

E.ON ROSEHALL COMMUNITY FUND



Year 7 Fund Report

1st August 2018 to 31st July 2019

Fund Overview

This report is for the three Community Council (CC) areas of Council areas of Ardgay & District; Creich; and Lairg within Central Sutherland which together, make up the E.ON Rosehall Fund Area. Since the Fund launched in 2012 the Fund has awarded 66 grants, distributing over £400,000 to community groups in the area. The Fund is ring-fenced with one-third of the Fund allocated to each Community Council area to ensure that each community receives its fair share of money.

The Fund is held and administered by Foundation Scotland who receive and process applications ensuring due diligence and monitoring of awards.

Decisions on how the Fund is spent are made by the SSE & E.ON Community Funds Panel, which makes decisions on the E.ON Rosehall Community Fund and also the two SSE Funds that operate in the same area (the Achany Community Fund and the Kyle of Sutherland Apprenticeship Scheme). This Panel has 12 volunteer representatives serving on it, made up of two Community Councillors and two elected community representatives from each of the three Community Council areas.

Year 7 saw a donation from E.ON of £71,891.46 to the Fund, which is divided equally into three allocations across the three areas. In Year 7 this meant each Community Council area had an allocation of £23,963.82.

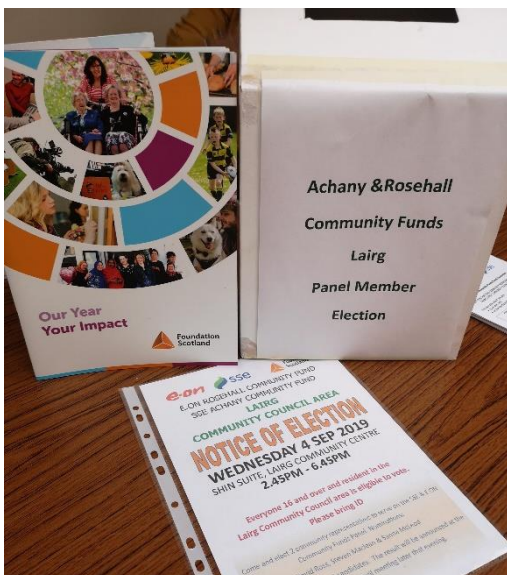


Image left: community voting day at the Lairg Community Centre as part of the election process for the Lairg Community Representative.

Image right: Foundation Scotland sharing a platform with the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust as part of the community consultation event.



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The Local Panel: the SSE & E.ON Community Funds Panel

For much of Year 7 the Panel was a member short as a Lairg Community representative moved out of the area. Vacancies are advertised in the related Community Council area, through posters and through the Community Council as well as on the Fund web page at www.foundationscotland.our.uk/rosehall and on the Fund Facebook page www.facebook.com/EON-Rosehall-Community-Fund. Three people volunteered through this process and this position has recently been filled through a community election held in the Lairg Community Centre.

Year 7 Fund Distribution: 14 Awards

Across the two funding rounds this year, a total of 17 applications were received, plus one micro grant was established. Of these, 14 were awarded and 4 were refused.

Two awards to groups based in Ardgay & District

1. **Ardgay Public Hall Committee** £4,686.00 to renovate and repair the hall car park wall adjacent to the public foot-paths on Church Street and Carron Place.
2. **Bonar Bridge/Ardgay Golf Club** £1,005.00 to contribute to the cost of purchasing a rough mower for maintaining the course.

Two awards to groups based in Creich

3. **Rosehall Parent Council** £1,944.14 to purchase a poly tunnel and gardening equipment to re-establish a school vegetable garden.
4. **Bonar Bridge Improvement Group** £6,246.80 to improve fallow areas around the village with plants and flowers and replace broken benches with new seating made from recycled plastic.

Four awards to groups based in Lairg

5. **Lairg Community Council** £1,198.19 microgrant to provide a fund for distribution to groups and individuals for general charitable purposes in the form of micro-grants.
6. **Lairg and District Community Initiatives** £12,500.00 to contribute to core costs and salary costs of a part-time Development Officer for one year, as well as training and travel expenses, volunteer expenses and new laptop.
7. **Lairg Football Club** £6,000.00 to purchase a ride-on mower to maintain the football pitch. *
8. **Lairg Community Association** £5,200.00 to contribute to salary costs for the Association's part-time Administrator. **

Six awards to groups across more than one area

9. **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust** £13,000.00 to contribute to salary costs for the Trust's part-time Office Manager.
10. **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust** £7,000.00 to provide support to people in need in the local area, to alleviate fuel poverty or assist with purchasing white good household items.
11. **Heart of Sutherland Tourism** £770.00 to contribute to the cost of design and production of a tourism information leaflet and map, promoting the Heart of Sutherland area.
12. **Sutherland Care Forum (SCIO)** £18,426.00 to continue the group's free footcare and advice service for another two years.
13. **Creich Croick and Kincardine District Day Care Association** £10,000.00 to contribute to the cost of expanding the Centre's day room and dining areas, upgrading the toilet and washroom facilities, and creating a private consultation room.
14. **Creich Croick and Kincardine District Day Care Association** £6,000.00 to fund alternative facilities and storage during the refurbishment of the Centre.

* The award to Lairg Football Club has not yet been paid and will not be paid until the Year 8 donation is received from EON. The Panel felt that this was a better outcome than refusing the award as the football club is well respected and brings significant community benefit to the area.

** The Lairg Community Association does not require this award to be paid until January 2020 therefore this award was also made possible by allocating it to the Year 8 donation.

The Fund was heavily oversubscribed this year and the Panel made some very tough decisions. Where refusals are necessary, the Panel offers feedback so that the organisation can reapply later with a stronger application, or perhaps use the feedback to help with applications to other funding organisations. The reasons for the four refusals are below.

Application Details	Reasons for refusal
<p>Kyle of Sutherland Hub requested £14,840 to contribute to the cost of employing a full time Physical Activity Co-ordinator/Instructor.</p>	<p>Whilst it was recognised that the gym is an excellent facility and is not currently operating to capacity there are currently very limited funds available and to fully fund a post at this time is not possible. If this application were to be resubmitted the Panel would suggest that a part time post might still bring benefits particularly for the evening and weekend periods, and to look for some funding from other sources such as the Sutherland Sports Council and perhaps other national funds.</p>
<p>Woodland Trust (Scotland) requested £22,000 to reintroduce a population of red squirrels to the Ledmore and Migdale Wood and engage with local schools and residents about the project.</p>	<p>Local residents have noted an increase in the red squirrel population and feel that since this is happening naturally, grant intervention may not be necessary. In addition the Panel felt that there was not enough local benefit for such a large award, particularly given the very limited funds currently available.</p>
<p>Lairg Community Association requested £7,965 to contribute to the cost of replacing the lighting in the hall with LED lighting.</p>	<p>Whilst the Panel recognised that the Hall is an excellent facility and well used by the community this level of funding is not currently available. Upgrading the lights will indeed save a substantial annual sum however the initial spend is so high that it will take a number of years to recoup the costs. The Panel suggests that other cost saving measures are explored in the meantime such as a reduction in having any lights on unnecessarily and potentially even exploring increasing the rates to raise some match funding.</p>
<p>Lairg and District Community Initiatives requested £50,000 to contribute to costs associated with early stages of planning and design for 10 community houses for the elderly.</p>	<p>The EOn Rosehall Fund only receives (approx) £25,000 annually to spend on Lairg community projects. It is therefore not feasible to award the sum of £50,000. The Panel suggests that once other funding has been obtained LDCI returns with a proposal for a smaller sum. Additionally the Panel would be keen to receive all outstanding feedback for previous awards and a list of current projects that are in the pipeline in advance of the next proposal or application.</p>

Financial Statements for period 01/08/2018 to 31/07/2019

The Fund operates an ‘admin budget’ along with three ring fenced budget; one for each area. The admin budget received the donation from E.ON Climate & Renewables which was then allocated equally across the three area. Expenses included the publishing of the community newsletter through the Ardgay & District Newsletter plus some meeting room expenses. Further detail on this can be seen here:

Opening Balance as at 01/08/2018

£110.12

Income

Year 7 - E.ON Climate & Renewables	02/11/2018	£71,891.46
Year 7 - Ardgay admin budget contribution	08/02/2019	£50.00
Year 7 - Creich admin budget contribution	08/02/2019	£50.00
Year 7 - Lairg admin budget contribution	08/02/2019	£50.00
Sub Total		£72,041.46

Expenses

Hall Hire	13/11/2018	£25.00
Marketing – Ardgay & District News	04/12/2018	£100.00
Room Hire	24/06/2019	£17.50
Year 7 - E.ON Rosehall Community Fund (Ardgay)	02/11/2018	£23,963.82
Year 7 - E.ON Rosehall Community Fund (Creich)	02/11/2018	£23,963.82
Year 7 - E.ON Rosehall Community Fund (Lairg)	02/11/2018	£23,963.82
Sub Total		£72,033.96

Closing balance as at 31/07/2019 **£117.62**

Further detail of the financial transactions and awards made for each of the three areas can be seen in appendix 1.

Local Fund Outcomes

Requests to support a wide range of costs and activities can be considered for such things as: staff costs, equipment costs; running costs for local groups; consultations; maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities etc. The Fund works towards eight local fund outcomes, welcoming applications for projects which aim to:

1. Strengthen, sustain and diversify the local economy through the development of established or emerging sectors.
2. Encourage entrepreneurship and innovation in the local community with a view to stimulating economic and social growth.
3. Increase community benefit through the acquisition, development and use of new community assets and maintain and enhance existing ones.
4. Support measures designed to improve life chances and/or quality of life.
5. Optimise local resources and assets through support for coordinated community activity.
6. Support environmental improvements which give physical social or educational benefit.
7. Support energy conservation and increased use of renewables through the promotion of energy efficiency and sustainability within the area.
8. Respond to unforeseen circumstances or opportunities that are in keeping with the broad fund outcomes identified above.

To ensure the Fund is meeting the needs of the community and to allow the Panel to reflect how this, at the assessment stage all awards are matched to a local Fund Outcome.

Information on how the Year 7 awards, along with all previous years for comparison, can be seen in an Outcomes Analysis in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1: Fund Area Financial transactions

E.ON Rosehall Fund Financial Transactions	Rosehall Year 7			Rosehall Year 8		
	A	C	L	A	C	L
Fund Year Opening Balance	£2,532.44	6314.9	2463.85	£0.65	£285.21	£1,809.32
INCOME						
• EON donation	£23,963.82	£23,963.82	£23,963.82	TBC	TBC	TBC
• Interest	£11.24	£18.25	£13.17	TBC	TBC	TBC
• Invercharron Games withdrawn	£833.33	£833.34	£833.33			
AWARDS: YEAR 7, ROUND 1						
• Bonar Bridge & Ardgay Golf Club	-£502.50	-£502.50				
• Rosehall Parent Council		-£1,944.14				
• Multi Year Award to Sutherland Care Forum	-£3,050.00	-£3,050.00	-£3,050.00	-£3,092.00	-£3,092.00	-£3,092.00
• Bonar Bridge Improvement Group		-£6,246.80				
• Lairg Community Council			-£1,198.19			
• Creich Croick and Kincardine District Day Care Association	-£3,333.34	-£3,333.33	-£3,333.33			
• Creich Croick and Kincardine District Day Care Association	-£2,000.00	-£2,000.00	-£2,000.00			
• Lairg and District Community Initiatives			-£12,500.00			
• Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust	-£3,500.00	-£3,500.00				
AWARDS: YEAR 7, ROUND 2						
• Lairg Community Association						-£5,200.00
• Ardgay Public Hall Committee	-£4,686.00					
• Heart of Sutherland Tourism	-£385.00	-£385.00				
• Lairg Football Club						-£6,000.00
• Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust	-£6,500.00	-£6,500.00				
OTHER COMMITMENTS						
• Transfer to Admin Budget	-£50.00	-£50.00	-£50.00			
• Multi Year Award to East and Central Sutherland CAB	-£3,333.34	-£3,333.33	-£3,333.33	-£3,333.33	-£3,333.33	-£3,333.34
Fund Year Closing Balance	£0.65	£285.21	£1,809.32	-£6,424.68	-£6,140.12	-£15,816.02

