.

Other large grants awarded were towards an emergency food project, upgrades to community facilities and towards volunteer support costs.

Throughout the year small grants (between £500 and £5,000) were awarded towards supporting local events, creating sensory gardens, training and mentoring.

In total 32 applications were rejected for a number of reasons including the applicant having overly high reserves, the project delivering insufficient benefit to the community and ineligible projects as well as the high level of demand on the fund.

The average award over the report period was £9,213, a reduction from £12,677 in the first year. The total value of projects funded (all funding sources) was £6,114,679 giving a leverage ratio of 3.6%; for every £1 awarded from the fund, a further £26.66 was raised from elsewhere. This was an increase on year one when each pound was matched with £19.39

Four Projects in Annandale were awarded a total of £42,480 (19% of funds awarded), while 20 projects in Nithsdale were awarded £178,621.25 in total (81% of funds awarded). One of the Nithsdale projects to support young people also had some beneficiaries in Annandale.

Awards during year 2

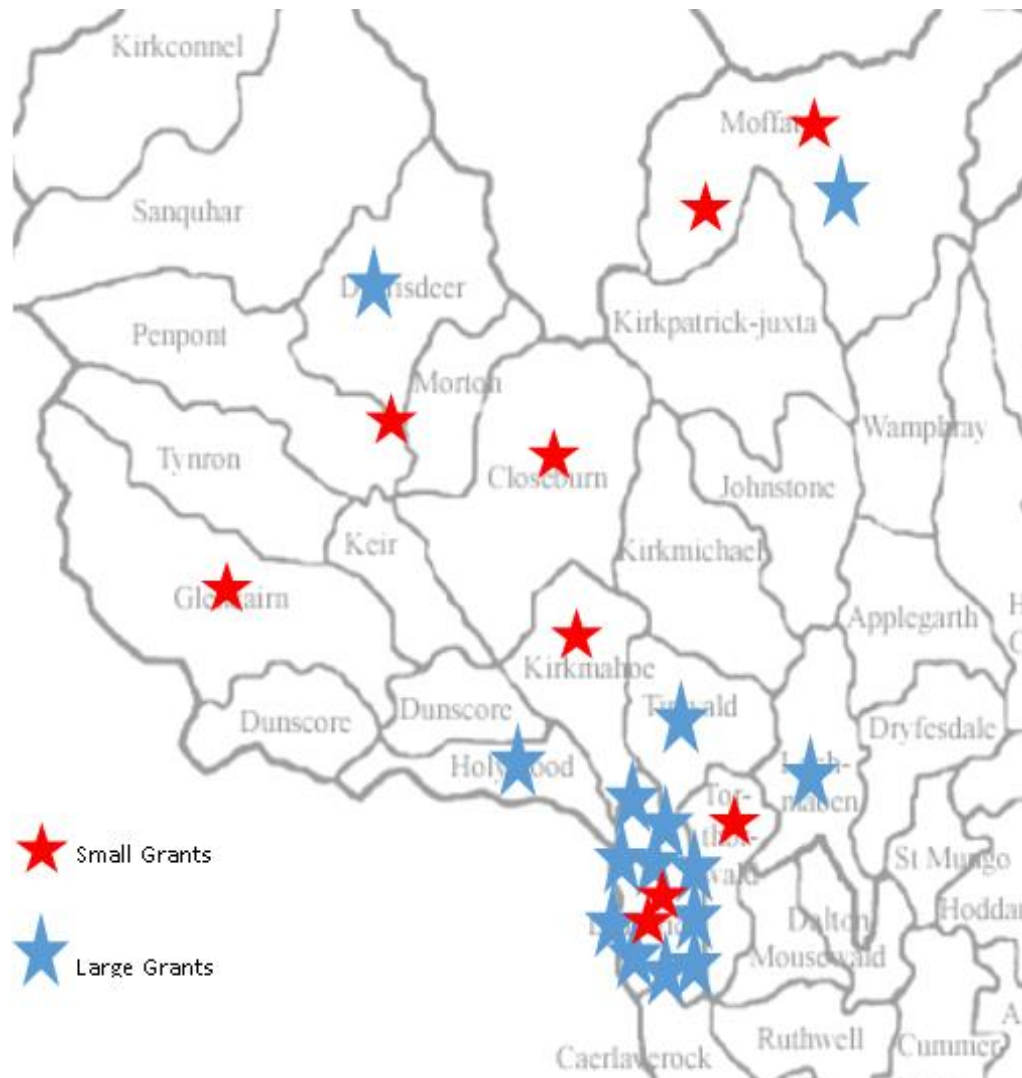
The 24 awards made in Year two were used to support a variety of activities as follows:

Ref.	Applicant	Amount Awarded	project cost	Leverage	Grant Summary
A389655	Food Train	£6,000	£12,819	49%	To purchase an additional delivery van for the Nithsdale Food Train branch.
A396500	Moniaive Michaelmas Bluegrass Festival	£1,000	£13,635	7%	To pay for hire of festival venue, campsite hire and accommodation for performers.
A397019	Durisdeer Village Committee	£13,470	£26,940	50%	To contribute to the drainage, groundwork and tarring of Durisdeer Hall car park and entrance and the creation of a tarred footpath from the kitchen to the outdoor area used for events.
A399021	Tinwald Parish Hall Committee	£9,667	£12,367	78%	To replace the existing doors with better-fitting glazed units and create a slated canopy over a sandstone-block columned support.
A399114	Aberlour Child Care Trust	£15,000	£489,664	3%	To pay for a 'Young Person's Worker' to support young people aged 11-17, who are experiencing social, emotional and/or behavioural difficulties that impact on their education and are referred to the service in the Annandale and Nithsdale areas.
A399130	Closeburn Gala Fundraising Committee	£3,000	£9,547	31%	To contribute towards the costs of organising and running events during Closeburn Gala week.
A410535	Patrick Dudgeon Memorial Hall	£9,000	£26,671	34%	To carry out drainage works and flood control following flooding in January 2016.
A410726	Lincluden Community Centre Management Committee	£7,500	£12,371	61%	To upgrade the old heating system.
A411111	Hollywood Village Hall Association	£13,889	£27,778	50%	To create a designated parking area for Hollywood Village Hall

A411162	Calside School Parent Council	£2,000	£12,880	16%	To improve the school's playground and green area and to create a 'sensory garden', with particular focus on children with additional needs.
A411183	Moffat Show Society	£1,980	£1,980	100%	To purchase 15 galvanised sheep pen gate storage stillages.
A417838	Electric Theatre Workshop	£5,000	£65,000	8%	To establish a community hub model of participation in the arts. This will be done by recruiting and training 8 community leaders, youth leaders and mentors to work in communities across Dumfries.
A418304	Lochmaben Amateur Football Club	£20,000	£139,000	14%	To build a sports pavilion for Lochmaben Football Club.
A419366	First Base Agency	£18,000	£216,000	8%	To support the continuing growth of the First Base Emergency Food Project.
A419517	Torthorwald Community Council	£1,922.25	£3,257	59%	To contribute towards the costs of 2 community events and a community newsletter.
A419578	Bankfoot House (Moffat) Ltd	£20,000	£633,940	3%	To add an extension to the rear of the Home that will accommodate 6 residents.
A419677	Dumfries Baptist Church	£20,000	£4.2M	0.5%	To contribute towards the costs of a cafe and catering kitchen.
A422639	Nithsdale Walking Works Network	£9,518	£19,035	50%	To continue running costs of service providing volunteer lead walks for people with health issues.
A423003	St Michael's Cricket Club	£7,800	£15,600	50%	To promote cricket in the area by delivering cricket coaching in Dumfries and Galloway schools.
A427665	Moffat Civic Pride	£500	£1,500	33%	To purchase four new planters to enhance floral displays in Moffat.
A429254	Hub Dumfries and Galloway	£19,968	£55,536	36%	To recruit, train and support local volunteers to provide one to one support for computer drop-in sessions to assist people with online benefit applications, universal job match searches and job applications.

A430311	Discover Kirkmahoe	£1,500	£2,000	75%	To develop and publish a booklet of short walks that join up the longer walks in the area. Also to add benches, wooden sign posts, bird and bat boxes along the route.
A430454	SHAX	£10,000	£111,309	9%	To re-fresh volunteers skills, knowledge, confidence and employability; Recycle donated goods through re-use, re-purposing and upcycling; Re-home vulnerable local people by providing essential items to start new tenancies.
A430462	Thornhill Playgroup	£4,387	£5,850	75%	To improve the outdoor area to give children the opportunity to explore and enjoy the natural world, and improve their health and wellbeing.

Grant Map



What difference is the Fund making?

Lincluden Community Centre:



In May 2016 Lincluden Community Centre Management Committee was awarded £7,500 to upgrade their old heating system to an eco-boiler. Their heating system, which was 20 years old, was dilapidated and inefficient. In cold weather, groups were being turned away and the Community Centre sometimes closed due to boiler break-down.

The grant of £7,500 from ANCBC fully funded the purchase and installation of a new boiler. The installation was completed on time and to budget to a high standard. The new boiler system has benefited all community centre users and enabled the group to secure a new tenant in 3 of the offices which provides a secure income through rents. It has also reduced the group's outgoings. Subsequently there is more money that will be put into making further improvements.

Older and disabled users have particularly enjoyed attending events all winter, knowing the building will be warm and comfortable. By encouraging more people to use the facility, the grant can potentially reduce social isolation and improve physical and mental health of the local residents.



Calside parent council

A grant from ANCBC helped to improve the school's playground and green area and to create a 'sensory garden', with particular focus on children with additional needs.



Calside Primary has a school roll of 175 pupils, with a specialist Learning Centre for children with additional support needs. At playtime these children were particularly isolated, as they do not have the imagination to initiate play or participate in games with their peers. The project was developed to address these issues, with consultation from a Speech and Language Therapist who has expertise in playground initiatives focused on developing social communication.

ANCBC's grant contributed £2,000 towards the £12,000 costs of this sensory garden to enable the purchase of specialised sensory equipment. This includes over 30 items such as mirrors for the seeing section, a living willow tunnel kit, materials to construct raised beds and pathways, totem posts, a sandpit, chalk boards, and a hearing section. The project has not yet been completed but the Parent Council have secured all funding needed for the project to progress.



Food Train

The Food Train is an organisation that supports older people, across Dumfries and Galloway, to live independently at home by providing a grocery shopping delivery service.

In April 2016, ANCBC awarded the group £6,000 towards the purchase of an additional delivery van for the Nithsdale Food Train branch. The grant paid for 50% of the costs of the new van, which included paying for road tax, insurance, sign-writing and on-board van items including a first aid kit, freezer box, and tow rope.



The grant enabled to organisation to purchase a larger delivery van than others in the fleet. As a consequence more elderly people in South and West Nithsdale Community Council area will be able to access the Food Train service.

Marketing and Communications

Foundation Scotland has worked to raise the profile of the Fund through a variety of channels during Year 1:

- Press releases about grants made after each round and sent to local newspaper groups, DNG24 (Dumfries Courier, Annandale Observer, Annandale Herald and Moffat News, the DNG24 website) and The Dumfries and Galloway Standard.
- Updating fund web page on Foundation Scotland's web site promoting the ANCBC website and grants awarded, at www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/ancbc
- Raising awareness of the Fund and encouraging applications using the Foundation's Facebook page to promote the Fund
- Electronic version e-mailed to various stakeholders, community websites, newsletters etc. for promotion and distribution
- Ongoing liaison with individuals as required
- Adhoc queries from potential applicants on Fund
- Liaison with grantees as grants awarded "Acknowledging your grant" publicity advice sheet appended to cheque letters.
- Ongoing promotional queries from awardees i.e. signage Produced updated application forms and guidance.

Board Overview

The Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company Board can have between 6 and 12 Directors and has been operational with between 7 and 11 members for the reporting period. Attendance at meetings has been consistently good and this has resulted in a well-formed group with plenty of experience in making what are sometimes difficult decisions.

Directors all retired at the first Annual General Meeting, held in May 16, Maureen Johnstone and Derek Ivy did not stand for re-election. All of the other Directors were re-elected. In September 2016 Jean Purves retired

from the Board due to a change in location. Four new Directors were appointed in February 2017 following an active recruitment drive.

For the purpose of appointing Directors, the ANCBC area of benefit is split into three geographical areas. There should be between one and four members from each geographical area serving as Director at any time. These areas are East, South and West.

Board members at 31 March 2017 were:

East: Martin Brown, Richard Mann, Helen Haggart, David Booth.

South: Murdoch MacPherson, Russell Stuart, John Magill, Sheila Farries.

West: Alastair McFadzean, Richard Clarke, David Dick.

The Board are volunteers and we recognised from the outset the company would require paid, professional support, particularly with their grant-making activity. Foundation Scotland, which is a national grant making charity, continued to provide this service.

Foundation Scotland

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