

**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
REGIONWIDE COMMUNITY FUND
ANNUAL REPORT
2021/22 'Year 3'**

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1. Introduction

Dumfries and Galloway Council first considered the establishment of a region-wide fund in January 2015 and the arrangements were subsequently agreed by the Council's Communities Committee in October 2018.

The Regionwide Community Fund (RWCF) acts mainly as a 'last resort', to ensure as much funding as possible is drawn into the region from windfarm developers and to give community groups a choice - for example, if there is no local community group in existence to manage the funds; or available groups are unable or unwilling to process the amount of funding available then the RWCF would accept and distribute it.

The Council continues to promote the position that the most local appropriate group receives any available windfarm funding and there will be absolutely no obligation on either communities or developers to contribute to the RWCF - it is entirely at their discretion.

The RWCF has now distributed its second year's funding. As evidenced in this second Annual Report, the existence of the RWCF and the contribution from Airies Windfarm has provided local groups with funding that is being used for a range of projects that will benefit our region.

2. Management Committee and arrangements

Membership

2.1 Representation on the Management Committee (the 'Management Committee' or the "MC") was invited from public sector bodies and members were appointed in 2019 for a three-year term from Dumfries and Galloway Council, Dumfries and Galloway College, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, and NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage).

2.2 Independent members of the Management Committee were recruited with the assistance of Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway, to maintain a level of separation between the Council and the selection of Independent Members. Five independent members have been appointed for a three-year term.

2.3 Members of the MC for 2021/22:

- Cllr. Andy Ferguson - Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Dr Stuart Graham – Nature Scotland
- Sharon Walker – NHS D&G
- Jill Galloway – D&G College
- Jeanette Byers – Independent
- Kim Dam – Independent
- Carol Hogarth – Independent
- Fiona Limbrey – Independent
- Sue Reedman – Independent

Meetings during 2022/23

2.4 This year's allocation was confirmed by the MC in June 2022, with a follow-up meeting in July for feedback and discussion on the process and to scrutinise the performance monitoring information for the 2021/22 awards.

2.5 Constitution and Terms of Reference

Full name

Dumfries and Galloway Windfarm Voluntary Regionwide Fund
Abbreviated to 'Regionwide Community Fund' or 'RWCF' or the 'Fund'.

Aims

The Regionwide Community Fund will be a source of funding to support applications aimed at improving:

- Local business and skills
- Community and environment
- Culture and tourism
- Affordable housing
- Community transport
- Broadband connectivity
- Fuel poverty
- Energy conservation and production
- Support local recovery from Covid-19 pandemic (added for Year 2 by the Management Committee)

Remit

The Management Committee's remit is to:

- Allocate the funds from the RWCF using the information provided in the RWCF's Application Form and based on the above Fund Criteria and associated Scoring Framework.
- Agree grants given have met the aims of the Fund.
- Agree effective and efficient management arrangements of the Fund.

The Management Committee has the power to grant or reject applications for the Fund's money with no right of appeal.

Membership

The Management Committee is made up of 9 members, with a majority of independent members; i.e. 5 drawn from non-public sector organisations and 4 from public sector organisations.

The Chair will be an independent member elected by the Management Committee. Membership of the Management Committee will be for a term of three years. Members will be expected to undertake any relevant training and briefing during their term of appointment.

All Members will be required to adhere to the Standards of Public Life and the Council's Code of Conduct.

Meeting Arrangements

The quorum for making valid decisions at each MC meeting will be a minimum of five, with a majority of independent members required.

If a Member cannot attend an MC meeting and they have a suitable substitute available, the substitute can attend in their place.

In the absence of the Chair at an MC meeting, the Committee will elect a Chair for the meeting.

Meetings are private and the agenda, reports and minutes will be circulated to Committee Members only.

Executive and Administrative Support

An Officer of Dumfries and Galloway Council will provide this support.

Schedule of Meetings

There will be at least an annual meeting of the Management Committee and normally two meetings in each calendar year.

Any changes to the schedule (i.e. more or fewer meetings) can be determined by the Lead Officer in consultation with the committee.

Decision Making Process

Decisions will be made through scoring of applications by the Management Committee against the Fund Criteria and Scoring Framework provided. Committee Members will be provided with applications in advance of meetings, so if unable to attend can submit their scores in advance.

Monitoring and Reporting

Successful applicants will submit a monitoring report on at least an annual basis for the duration of their project, and a report will be scrutinised by the Management Committee to ensure that the funding has fulfilled its purpose.

Finances

The monies will be held and administered on behalf of the Fund by Dumfries and Galloway Council's finance system.

Payments will be made to and come from a designated account held by the Council and are only accessed by those authorised to administer the Fund – the funds cannot be spent on anything else.

At least an annual Budget Monitoring Report will be submitted to the Management Committee.

Running costs will come from the Fund itself, initially at 10% in line with other funds of this type. The percentage will be reviewed in the event of extra funds being contributed to the RWCF, to ensure costs are met without over-charging the Fund.

3. Budget

3.1 Income

The total contributed to the Fund for 2022/23 ahead of the second round of applications was £99,750.00 contributed from the Airies Windfarm Community Benefit Fund. An additional £4,185.99 funding that had been allocated but not used by the applicants was carried over from the previous year to add to the total available.

3.2 Expenditure

The outgoings of the Fund in 2022/23 were: £93,960.99 committed to projects in the region. There is a full list of successful applicants in table 1 below.

As previously agreed, 10% of the Fund will go towards running and administration costs which will equate to around £9,000 per year. It is agreed by the Management Committee that any excess funding not allocated will be carried forward for the next round of applications.

4. Performance monitoring of 2021/22 awards

The 2nd year of the Fund's operation, 2021/22 supported a variety of community benefit projects covering a range of the Fund's target aims.

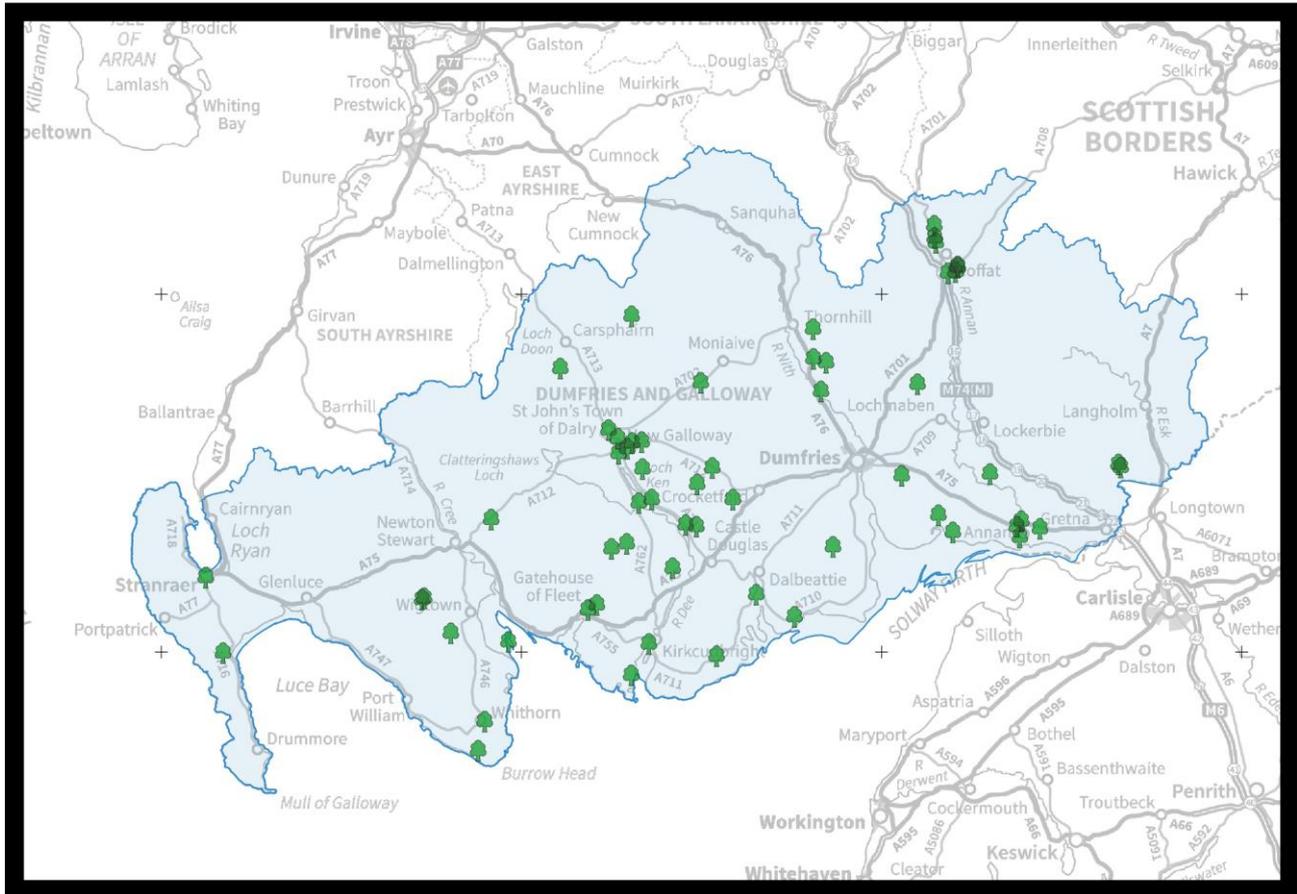
A full list of the 25 projects supported is available in the year 2 annual report - [Regionwide Community Fund Year 2 Annual Report 2022.pdf \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](#)

Detailed project monitoring returns have been collected from the successful applicants in line with the Grant Agreements entered into by the applicants and conditions of accepting their award; and the performance monitoring report will be scrutinised by the Management Committee.

Below is a selection of short case studies of some of the completed projects the 2021/22 Fund supported across the region.

RCF024 Tweed Forum - South of Scotland Tree Planting Grant Scheme - £3,750

This grant has supported the planting of some 20,523 (17.42 ha) native species trees. Work was done by a mix of individuals, community groups and schools. See map below for locations:



RCF015 Galloway Community Transport – Patient Transport Service - £5,000

Galloway Community Transport used their grant to support the costs of their patient transport service, taking those who may struggle with other transport options from the Stewarty and West Dumfries to their medical appointments. The Region Wide Community Fund grant paid for 81 trips to the following locations:

In region: DGRI, Mountainhall, Castle Douglas Hospital, Kirkcudbright Hospital, Covid Vaccination Centres

Out of region: Ayr Hospital, Kilmarnock Hospital, Beatson Cancer Centre, Glasgow Dental Hospital, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Golden Jubilee Hospital, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh Western General

Their volunteer drivers contributed 366 volunteer hours and covered 8568 miles in the process. This has enabled many elderly and/or infirm people, and those living in remote areas or with limited incomes, to access healthcare appointments that they would have had difficulty getting to or been unable able to get to at all.

RCF046 Newton Stewart Walking Festival – Newton Stewart Walking Festival - £750

The funding was used to support the costs of providing transport for walkers taking part in the 2022 Newton Stewart Walking Festival. The festival ran from 6th to 12th May 2022 and consisted of a programme of 30 full and part day guided walks, as well as 3 evening

talks/social events, which sought to showcase the range of walking opportunities across Galloway. It supported the designation of Newton Stewart as “The Gateway to the Galloway Hills” and its accreditation as a “Walkers Are Welcome” town. There was a total of 390 walk places booked across the week. Below is poster for the event:



**Newton Stewart
Walking Festival**
6th to 12th May 2022

A week of guided walks and evening talks exploring the wild hills, rugged coastline and rolling countryside of Galloway

Full programme and online booking at
www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com







RCF053 Newton Stewart Football Club – Net Zero Project - £5,000

The funding contributed to purchasing an array of 36 solar PV panels, as well as 3 storage batteries. This will power the club’s floodlights, reducing the amount of electricity the club needs to draw from the grid, both saving money and reducing their environmental impact.

This will mean more funds can go into the club’s activities.

RCF002 Dumfries Y Gymnastics Club – Young Helpers and Coach Development Programme - £3,048.95

The club used their grant to help fund the upskilling of their young helpers by attending the Scottish Gymnastics Leadership Award, and to support the further development of their young coaches with the UKCC (UK Coaching Club) level 1 women's Artistic Courses coaching awards. This will both be a help to the club, as well as developing options for paid employment for their young coaches.



5.2022/23 Grants

5.1 The application form, criteria, eligibility, and Scoring Framework were agreed by the Management Committee and also the timetable as follows:

- Applications opened – 28th January 2022
- Closing of applications – 5pm 22nd April 2022

5.2 76 compliant applications were received and, after consideration and scoring by the Management Committee, 27 were successful as set out in Table 1. Unsuccessful applicants have been advised they can re-apply to future rounds of the Fund.

5.3 The grant application process, the Scoring Framework, compliance checks on the governance arrangements and financial sustainability of applicants, and the grant conditions are based on established arrangements that are already in place for other grants and are therefore consistent with Audit Scotland's 'Following The Public Pound' and other best practice guidance.

5.4 Each successful project is required to submit a Monitoring Report to evidence the achievement of the project outcomes. These Monitoring Reports are to be returned within 12 months of accepting the award, with the information used to check that funds have been spent on the agreed purpose, and for the information of the Management Committee.

Table 1: 2022/23 Grant Awards

| Applicant | Award |
|--|-----------|
| Onus SW Scotland | £4,500.00 |
| Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust | £5,000.00 |
| Annan & District Day Centre | £4,296.00 |
| Cree Valley Resilience Group | £2,880.00 |
| The Furniture Project Ltd | £5,000.00 |
| The Langholm Initiative | £5,000.00 |
| Tweed Forum | £5,000.00 |
| Stranraer Development Trust | £4,500.00 |
| Building Futures Galloway Ltd | £4,602.00 |
| Annan Harbour Rowing Club | £412.50 |
| The Museum Newton Stewart | £3,750.00 |
| D&G Disability Sport | £3,750.00 |
| Rhonehouse Village Hall Committee | £1,500.00 |
| Castle Douglas Community IT Centre | £3,624.73 |
| The Stove Network Ltd | £3,562.50 |
| Castle Douglas Day Centre for Older People | £2,625.00 |
| Dumfries YMCA | £3,750.00 |
| Dalbeattie Star FC | £3,750.00 |
| Annan the History Town Group | £3,750.00 |
| Maxwell Memorial Hall Terregles Management Committee | £3,750.00 |
| The Fullarton Theatre | £3,750.00 |
| Shambellie House Trust | £2,370.00 |
| Kirkcudbright Summer Festivities | £2,250.00 |
| Portpatrick Community Development Trust | £3,750.00 |
| Creation Mill | £3,750.00 |
| Young Enterprise Scotland | £1,544.13 |
| Driftwood Cinema | £1,544.13 |

Total: £93,960.99

6. Communications and information

6.1 A webpage for the Fund sits within the Dumgal website:

<https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/20249/Dumfries-and-Galloway-Regionwide-Community-Fund>

6.2 The promotion of the Fund was through the Council's website, social media platforms, information distributed to Elected Members, Community Councils, as well as being included on various third sector funding information websites, newsletters etc. for the region.