

# Bilbster Community Benefit Fund

## Year 9 Fund report

1<sup>st</sup> November 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019



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### Fund Overview

This report covers activity over the period 1st November 2018 to 31st October 2019 in respect of community benefit paid into the Watten Charitable Windfarm Trust from the Bilbster Wind Farm.

Since the Bilbster Community Benefit Fund launched in 2011 the Fund has awarded 23 grants, distributing over £32,000 to community groups in the Watten area, initially through Watten Community Council and latterly through Watten Charitable Windfarm Watten Trust.

The Charitable Windfarm Trust is a bespoke governance arrangement that is an option for communities in receipt of multiple community funds, often from different developers, who are keen to ensure the governance and administration of those funds are optimised for the benefitting community. In the case of Watten, four Community Benefit Funds have been pooled under a single governance and administration umbrella of the Watten Charitable Windfarm Trust (see Appendix 1 for further information). This benefits the community groups who would otherwise have to apply to the various funds separately.

This report details activity of the Bilbster Watten Community Fund during the Trust's third year, which is the ninth year of operation for the Bilbster Watten Community Fund.

The Watten Community Action Plan remains a key reference for the community and it is anticipated that through the coming year the Panel will review the extent to which funds available to Watten are supporting delivery of the Plan. These efforts will be supported by analysis carried out by Foundation Scotland. The Panel continues to work with Foundation Scotland to ensure as many residents as possible know about the Fund and the opportunities it provides to make Watten a better place to live, work or visit.

## Financial Statements for period 01/11/2018 to 31/10/2019

Foundation Scotland received the Year 9 donation from Innogy Renewables on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019 of £2,625.74. Interest is calculated annually until December each year and added to the funds available for distribution.

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>£2,979.39</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Interest to Dec 2018	£5.83
Year 9 - innogy Renewables Annual Donation	£2,625.74
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£2,631.57</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Awards made in period	£1,350.00
Year 9 - Foundation Scotland fee	£262.57
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£1,636.57</b>
<b>Total funds available as at 31/10/2019</b>	<b>£3,974.39</b>

## Grants Awarded during period 01/11/2018 to 31/10/2019

During Year 9 of the Fund one award was made; £1,350 to the Watten Luncheon Club to fund the Club's summer outing for three years; 2019, 2020 and 2021. The Luncheon Club is a long-established group offering social events and activities for its members in Watten, who are aged over 65. These enable members to create and maintain social connections, thereby reducing isolation amongst the elderly, and to provide informative talks aimed at increasing safety, well-being and developing interests. Meetings are usually held at the local hotel with guest speakers coming along to discuss topics such as fire safety, energy savings and heritage. Other activities are also arranged such as music events, a burns supper and a Christmas Lunch, however the highlight of the year is the summer outing.

The venue and activity for the summer outing varies but usually involves a journey by bus for all 16 members and perhaps a meal or a high tea. Previous venues include the Mackays Heritage Centre, Farr Bay Inn, Castle of Mey, Invergorden to see the cruise liners and Wick Heritage Centre. In 2019, 11 members of the Club enjoyed a lunch at the Seaview Hotel in John O'Groats. The grant award of £450 per year will help to ensure the costs are kept to a minimum and people from all backgrounds are able to attend. The benefit of a multi-year award is that the group has the security of the funding and can plan ahead without having to complete additional funding forms each year.



### Feedback – No Limits Caithness

Feedback from awardees is generally requested around 12 months after an award is paid out. The following feedback has been provided from No Limits Caithness in relation to an award of £1,680 to subsidise a local child's attendance at the service, including transport and staff costs during 2018/19.

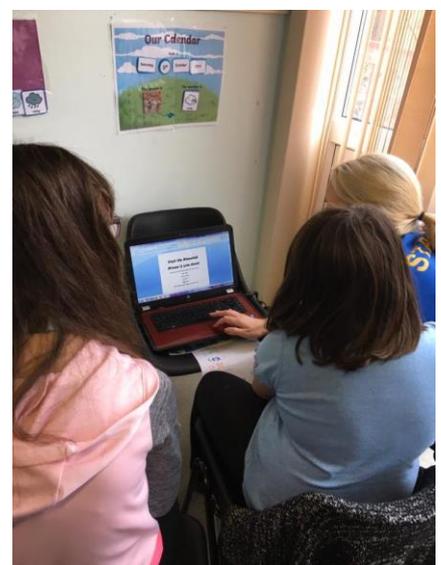
No Limits Caithness runs a Holiday Club and Saturday Club in Wick for children and young people with additional needs including physical, learning and communication difficulties. The group helps them overcome the barriers they face in carrying out normal day-to-day tasks, providing them with the skills to challenge their perceptions of their abilities, to build resilience and become more independent. Most importantly the activities are fun.

Many of the children require one-to-one support from staff, so running costs for the club are high. In addition, many of the service users are on a low income, so the group strives to keep the costs as affordable as possible.

The group has access to a minibus to be able to take children to and from the club, which is helpful for rural families, and also allows the group to arrange outings for the group.

Grant funding allows the group to offer a full and varied programme which is developed by the children and reflects their favorite hobbies, interests and pastimes.

The programme over the last year has included a day trip to see the dolphins at John O'Groats, a video making session and themed days such as Pet Day and Doctors Day, cooking classes and arts and crafts sessions. The group also strives to ensure the activities offer life lessons to help prepare the young people to lead independent lives, such as shopping trips followed by preparing the food they



have just bought. Other life lessons include learning to fill in forms, cook, clean, use a computer and change plugs.

No Limits manager, Shelly Dygutowicz said *"Grant funding enables us to continue to provide the high standard service we always strive to achieve and not let any of the children down, it is great to know that we can use the minibus to take the children to their favourite places, and to be able buy in things to arrange a range of activities to cover the rainy days"*.

She continued: *"Everyday is different in our jobs, some more challenging than others but every single one of our days makes a difference to someone and for some of the people we look after they will always be grateful of the difference we made. Thank you so much for the funding which really will make a lasting difference!"*



## **Fund Approach**

Due to the relatively small income coming in to the Bilbster Community Fund, the Trust Panel has tended to make awards from this Fund to some of the smaller proposals that come in, so as to ensure it nonetheless provides impact as widely as possible. The community has had a major focus over the last year on two capital projects which are requiring a significant investment of volunteer hours. Sadly, one project is unlikely to be continued, however the other - a larger car park for the Watten Village Hall - still looks likely to proceed.

The Trust now includes the newly established Bad á Cheò Community Fund which not only increases the amount of funds available to the Watten community going forward but also opens the funding options to people not involved with community groups. Any local resident intending to access training and education opportunities can apply for assistance with the costs through the Bad á Cheò Education & Training Fund. This is an exciting new opportunity and the Panel is looking forward to seeing a range of applications come forward.

## **The Panel**

Decisions on distributing funds are made by the Watten Charitable Windfarm Trust Panel which is made up of up to 12 local residents, two of whom are Community Councilors. The other 10 are people who responded to the initial call for volunteers, or subsequent calls through the local press, posters, notices and local word of mouth.

The Panel decided to hold two funding Rounds per year in order to compliment another local fund which also holds two funding Rounds per year, but in opposing months. The two deadlines are in June, with the Panel decision making meeting held in August, and December with the Panel decision making meeting held in February. The Panel also holds an Annual Review after the year end to analyse the applications and awards over the previous year, to consider any feedback from the wider community, and to consider the Fund Outcomes and their ongoing value to the community.

This year saw four people stand down from the Panel; Richard Otley, Denise Brown, Jane Coghill and William Coghill. There were also three people who joined the Panel; Robert Roy, Helen Campbell and Aileen Mackay.

The two Community Council representatives are Jim MacDonald (who is the Panel Chair) and Anne Alexander. Other representatives are John Sinclair, Lesley Young, David Thomson, Laim, Swanson, and Rosalyn MacDonald.

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## Appendix 1: Community Funds administered by the Watten Charitable Windfarm Trust

The Watten Charitable Windfarm Trust Panel makes decisions on four Community Benefit Funds.

- 1) The **Bilbster Watten Community Fund** which is linked to the Bilbster Wind Farm. An annual donation is received from **innogy** which in 2019 was £ 2,626.
- 2) The **Wathegar Watten Community Fund** which is linked to the Wathegar Wind Farm. An annual donation is received from **Gresham House Asset Management** which in 2019 was £13,828.
- 3) The Wathegar 2 Watten Community Fund which is linked to the Wathegar 2 Wind Farm. An annual donation is received from **Gresham House Asset Management** which in 2019 was £40,590.
- 4) The recently launched **innogy Bad á Cheò Community Fund (Watten)** and the **innogy Bad á Cheo Education and Training Fund** both linked to the Bad á Cheò Fund which together received the first annual donation from innogy of £39,975 in 2019.