

Fund Report

Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company



Year 1

This report covers awards made through the Fund from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016



Introduction

Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit Company (ANCBC) is funded by ScottishPower Renewables community benefit fund for Harestanes wind farm 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.

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

It is anticipated that £300,000 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 2015 to 31st March 2016

Opening Balance **£0.00**

Income

Voluntary Income £703,642.00

Bank Interest £480.00

Sub Total **£704,122.00**

Expenditure

First Payment of Community Council Grants £124,000.00

Second Payment of Community Council Grants £62,000.00

Grants released in period £207,754.75

Grants to be released £187,817.00

Sub Total **£581,571.75**

Fund Expenses

Governance Costs £12,345.00

Support Costs £19,334.00

Sub Total **£31,679**

Total funds available as at 31st March 2016 **£90,871.25**

Fund Overview

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

ANCBC received its first donation from ScottishPower Renewables for the construction contribution, of £400,000 in April 2015, which enabled grant-making to begin. Local grants were distributed directly to 31 Community Councils who each received grants of £4,000. A second grant of £2,000 was awarded to the same community councils later in the year following the receipt of the first annual contribution from SPR of £300,000. This award of £2,000 would be an annual payment from which Community Councils could develop projects or make onward grants to groups within their communities. Payments to Community Councils represent 31% of the construction contribution and 21% of the annual fund.

Between April 2015 and March 2016, ANCBC distributed £395,571 to 35 organisations to deliver 35 projects which represented 63% of fund income. There were 71 approaches during this period, however, 5 were withdrawn and two were large grant enquiries which did not convert to applications, leaving 64 applications giving a conversion rate of 55%. A balance of £90,871.25 carried forward to the second year of grant making.

These 35 projects covered a diverse range of community initiatives across Annandale and Nithsdale. The largest grant was £49,998 awarded to Mossburn Community Farm in July 2015 for a three year project that provides equine therapies for people living with mental and physical disabilities.

Other large grants awarded were towards the renovation or rebuilding of village halls in Wamphray, Johnstonebridge and Dunscore and an extension to the Nith Inshore Rescue Lifeboat Station.

One of the more unusual large Grants went to Peter Pan Moat Brae, to help toward the costs of saving and restoring Moat Brae House, one time home of J.M.Barrie, to help and inspire disadvantaged children through play, creative learning, entertainment and literature.

Throughout the year medium grants (between £5,001 and £20,000) paid towards staff costs for a Community Nature Reserve, Counselling services for young people, and a volunteer co-ordinator, as well as towards the costs of new heating systems; perimeter fence; upgrades to village halls in Durisdeer and Tinwald.

Small grants (up to £5,000) also supported a variety of local activities including renovations to village halls and bowling clubs; enabling local community events such as music festivals, family fun days and Galas; supporting pipe bands, retirement groups, sports clubs and playgroups as well as purchasing community notice boards and helping with a community transport scheme. The lowest being £1,000 awarded to North West Dumfries Community Café Ltd in July 2015.

In total 29 applications were rejected for a number of reasons including overly high reserves, insufficient community benefit and ineligible projects.

The average award over the report period was £12,677 and the total value of projects funded (all funding sources) was £8,066,266 giving a leverage ratio of 4.6%; for every £1 awarded from the fund, a further £19.39 was raised from elsewhere.

Ten Projects in Annandale were awarded a total of £106,009 (27% of funds awarded), while 15 projects in Nithsdale were awarded £149,326 in total (38% of funds awarded). There were also 6 projects that spanned both areas, receiving £140,236 altogether (35% of funds awarded).

Awards during year 1

The 35 awards made in Year one were used to support a variety of activities as follows:

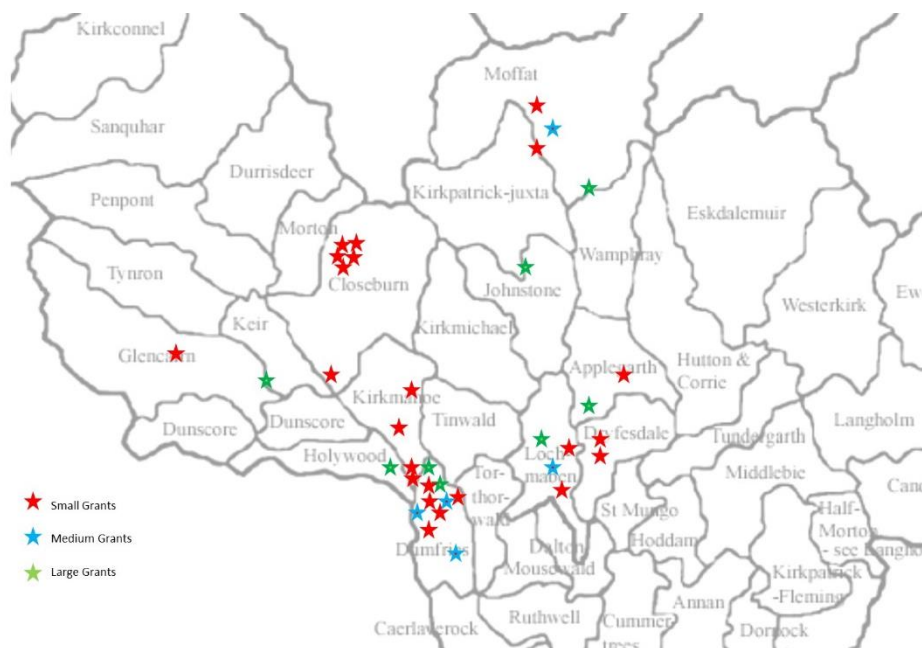
Ref.	Applicant	Amount Awarded	Project Cost	Leverage	Grant Summary
A368332	Wamphray Community Council	£30,000	£129,500	23%	To replace the kitchen and meeting rooms area of the Village Hall which is presently a wooden structure in poor repair.
A368614	Kirkmahoe Parish Hall Committee	£1,250	£1,500	83%	To replace village hall windows with UVPC windows.
A368653	Dalswinton Village Hall	£4,513	£5,415	83%	To tarmac driveway to the hall and a path for wheelchair access for future disabled entrance.
A369062	Thornhill Music Festival	£2,500	£9,500	26%	To provide an annual multi-genre music festival in Thornhill.
A369097	Oasis Events Team	£3,000	£102,000	3%	To contribute to the cost of marketing, stall hire and activities for Youth Beatz.
A369174	North West Dumfries Community Cafe Ltd.	£1,000	£2,533	40%	To provide entertainment, catering and insurance for the 'Summer Fling' community fun event.
A369252	Discover Kirkmahoe	£2,924	£4,970	59%	To design and install 6 notice boards with information about local walks that can also be used as space to put up public notices for local groups/events.
A369297	Boreland Village Hall	£1,979	£4,979	40%	To install a high performance acoustic treatment bonded to the ceiling of Boreland Village Hall to improve acoustics.
A369303	Johnstonebridge Centre and Community Development Trust Ltd	£35,000	£1,200,000	3%	To replace the existing village hall that is due to close in October 2015.
A369313	Junction 17	£1,953	£3,655	53%	To host a free family-friendly Fun Day in McJerrow Park in August 2015.
A369317	D&G American Football Academy	£4,994	£10,000	50%	To purchase equipment needed to coach American Football.

A368949	Annandale Transport Initiative	£27,500	£55,394	50%	To purchase a 16-passenger seat accessible community minibus to replace a vehicle which has been in use since 2004 and completed over 260,000 miles.
A369034	Hub Dumfries and Galloway	£27,790	£62,370	45%	To provide free logs and kindling for vulnerable older residents living in fuel poverty.
A369153	Nith Inshore Rescue	£20,000	£189,161	11%	To build an extension to the Lifeboat Station.
A369504	Speddoch Community Association	£35,000	£246,500	14%	To rebuild Speddoch Community Hall to meet the needs of the community in Dunscore.
A373521	Royal Four Towns Hall Association	£5,000	£5,705	88%	To install solar panels on the Village Hall.
A374367	Thornhill and District Community Transport	£2,500	£2,858	87%	To purchase an electronic hand-held ticketing machine for the community minibus compliant with Transport Scotland's requirements and to enable reimbursement of concessionary fares for section 22 timetabled services.
A374489	Thornhill Bowling Club	£3,200	£11,213	29%	To re-do the sloped access steps to the clubhouse; renew internal and external doors and windows; replace worn out floor coverings; redecorate some of the clubhouse.
A374563	Lockerbie RBLS Pipe Band	£1,300	£2,577	50%	To purchase a new bass drum, carrier and case as well as five snare drum carriers and cases for members.
A374609	Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust	£15,000	£30,400	49%	To employ a joint Project Development Officer for four days per week during 2016 to manage and develop both this project and one in Moffat Community Nature Reserve, with two days each week being devoted to each project.

A374792	3rd Dumfriesshire Scout Group	£9,279	£14,635	63%	To install a new heating system and create a new kitchen area in the Scout Hall.
A374924	Dumfries Pipe Band	£4,800	£4,800	100%	To cover the costs of 2 tutors for the pipe band, one for piping and one for drumming.
A374324	Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust	£30,000	£5,462,000	0.5%	To add two new extensions to the house; a Visitor Entrance on the west of the house which will include a shop, café, kitchens, reception and cloakrooms; and an Education and Learning Pavilion to the east of the house.
A375387	Loreburn Retirement Group	£2,746	£3,862	71%	To pay towards the costs of a 20th Birthday party of the group, the annual Christmas party and a theatre / pantomime trip.
A376370	Moffat Town Hall Redevelopment Trust	£3,500	£35,984	10%	To purchase a variety of musical instruments, instruction and equipment to enable the provision of regular music-orientated community sessions for local residents.
A377575	Soul Soup Counselling and Training Ltd	£19,112	£72,838	26%	To provide three drop-in sessions per week and workshops to enable young people to become more resilient and tackle stigma around mental health issues.
A378840	Upper Annandale AFC	£2,998	£2,998	100%	To purchase two new dug-outs for home and visiting teams.
A379245	Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum	£15,948	£147,000	11%	To erect a new perimeter fence around the extension and car park.
A376837	Mossburn Community Farm	£49,998	£105,000	48%	To fund salary and admin costs of marketing a three-year project to provide different therapies which integrate horses into the treatment process for people suffering from a number of issues such as mental and physical disabilities.

A384740	Moniaive Initiative	£4,529	£29,972	15%	To contribute towards the cost of expanding the range and suitability of equipment in the Moniaive play park.
A381676	Patrick Dudgeon Memorial Hall	£2,000	£3,166	63%	To extend the disabled parking provision, improve drainage and level the rear parking area of the hall to improve access and increase the amount of parking space available to users.
A384579	Dumfries Sea Cadets	£4,000	£4,878	82%	To fund 15 places on an off-shore sailing course and weekly sailing sessions at Annandale Sailing Club.
A384727	Buckleuch & Queensberry Caledonia Pipe Band	£3,258	£3,258	100%	To purchase 20 pairs of spats, 6 hair sporrans and general instrument maintenance items.
A385289	Thornhill Playgroup	£2,000	£2,990	67%	To provide 3 additional hours of staffing per week to enable staff to plan, evaluate, improve monitoring systems and further develop learning plans and contribute towards running costs.
A384795	SHAX	£15,000	£92,655	16%	To part-fund salary costs for a manager, operations coordinator and administrator / volunteer coordinator for 2016-17.
Totals:		£395,571	£8,066,266	0.47%	

Grant Map



What difference is the Fund making?

Back to Nature

In 2015 ANCBC helped to secure the future of two community-owned Nature Reserves, in Lochmaben and Moffat, by supporting the post of Project Development Officer to manage and develop both areas.

Castle Loch in Lochmaben, Dumfries & Galloway, is one of the earliest Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and a site of national and international importance for its birdlife and for historical connections to the area with the ruins of Lochmaben Castle. In 2013 the Castle Loch was put up for sale. As a result the Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust was established to allow a community buy-out of Castle Loch and surrounding land. The steering committee successfully raised the funds needed and Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust (CLLCT) took ownership of the site in January 2014. There are 305 registered members which shows strong community support.



In Moffat, the Dyke Farm Quarry, from which over one million tonnes of sand and gravel were extracted, was sold by the owner, and in 2009 the 'Moffat Community Nature Reserve' was created to manage the land as a Nature Reserve for the local people. This group has over 200 members around Moffat and Beattock, again showing strong community support.

With the help of £15,000 from ANCBC the Project Development Officer now works for two days a week in each Reserve. This has enabled the groups to continue the great work that they have been doing by delivering a range of improvements and organising a range of events that take place on both of these community-owned Nature Reserves.



Events include nature-inspired painting competitions; woodland walks; volunteer activity such as litter picking, tree planting and path maintenance; wildlife trails; and setting up 'magni-posts' for all year round nature exploration.

In 2015 Castle Loch Lochmaben was named winner of 'Nature of Scotland Community Initiative' by the RSBP.

Reaching the Youth

In June 2015 ANCBC supported Oasis Events Team through an award of £3,000 that contributed to the cost of marketing, stall hire and activities for Youth Beatz.

The Oasis Events Team is run by a group of young people based in Dumfries who all have a strong interest in music and local events. The main event staged by the group each year is the Youth Beatz festival. Started in 2010, the event is aimed at 12-25 year olds and provides youth services information, activity based entertainment and a large scale outdoor music event in Dumfries town centre.



The group has a lot of local support and they were also awarded funding from Cashback for Communities and Cashback for Creativity as well as receiving support from Dumfries and Galloway Council.

In 2015, Youth Beatz exceeded expectations with all 12,000 tickets being allocated to young people within Dumfries and Galloway in advance of the event. Feedback from participant suggests they thoroughly enjoyed a safe and friendly atmosphere and the opportunity to attend a large scale music event that for many would not normally be able access.



"It opened my eyes to things I never thought about before, it taught me that it's OK to ask for help and advice". A direct quote from a young person who participated in the World of Wonka workshop.

Funding from ANCBC ensured that the marketing of the event reached out to young people. Also costs of stall hire was covered meaning youth work organisations were able to promote their services free of charge and that young people were able to enjoy some of the daytime activities at no cost to themselves.

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 was operational with 10 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 will all retire at the first Annual General Meeting due to be held in May, they may then stand for re-election.

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.

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 2016 were:

East: Martin Brown, Richard Mann, Jean Purves.

South: Murdoch MacPherson, Russell Stuart, Maureen Johnstone.

West: Alastair McFadzean, Derek Ivy, Richard Clarke, David Dick.

Foundation Scotland

Katie Nairn - Community Engagement Executive
 Foundation Scotland
 The Kiosk
 Gatehouse of Fleet
 Dumfries and Galloway
 DG7 2HP

Tel: 07757480062 or 01557 814 927

E-mail: Katie@foundationscotland.org.uk