

Fund Report

E.ON Camster Community Fund

Year 5

This report covers awards made through the Fund from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018

Section 1: Fund Overview

The E.ON Camster Community Fund made its first awards in 2013. The Fund benefits the three Community Council (CC) areas of Latheron, Lybster & Clyth; Tannach & District; and Watten in Caithness. Year 5 saw a donation from E.ON of £163,576 to the Fund, bringing the total E.ON donation to the community to £623,485. This year also saw a donation to Foundation Scotland of £16,357 for fund administration.

The Fund is divided equally into three allocations across the three areas. In Year 5 this meant each Community Council area had an allocation of £54,525.

Decisions on how the Fund is spent are made by the E.ON Camster Community Fund Panel. The Panel has 12 volunteer representatives serving on it, made up of one Community Councillor and three elected community representatives from each of the three Community Council areas.

The Fund invests in activities and initiatives that help to build a vibrant local economy, supports thriving communities and makes the areas attractive places to live, work and visit for people of all ages. It aims to ensure:

1. There are more and better opportunities to take part in sports and recreational pursuits
2. Access to and through settlements is safer
3. People of all ages enjoy more, better and varied activities and services
4. Community life is enhanced and maintained through a wide range of activities, events and improved amenity of settlements
5. Economic activity is encouraged within the Fund area
6. People have more vocational skills and experience
7. The natural and cultural heritage is more valued, experienced and understood by both visitors and residents
8. Energy use in homes and community buildings is more sustainable
9. Tourism opportunities are promoted and created in the Fund area



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Section 2: Overview of Awards

In the period from 1 September 2017 – 31 August 2018 (Fund Year 5) The E.ON Camster Community Fund Panel awarded a total of £102,462 from the Fund to support projects in the Fund area. The smallest award was £255, and the largest was £25,000.

In total 22 applications were received. One was withdrawn by the applicant, one was ineligible as the project had already taken place, one was deferred to a future meeting to allow the applicant to gather further information and 19 were awarded.

Of the 19 awards: seven were made to projects benefiting the Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Council area; two to projects benefiting the Tannach & District Community Council area and four to projects benefiting the Watten Community Council area.

In addition six awards were made to projects that benefited all three areas, with the amount awarded to these split between each area's allocation.

A full list of awards can be seen in Appendix 1.

Section 3: Financial Statement

	General Account	Latheron, Lybster & Clyth	Tannach & District	Watten	Total
OPENING BALANCE	£755.33	£45,900.10	£68,257.77	£84,543.18	£199,456.38
INCOME:					
Year 5 donation E.ON Climate & Renewables	£179,933.92	£54,525.43	£54,525.43	£54,525.43	£343,510.21
Year 5 - Interest Receipt	£318.39				£318.39
Grant returned - Thrumster Hall Committee			£1,835.62		£18,35.62
TOTAL INCOME	£181,007.64	£100,425.53	£124,618.82	£139,068.61	£545,120.60
EXPENDITURE:					
Foundation Scotland fee	£16,357.63				£16,357.63
E.ON donation split to area accounts	£163,576.29				£163,576.29
Grants released in period		£74,429.04	£51,213.33	£25,857.36	151499.73
Panel meetings (Hall Hire)	£60.00				£60.00
Panel meetings (Mileage expenses)	£34.20				£34.20
Promotional seeds packets for Year 5 Event	£282.00				£282.00
Promotional sweets for Year 5 Event	£16.10				£16.10
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£180,326.22	£74,429.04	£51,213.33	£25,857.36	£331,825.95
CLOSING BALANCE	£681.42	£25,996.49	£73,405.49	£113,211.25	£213,294.65

Section 4: Celebrations

In September 2018 the Fund reached a milestone of five years of grant-making. The Panel was keen to celebrate this with the community and decided to promote the Fund's achievements at three local events. Supported by Eilidh Gunn, Foundation Scotland's Caithness based representative Panel members held a Camster Fund stall at the annual Mey Highland & Cultural Games in July, the newly revived Thrumster Game and Countryside Fair in August and the North Highland Harriers Half Marathon in September.



Eilidh at St Fergus Bowling Club in Wick alongside Club President Mr Ian Miller and Club Secretary Mr James Swanson. The Clubs new lights make it possible to plan evening matches.



Eilidh in Watten with the EON Camster funded flower pots as part of Watten Community Council's entry into the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition run by Keep Scotland Beautiful.



Eilidh (Foundation Scotland) with Capt. Richard Otley (Camster Panel) showcasing one of the new marquees funded during Year 5. These marquees have been used at a number of community events.



Eilidh with the newly established Latheron Young Farmers in their new marquee which they now take to local events as they try to increase their membership.

Section 5: Year 5 Annual Review

As part of the annual year review, the Panel reviewed all awards made to date and they took stock of any trends. In particular it was noticed that a significant amount of the spend has been to support projects with a Caithness wide impact, or projects based outwith the Fund Area but where local residents were also able to benefit. The Panel felt that this would be well received by the wider community and a press release about this will be prepared shortly. The figures can be seen in the table below.

	AMOUNT ALLOCATED PER AREA PER YEAR										TOTAL
	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Year 5		
	2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		
LLC	£41,418	32%	£40,870.60	33%	£31,515	31%	£31,979	40%	£38,903	38%	35%
T&D	£37,318	29%	£27,832.00	23%	£39,771	39%	£28,400	36%	£8,328	8%	27%
W	£50,254	39%	£16,772.00	14%	£13,561	13%	£9,698	12%	£3,655	4%	16%
OTHER	£0		£38,142.00	31%	£18,104	18%	£9,000	11%	£51,577	50%	22%
TOTAL	£128,990		£123,616.60		£102,952		£79,077		£102,463		

Section 6: Micro-grants

Each community council area is awarded £2,500 per year to be distributed through the Community Council to the communities as microgrants. Each area operates the microgrant in a slightly different way and Foundation Scotland provides support as required to the bespoke arrangements that each Community Council determine are best for their particular communities. .

Watten Community Council has taken the decision to move away from allowing constituted groups to apply for a micro-grant and now directs these enquiries to Foundation Scotland. The intention is to open up the micro-grants to new groups or people who have not applied before.

The other two Community Councils are in the early stages of potentially also making this change and Foundation Scotland will assist with this transition where required.

Typical activity arising from micro-grants awarded in the past year include:

- Latheron Junior WRI to purchase craft materials and equipment for craft classes.
- One person attending a football academy
- Forest schools equipment to extend outdoor activities being provided Thrumster School
- The Milton Residents Christmas Party

Section 7: Impact Stories

The **Watten Primary 7 trip** to Dalguise in Perthshire allowed seven children to take on new challenges in a safe environment, it provided a platform to build confidence and appreciate that everything new, isn't necessarily scary. It also provided an opportunity to make new friends before transitioning into High School.

The children took part in team building activities, canoeing, zip wires and tree climbing.

The total project cost was £2,834 and the Eon Camster Community Fund contributed £2,000 towards this. Friends and family did a number of small fund raisers to help cover the full cost. The grant meant that all children who wanted to go could go, without financial pressure on families.



The **Latheronwheel and Latheron Improvement Group** was established in 2016 by local people who had identified a number of projects to make the villages better places to live. One project identified was to improve the Burn Walk. An award of £9,120 covered the cost of materials to repair the path and steps.

Committee Member Billy Keith: "The Burn Walk was originally developed in the 1970s, but had become overgrown and was barely passable until volunteers cleared back the undergrowth. This made it passable, but a poor surface, erosion and bad drainage meant it remained inaccessible to many. Thanks to the funding, we were able to buy in materials and specialist labour to work with our volunteers, improving the path and replacing 70 steps. Part of the Burn Walk is now suitable for wheelchair users."



Thrumster Parent Council was awarded £19,000 from the Fund towards to the £60,000 cost of installing a multi-use games area at Thrumster Primary School in 2017. The school has no gym and the grassy area for taking part in sport was often water logged so this new facility will become a valuable asset for the school with the benefit of now being able to play many different sports. There are 40 children at the school, but the facility will provide enjoyment for many years and many more children.

The facility is available to the whole community and can be used at weekends and evenings. It is hoped that other sports will be developed such as 'street football' and even bowls. The village has 300 people who could benefit.

Parent Council Chairperson Rhona Gill said: "This has brought a whole new method of outdoor play and made many sports available for the school children, the local area of Thrumster and wider community. Having the MUGA which is conveniently next to our Outdoor Classroom, will allow social events to be held promoting community spirit."



RBLS Wick, Canisbay and Latheron Branch

The Royal British Legion Scotland (RBL) was formed in 1921 to support former members of the armed services returning to civilian life. In Scotland there are five legion areas, with the RBL Wick, Canisbay and Latheron Branch part of the Highlands and Islands area. The branch was formed through the amalgamation of three former separate branches in November 2016.

The former Canisbay and District Branch of the RBL was involved in setting up the Mey Games around 40 years ago, under the patronage of HRH Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. They have continued to deliver the Games and, under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Rothesay, the games have grown in size considerably from just 10 stallholders in 2016 to 50 in 2017.

This growth has meant that the three marquees owned by the group were insufficient to meet additional demand.

The EON Camster Community Fund contributed to the purchase of three new marquees and new tables.

Around 3,000 people attended the Games in 2018 along with the Games Chieftain HRH Prince Charles. Feedback from attendees and stallholders was extremely positive. The Games are set to grow and the 2019 Games will include 10 countries competing in the only global Invictus adaptive event, with upwards of 250 veteran athletes.

These seven new marquees and crowd control barriers are primarily to use at the Mey Games and other RBL events but they will also be made available to the wider community and contribute to the creation of an 'asset bank' for other events in the area.

Chairman Captain Richard Otley said; "We are extremely grateful for the support from the local Community Benefit Funds. We were fortunate enough to secure funding towards seven new Marquees for this year's games. Eilidh Gunn from Foundation Scotland came along on the day to promote the local funds which support many good causes within the community. The support of these funds truly made a difference this year. As a result we now offer our Marquees to other community groups. Thrumster Game and Countryside Fair is the first to benefit from this."

Highland Councillor Willie Mackay who compered the day's activities said; "After last Saturday's seven hours record non-stop on the PA System it was a day I will never forget. The enthusiasm of everyone that took part encouraging each other in their chosen disciplines and the thousands of spectators that attended and applauded the competitors was immense along with an unbelievable amount of stalls and attractions on the field, it was fabulous."



Appendix 1 The E.ON Camster Community Fund Year 5 Awards

Organisation	Amount Awarded and Project description	Impact
Projects Primarily benefitting Latheron, Lybster & Clyth		
Lybster Community Fundraising Group	£25,000 to purchase and install equipment in the playpark.	150 young people
Dunbeath Preservation Trust	£2,760 for a local young person who will set up the Museum's social media presence and website.	5000 annual visitors
Lybster Outdoor Bowling Club	£4,700 to contribute to the purchase of green maintenance equipment.	500 – 600 users
Lybster School Parent Council	£2,128 to purchase an iPad storage trolley and a MacBook.	25 children
Latheron District Hall Association	£1,935.26 to purchase and Install two destratification fans to heat the hall more efficiently.	Around 5000 people
Latheron Young Farmers Club	£389.44 to purchase equipment, which will enable the group to promote itself and recruit new members at local shows and events.	16 members
Lybster Football Club	£4,750 to contribute to the cost of a 4-day visit to Huelva, Spain, including a football match against Real Club Recreativo de Huelva.	20 players & coaches
Projects Primarily benefitting Tannach & District		
Friends of Newton Hill Woodland	£720 to purchase quarry stone, which will enable the construction of a walled garden.	30,000 annual visitors
Stirkoke Rifle Club	£7,608 to purchase two airguns and equipment for use by blind and visually impaired members.	26 members
Projects Primarily benefitting Watten		
Watten School Parent Council	£2,000 to contribute to the travel costs of the P7 trip to Dalguise Activity Centre, Perthshire.	7 children
Watten Pre-School Playgroup	£255 to purchase decorations and hire a bouncy castle for the group's annual Christmas party.	16 children
Watten Improvements Group	£1,100 to fund the annual Hogmanay party over the next three years, including band, hall hire and decorations.	150 people
Watten Community Council	£300 to purchase compost and plants for local displays.	700 villagers
Projects benefitting another area or a Caithness wide project		
Assynt Mountain Rescue	£6,000 to contribute to the purchase and outfitting of a new 4x4 MRT-capable ambulance to be based in Thurso.	30 volunteers
Caithness Kayak Club	£2,817.05 to purchase boats, paddles and spraydecks for the group's younger members and adults with special needs.	150 members
Caithness Voluntary Group	£19,200 to contribute to salary costs for a full-time coordinator to support the Befriending Caithness programme.	40 Befriendees
RBLS Wick, Canisbay and Latheron Branch	£12,300 for marquees to be used by the annual Mey Highland and Cultural Games and other local groups during the year.	2,000 attendees
St Fergus Bowling Club	£2,500 to contribute to the cost of replacing the club's floodlighting system.	92 members
Yarrows Heritage Trust	£6,000 to carry out further investigation of the Iron Age Swartigill site.	Over 100 participants