



Berry Burn Community Fund

Annual Report 2016





Background: In 2013 Statkraft, owners of the Berry Burn Wind Farm, engaged public relations firm Quatro to hold a series of workshops in the designated zoned area to gauge the opinions of local residents and to begin to work out how the proposed Fund should be administered. The dates and locations of these workshops were advertised in the local press across the area.

There were two meetings at each of the venues and Quatro subsequently invited all those who attended to apply to become Trustees. This was in December 2013. From those who responded, Statkraft and Quatro selected ten who provided, in their view, an overall balance of experience and commitment from across the area. They were invited to an inaugural steering group meeting in April 2014.

At the following meeting, in May 2014, a Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer were selected. Initially it became their responsibility, together with a Quatro representative, to hold meetings with legal and financial advisers on

1. the nature of the legal status of the proposed Fund
2. its Constitution
3. its application procedures

Over a series of meetings, the proposed Fund Members discussed and finalised these details and, together with Statkraft, were able to sign off the Constitution on 29 August 2014. This allowed the Berry Burn Community Fund to be formally launched and to invite applications for funding from within the agreed zoned area.

On legal advice, the Fund elected to become an Unincorporated Association.

The role of the Fund Members is set out in the Constitution.

What are the Fund's objectives, in which zones does it operate and who can apply for funding?

The Fund's objectives are to fairly and reasonably disburse funds resulting from the receipt of the Annual Grant, which takes the form of an annual payment to the Fund from Berry Burn Wind Farm Limited, company number 04511914 ('BBWFL'). Statkraft, who own BBWFL, pay £166,750 each year and this payment shall increase (but not decrease) annually in line with the RPI. The payment shall be for the general benefit of the public living within the Community Council boundaries of Forres, East Nairnshire, Grantown-on-Spey, Cromdale & Advie, Speyside, Heldon, Findhorn and Kinloss, Finderne and Dyke Landward, to be disbursed by the Fund as the Fund sees fit.



The Fund can comprise up to eleven members of the general public selected from within the designated operating zones, together with one representative of Statkraft.

Applications are open to members of clubs, societies or groups operating within the relevant zones and looking for financial support. Applications from individuals will also be considered, provided that those applications demonstrate a clear benefit to the wider community

How often does the Berry Burn Community Fund make awards?

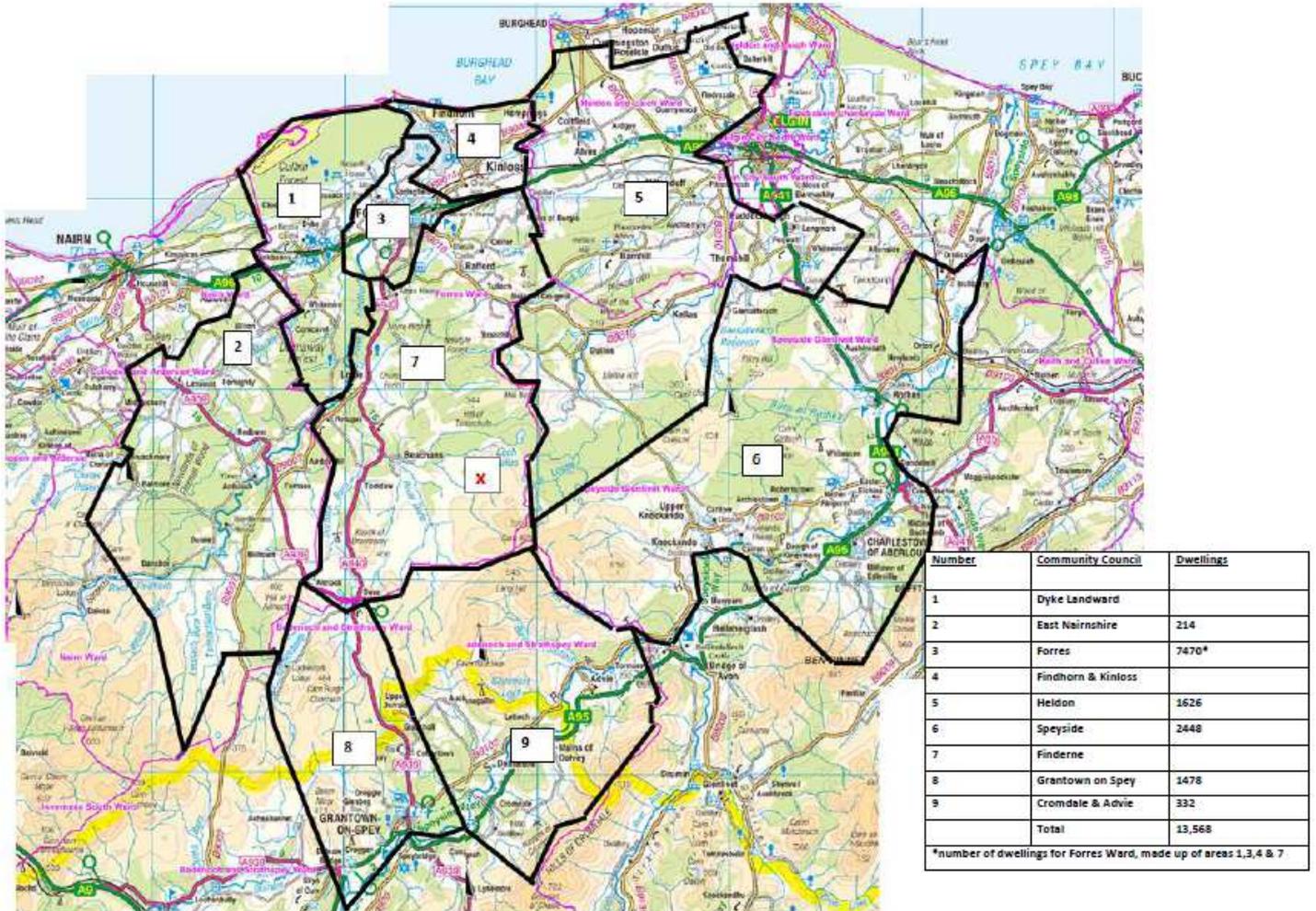
Funding rounds currently take place three times a year. Dates can be found on the Berry Burn Community Fund website at <http://berryburncommunityfund.co.uk/timetable/>

How are applications made?

Any organisation wanting to apply for funding will need to submit an application form, along with a copy of their complete and independently-examined accounts, including a balance sheet, for the past two years, three competitive quotes and a copy of the organisation's Constitution. All paperwork must be submitted by email to admin@berryburncommunityfund.co.uk

Additional information can be found, together with the necessary application forms, on the Berry Burn Community Fund website: www.berryburncommunityfund.co.uk

How much money is available in each funding round? £166,750 is available each year, divided approximately, but not exactly, between the three awards rounds.



Nine community councils covered by the Fund

Who makes the funding decisions?

There are currently eleven members of the Berry Burn Community Fund, all unpaid and based within the Fund zone. They share a commitment to improving community life within the area. Vacancies for Fund members occasionally arise, and are advertised on the Community Fund’s website and in the local press



How do the Fund members make their decisions?

Applications are judged fairly and equally, based on the information supplied on the form and the accompanying documentation. A Fund member is appointed, after the closing date, to review and report on each application and will ask the applicant for any extra background information, should it be required.

Can an applicant re-apply if unsuccessful first time round?

Any applicant rejected for funding is welcome to re-apply at a later date, unless previously advised by the Administrator that they do not meet the criteria for funding.

Will the Community Fund let applicants know why an application was unsuccessful?

The Fund is not obliged to advise unsuccessful applicants of the reason behind the rejection of their application. If, however, the reason for rejection was a failure to include the necessary supporting documentation, this may well be highlighted in the rejection email.

Who are the Fund Members?

Jim Beveridge	James Duncan
Graham Hilditch	David Houldsworth
Jana Hutt	Alec Laing
Graham Murdoch	Sharon Robinson
Norman Thomson (Vice Chair)	
Eddie Tomkinson (Chair)	David Swan (Treasurer)

Who is the Fund Administrator?

Moira Hickey



Chairman's Report

I am pleased to present this Annual Report of the Berry Burn Community Fund. Invitations to our Annual Public Meeting (APM) have been sent to all the local Community Councils within our operating zone and an open invitation has been issued via the local press to any member of the general public from within our operating zone. The purpose of the APM is to report to the general public the affairs of the Fund.

This is our second full year of operation and we have held all the projected meetings on schedule and made many awards, which are recorded in the Administrator's Report.

Our constitution provides for eleven Fund Members. For much of the past period we have operated with only ten but have been looking to fill this vacancy. Fortunately we have welcomed one new Fund Member to our meeting this year: Jana Hutt joined us in June 2016 to bring us up to the full complement of eleven members. Jana, who lives in Knockando, helps to ensure that we have Members from across our Funding Area but also has wide experience in working on other community projects in the area.

The year has seen a progressive development of our procedures to ensure we have full traceability of our funding awards with the introduction of a Final Completion Report by the beneficiary of the Funding. We require this to be submitted within 3 months of completion. This is to allow us to review our awards and procedures to ensure we are achieving a well-balanced outcome of the funding as set out in our constitution.

To provide continuity, the constitution provides for the original Members to retain their status for two years, after which three members are to step down, in annual sequence. The members stepping down can put themselves forward for re-election and be considered along with any new applicants derived from local advertising.

This year we shall be losing the services of two of our members, James Duncan and Norman Thomson. Both have been of great benefit to the Fund, both with their local knowledge and their determination to see the Fund operate firmly within the frame work of its constitution. Jim Beveridge, another stalwart of the Fund, is stepping down but offering himself for re-election.

The three officers of the Fund will all step down at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on 16 January 2017, but can offer themselves for re-election for a maximum of three years. Each has currently served for two years.

A sad loss will be our Administrator who is stepping down for personal reasons. Moira has become a core organiser of the Fund and her input will be sorely missed.

To date, the overall process has been one of continual learning and, we hope, progressive improvements and here I must pay tribute to all our Fund Members and to our



Administrator for the diligent work they have done to make this Fund both viable and effective in delivering its objectives. The money we have to award is finite but we try to ensure this is done fairly and reasonably and that it is disbursed across the whole community.

Eddie Tomkinson, December 2016

Treasurer's Report

Here is my report for 2016, which is technically year 3 for the fund. Below are the hard facts for the year expressed in figures:-

Income	Statkraft year 3 grant	£169,812.50	
			£169,812.50
Expenditure	Administrative costs	£ 7,007.95	
	Grants awarded	£166,851.00	
			£173,858.95
	Return of grant awarded 5-10	£ 11,250.00	
	Non-issue of grant awarded 7-19	£ 2,131.00	
	Part of grant not required 6-05	£ 7,500.00	
			£ 20,881.00
Total expenditure thus			£152,977.95
Surplus of income over expenditure commitments thus			£ 16,834.85



This year we have agreed to distribute 90% of our income, thus again meeting one of Statkraft's guiding principles: that we should try and distribute as much of the fund as possible, and thus not build up a large surplus of undistributed cash.

Our accounts are presently with our book-keeper for independent evaluation, as required.

As a final point of note – I am prepared to continue in the post of Treasurer for another year should it be the wish of my fellow Fund members.

David Swan, January 2017

Administrator's report

2016 has been a year of consolidating the smooth running of the Community Fund, and further establishing a well-founded reputation locally as a supporter of community projects. Very positive press coverage throughout the year has reflected well on the work of the Fund, although there is still room for improvement in getting the word out to potential applicants across the whole of the Berry Burn Community Fund zone.

Data sharing, which was going very well, with all Fund members accessing applications via Cubby, has taken a downturn since the closure of that system in October. Tom Hardie, our IT advisor, has assured us that a replacement system will be in place in time for Round 9, in February 2017.

The Fund Rep system, allocating each application to a particular Fund member to be followed through to completion, has generally worked well. I would suggest that the new Administrator ensures that Fund Reps are kept aware of when projects are due to come to an end, so that they can share responsibility for making sure that payments are made on time. I would also suggest that there needs to be consensus on the function of the website and how much information is added about individual cases.

I decided in the summer to tender my resignation as Administrator, given a lack of clarity over the extent to which the Community Fund will be associated with any Fund set up by the owners of a new, neighbouring wind farm. This lack of clarity made me unable to commit to the post of Administrator into 2017 and beyond, but it has been a pleasure to work with the Fund and I appreciate that projects in the local community are benefitting from its work.

Moira Hickey, December 2016



ROUND 6 – February 2016. Amount awarded: £62,257

Forres St Lawrence Cricket Club £5,000 for the refurbishment of the pavilion

Findhorn Village Heritage Centre £3,250 for improvements to the building

Oliver Clark £1,000 towards the purchase of a professional-standard 'cello

Forres Features £10,000 towards a light display on Cluny Hill (plus up to £7,500 shortfall guarantee)

Forres Golf Club £500 towards new flooring

St Leonard's Church, Forres £4,000 to fund an outreach project

Grantown Grammar £1,000 to participate in the Rock Challenge

Kyle Cartmell £1,000 to support participation in cycling competitions

Moravian Orienteering Club £270 to finance an orienteering event

Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust £1,100 to help tackle invasive species

Grantown Nursery £7,000 to purchase playground equipment

Forres in Bloom £961 to purchase greenhouse equipment

Forres Golf Course £1,885 to help complete a fencing project

Findhorn Bay Arts £7,791 to support the Findhorn Bay Festival 2016

Grantown YMCA £10,000 to fund a youth worker

ROUND 7 – June 2016. Amount awarded: £18,903

Moray Hydrotherapy Pool £3,000, for improvements to the pool

Forres Community Clean Up £1,541, to encourage litter picking projects

Team Munro Harris £1,000, to contribute to the costs of high-level competition in yachting

Emma and Ashley Donald £760, to contribute to the travel and competition costs of two local badminton players



Forres Thistle Football Club £1,500, to buy a storage unit

Creative Visions Moray £2,500, to help fund a film about Forres

Forres Small Bore Rifle and Pistol Club £550, to improve the exterior of the range

Forres Area Community Trust (FACT) £3,250, to help develop Forres Online

Finderne Community Council £132, to fund hall rental for the newly-reformed group

Moray Firth Triathlon Club £750, to help fund a triathlon event

Grant House Care Home, Grantown on Spey £900, to pay for plants and flowers

Findhorn, Nairn and Lossie Fisheries Trust £2,500, to help fund outreach work to primary schools

Grantown Twinning Association £520, to help with transport costs to France

ROUND 8 – October 2016. Amount awarded: £82,153

Forres Mechanics Football Club £23,000 for work to improve pitch drainage

Edinkillie Community Hall £1,500 for a survey of the building

Grantown Grammar School £3,285 to purchase a printing press for art projects, for school and community use

Ray's Opportunities £12,715 to fund support and training offered to young people

Logie Primary Parent Council £18,446 for play equipment

Findhorn Bay Nature Reserve £1,500 to fund information boards

the meeting place £11,542 towards a young people's project in Grantown-on-Spey

Forres in Bloom £2,362 towards a trailer and trolleys

Forres Rotary Club £1,407 to help towards the annual fireworks display

Sanquhar Dam Renovation Group £3,996 towards environmental improvements

Inverness Orienteering Club £2,400 to produce a digital map of the Anagach Woods in Grantown-on-Spey

