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RWE HELLRIGG WIND FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Fund Report 2019-20

This report illustrates impact the fund has made to support your philanthropic giving through Cumbria Community Foundation. The aim of the RWE Hellrigg Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is to support charitable or community activities which are environmental or educational, and benefit Silloth or the parishes of Holme St Cuthbert, Holme Low and Holme Abbey.



GRANTMAKING

RWE Hellrigg Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund awarded grants totalling £25,952 to the following

APPLICANT	AMOUNT	PROJECT
Abbeytown Community Fund	£5,000	Phase 2 Abbeytown Play Park
Abbeytown Pre-School	£4,500	Outdoor decking
Cumbria Youth Alliance (CYA)	£3,704	Friday Night Project
Friends of Silloth Green	£948	Green maintenance
Holme Low Parish Projects Group	£5,000	Solar powered speed indicator devices
Holme St Cuthbert Community Group	£800	Parish noticeboards
Lowther Arms Community Project	£500	Volunteers expenses
Mawbray Play Park	£1,000	Play park seating and picnic benches
Silloth-on-Solway Town Council	£2,500	Solar panels for community hall
St Andrew's Church Hall	£2,000	Floor improvements

ABBEYTOWN COMMUNITY FUND

Abbeytown Community Fund, is a volunteer-run group set up in 2012 to raise funds for a new play park in the village. Apart from the football field, there were no other outdoor, active play areas for children, who had to travel a minimum of 7 miles to the nearest park, before this park was built.

The group have previously received a grant from this fund to put up a gated fence once phase 1 was complete in 2018. This second grant contributed to phase 2, which involves installing a junior mini-pitch with two sports walls for older children aged 7 to 12.

Emma Bennett, Treasurer said: "This village will really benefit from a superior play park for all ages.

"The children are already enjoying the park, and our aim is to make this even better for all children in the village and surrounding areas. People have

travelled from towns and areas outside Abbeytown and already said how fantastic the park is.

"The children have waited too long for something like this in the village and we are now making a difference in their lives."



CUMBRIA YOUTH ALLIANCE

Originally set up by Inspira, CYA started delivering the project in 2017 when Inspira pulled out. Running in collaboration with other youth organisations in Allerdale, it has had an appreciable impact on anti-social behaviour rates across the borough. It works in partnership North Allerdale Development Trust, Wigton Youth Station, Aspatria Dreamscheme, Castle Hill Trust, GLL, Soundwave and South Workington Youth Partnership.



Each organisation offers different youth-led activities in venues across the borough on a Friday night. Young people aged between 11 and 19 come together to enjoy a wide range of activities such as

team games, quiz nights, craft sessions and cookery workshops.

Cath Clarke, Chief Officer of Cumbria Youth Alliance, said: "Access to positive activities really assists with ensuring young people make a successful transition into adulthood. They become more engaged and we notice marked improvements in their behaviour. Many young people started on the programme as beneficiaries and have now moved into volunteering positions, helping more young people to benefit in the communities.

"Local police have remarked to the clubs what a difference this project makes to young people who often have nowhere else to go. It has led to reduction in petty and persistent offending in some of the most disadvantaged communities in West Cumbria."

LOWTHER ARMS COMMUNITY PROJECT

Based in Mawbray village, The Lowther Arms closed in December 2018. In May that year, Holme St Cuthbert's parish council applied for the pub to be listed as an Asset of Community Value, which allowed the newly formed group to bid and gave six months breathing space to consider all the options including a community buy-out.

The grant has covered volunteer expenses, such as travel costs, meeting room and stationary, so that members of the group can progress with the process.

Chris Atkinson, chairman, said "We've lost just about everything else in the parish, including the shop, post office, and most of our bus services.

"When we realised there was overwhelming support to buy the pub, we immediately began to organise ourselves. A local survey showed that most people want to save the heart of the village - a traditional

pub serving traditional food, but with extra facilities like a small shop, meeting place, library, café and courier collection point."

The group is supported by the Plunket Foundation's More than a Pub initiative, funded by Power to Change with access to specialist business support.



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL

St Andrew's Church Hall, based in Silloth, benefits around 200 people in the community. The hall is part of St Andrew's church and part of the West Cumbria Network.

The hall provides a variety of activities, clubs and groups including a weekly lunch club, free legal advice, and social activities; for example craft classes. The hall is also available to hire.



The church has undergone a number of improvements over the past couple of years, including new windows and doors and redecoration.

This grant supported the renovation of the flooring in the main hall.

Many of the users of the hall are over 80 years of age and this has meant that the floor is now safe to walk on and without hazards.

The new floor is enjoyed by cubs, sewing classes, pensioners clubs, craft classes, yoga and over 30 people at its free lunches. They also hold evening dinner and entertainment.

FUND OVERVIEW

The table shows the number and value of grants made since the fund was established.

Projects supported	53
Total grants awarded	£148,892
Largest grant	£10,000
Smallest grant	£500
Average grant	£2,809

FUND STATEMENT

Funds at 31 March 2020

	£
Balance B/Fwd	1,184
Donations	19,767
Grants paid in the year	(25,952)
Grants refunded in the year	5,000
Fund management costs	(1,767)
Balance C/Fwd	(1,768)

The negative balance carried forward was due to an overspend in the current year, this will be deducted from available grant funds in 2020/21.