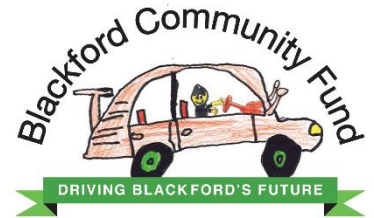


Blackford Community Fund

Fund report

1 Jan 2016 – 31 March 2017



Introduction

The Blackford Community Fund is a charitable Fund linked to an Endowment Fund that was originally created in 2009 with a donation of £250,000 to Blackford Community Council by Ochil Developments, the developer of the G West development near Blackford. The Endowment Fund, managed by Foundation Scotland on behalf of the community, is intended to be a lasting resource for the community of Blackford.

As well as being able to draw down funds from the Endowment, the community also receives an annual payment of at least £12,000 from the combined community benefit payments from EDF-ER Energy Renewables Burnfoot Hill, Burnfoot North and Rhodders Wind Farms. This arrangement started in 2011 and will continue for the life time of these wind farms which is expected to be 25 years.

The Fund supports community groups and charities working in the Blackford Community Council area that are providing activities or services which **promote community spirit and bring people together, enhance quality of life and promote people's well-being** and **foster a vibrant sustainable community**.

Projects that benefit older residents of the community are particularly welcome.

Grant requests support a wide range of costs and activities, including equipment costs, running costs for local groups, sessional worker costs and maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities etc.

The Blackford Panel makes decisions on how the Fund is spent, and promotes the Fund locally. The Panel comprises one member from the Blackford Community Council appointed by the Community Council, a representative of Ochil Developments and five other local residents.

During this period the Panel has comprised the following members:

David MacDonald (Chair), Graham McNaughton, Allan King (representing G West/ Ochil Developments UK Ltd), Irene McLaughlan (representing Blackford Community Council), Bill Gemmell, Iain Paton and Andrew Sinclair.

During 2016, Foundation Scotland has been working with the Community Council to review and refresh the documentation that governs the Blackford Community Fund. This work is still in progress and will complete later in 2017.

Financial Statement

Statement Period: 01 January 2016 to 31 March 2017

Opening Balance **£2,861.77**

Income

EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund 2015 Interest	01/02/2016	£16.43
Blackford Badminton Club grant withdrawn *	31/03/2016	£338.75
Taziker Industrial	13/05/2016	£500.00
EDF Burnfoot Hill Community Fund	02/06/2016	£7,121.62
EDF Burnfoot North Community Fund	02/06/2016	£3,304.54
Endowment Ochil Developments Blackford Community Fund	30/09/2016	£9,873.70
EDF Rhodders Community Fund	06/01/2017	£2,439.60
Endowment Ochil Developments Blackford Community Fund	24/03/2017	£45,774.00
	Sub Total	£69,368.64

Expenditure

Grants released in period	£24,016.81	
Grants to be released	£45,774.00	
	Sub Total	£69,790.81

Total funds available as at 31/03/2017 **£2,439.60**

*Club were unable to meet during renovations on the Hall

Overview of Awards

In the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017, a total of 24 applications to the Fund were received over two rounds. 23 awards were made totalling £24,017 with one group being asked to meet some outstanding conditions on a previous grant prior to receiving further support. One grant was returned in this period because the project could not proceed due to hall refurbishments.

The average award over the report period was £1,044 compared to £1,021 in the previous reporting period. The lowest award was £163 (made to the Historical Society) and the highest award at the standard level of award of £1,500 was awarded 10 times. This is a clear indication that the raising of the maximum grant award from £1000 to £1500 in the previous period continues to assist groups to deliver activities in the context of ever increasing costs of goods and services.

Alongside this 'regular' grant-making the Panel also approved a large grant to the Blackford Improvement Group for a significant legacy project. The project had secured significant community support prior to coming to the Panel and will help develop an area of land adjacent to Blackford Primary School into a safe and inclusive play and recreational space, picnic area and garden space for the enhancement and well-being of the whole community both young and old.

The **full list of awards** during this period were as follows:

Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of an outing to Pitlochry Festival Theatre in Nov 2016.
Blackford Bowling Club	£1,188.00	To carry out improvement works to the bowling green and participate in Bowls Scotland Try Bowls campaign and Bowlsparc Project.
Strathearn Pipe Band	£1,500.00	To hire the village hall for rehearsals two nights per week between August 2016 and July 2017.
Blackford Bells	£1,500.00	To purchase a set of diatonic handbells.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£1,500.00	To hire a marquee and safety fencing and to fund the printing costs for tickets and programmes.
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of planting flower beds and various tubs/hanging baskets throughout the village in June 2016.
Blackford Scottish Women's Rural Institute	£470.00	To fund the group's summer outing, consisting of bus hire, canal trip and supper.

Blackford Badminton Club	£338.75	To fund 25 weeks of hall hire and purchase 4 dozen shuttlecocks.
Blackford Sings	£1,190.00	To fund 14 weeks of hall hire and 14 sessions with a professional song leader between Aug-Dec 2016.
Blackford Primary School Parent Council	£600.00	To purchase a wooden garden storage unit, fertilizer and decorative glass aggregate for the sensory garden.
Blackford Improvement Group (BIG)	£500.00	To contribute to the cost of preparing final drawings and costings for the redevelopment of Blackford's park.
Blackford Festive Lights	£1,000.00	To replace the decorative sleigh used during the festive period and to install CCTV where the village defibrillator is situated.
Blackford Crafters	£217.06	To fund hall hire for 18 evenings over the year and membership of Remake Scotland for 2017-18.
1st Blackford Brownies	£850.00	To fund bus hire and tickets to the Glasgow Science Museum for the unit.
Blackford Events Group	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of holding a fireworks display on 5 Nov 2016.
Blackford Sings	£1,000.00	To contribute to the cost of a professional song leader for 12 sessions over Jan-May 2017, hall hire, and miscellaneous expenses.
Blackford Bells	£1,500.00	To provide the balance of funding required to purchase a set of diatonic handbells, in conjunction with grant ref. A403326.
Blackford Gala Day Committee	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of the senior citizens trip, hall hire for concert and quiz, inflatables, children's entertainment and Gala prizes.
Blackford Highland Games Committee	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of the annual senior citizens outing.
Blackford is Brighter	£1,500.00	To carry out some landscaping in the scree garden, including removing some trees which obstruct the view of the garden and purchasing more chips and alpine plants.

Blackford Historical Society	£163.00	To purchase a projector screen and to purchase the indexes to valuation rolls giving details of owner and tenant of properties for years 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, 1920, 1925 and 1930. <i>(Due to the church purchasing its own screen funds were used to purchase a laptop computer instead.)</i>
Senior Citizens Lunch Club	£1,500.00	To contribute to the cost of the annual Christmas party and spring outing.
Blackford Improvement Group (BIG)	£45,774.00	To support costs associated with re-development of a play park and recreational area to provide a legacy for the village and future generations.
TOTAL AWARDED	£69,791.00	

In the past year a laptop was purchased by the Historical Society instead of the projector and has been added to the Blackford Community Fund asset register and which now comprises the following items which, where practical and feasible, the Panel hope groups make available to each other as and when required:

Date of award	Group	Item
2009, May 2011	Blackford Parent Toddlers	Toys - various
May 2011	SWRI	Crockery
October 2011	Blackford Fiddle Group	Trailer
May 2013	Blackford Gala Day Committee	Scoreboard
May 2014	Blackford Historical Society	Laptop computer
October 2014	Blackford Fiddle Group	Speakers
October 2014	Blackford Primary School Parent Council	Portable PA system with wireless microphones and Marquee.
October 2014		Defibrillator
October 2015	Blackford Gala Day Committee	Bunting
May 2016	Blackford Historical Society	Projector screen

What difference is the Fund making?

The Fund continues to be a valuable resource for Blackford, supporting the many varied activities and projects of community groups that themselves are providing a range of educational and social opportunities for Blackford residents. The following reports have already been received from groups

that received grants in this period:

Blackford Sings reported that “the grant partly funded the project cost, with the remainder coming from the group's reserves. 25 people benefited from the professional choir leader, who has provided valuable input and helped the group to consolidate membership numbers and progress. The choir meets roughly 14 times each session with a break over summer. Membership grew significantly following a promotion event. The group have had three public performances, including a local historic society celebration of Killiecrankie and at a Christmas event with other choirs in Dunblane. They also undertook a self-funded trip to Celtic Connections. The group has bonded socially and include three members from families new to the area who have used the group to get to know the village. As the group continue to progress and expand their repertoire with the aid of the choir leader they hope to perform more frequently.”

Blackford Senior Citizens Lunch Club continues to thrive with support from the Fund. They reported that “the grant partly funded the project cost, with the remainder coming from a donation from Highland Spring. The group also held a fundraising raffle at the spring lunch. The Christmas party included a buffet meal and entertainment. It was attended by 70 senior citizens. The spring outing was held on 13 April 2017 and attended by 72 people. A 2-course lunch was provided, followed by entertainment. Transportation was provided for people with mobility issues who are otherwise housebound. The events provide much needed social interaction and entertainment for local seniors. Feedback has been very positive.”

A new group, **Blackford Events Group** received an initial award to assist with a community fireworks display. The grant partly funded the project costs, with the remainder coming from sponsorship from local businesses. The fireworks display and after party with live music at the local bowling club was well attended, and the group raised £1,641.61 in voluntary donations, which will go to help a local resident who suffers from cerebral palsy and requires treatment abroad. The grant played a large part in allowing the event to go ahead, and was very motivating for the group to have their first event be so successful.

Rachel Searle-Mbullu
Foundation Scotland
131 West Nile St
Glasgow, G1 2RX

Tel: 0141 564 1907 E-mail: rachel@foundationscotland.org.uk