

WEST KINTYRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WIND FARM TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

We continue to receive monies from three different power companies for Beinn an Tuirc 1 & 2, Deucharan and Tangy. However the money received from Tangy is ring fenced for projects within the Tangy and Kilkenzie area. However, due to it serving such a small proportion of the community, and the lack of projects being put forward from within this defined area it is increasingly difficult to spend it as prescribed by the trust document. We do however try to utilise some of the funds when dealing with funding requests from outwith the area where it can be shown that residents within the Tangy Kilkenzie area will benefit. The same can be said for funds from the remaining windfarms.

Since the last AGM of the umbrella trust we have supported many of the regular applications such as the schools with funding assistance for school trips, and Tarbert Academy for the support of funding for students residing within the area to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and Geography field trips to assist with projects linked to their academic studies.

Some of the larger donations granted this year have been £5000 to the Kintyre Dialysis fund and £4200 to the Killean and Kilkenzie Churches Preservation Society to help towards the costs of obtaining specialists in the area of the preservation of ancient monuments and buildings. Clan MacAlister have received grants towards the renovations of Glen Bar Abbey and the Long and Winding way grants towards the setting up of a new web site.

Since the last AGM report the Community Council have entered into a partnership agreement with Argyll & Bute Council regarding the operation of Tayinloan toilets which the Community Council have many years sought funding from the Wind Farm Trust to enable these to be kept open. This partnership agreement has seen the need for funding for the toilets reduce by approximately half which in turn frees up money for other projects to be supported.

We have had concerns that in some cases not all the money granted to some applications has been spent on the project applied for and any remaining money may have been used to swell bank accounts. Whereas this concern has only been for a couple of projects and we have followed up our concerns by asking for receipts for funds spent, we feel it would in future be prudent and good practice to ask for copies of receipts for all money spent.

The treasures report attached to this brief summary of the trusts activities shows bank balances and grants given up to the end of the financial year March 31st. You will see we continue to keep 10% in reserve but with low interests rates still prevailing they continue to grow at a slower rate than several years ago.