

# Report

Report to:	<b>Community and Enterprise Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>29 August 2023</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Community Benefit Funds – Renewable Energy Fund Grant Applications</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ consider a grant application to Middle Muir Windfarm Renewable Energy Fund (REF) from Wiston Village Hall Association
- ◆ consider a grant application to Andershaw Windfarm REF from the Coalburn Miners' Welfare Society
- ◆ consider a grant application to Middle Muir REF from Glenbuck and Douglas Football Club

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that a grant be awarded to Wiston Village Hall Association of up to £81,671 from Middle Muir Windfarm REF for the appointment of an architect team and associated surveys for the design and development of refurbishment works to the village hall;
- (2) that a grant be awarded to Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society of up to £27,465 from Andershaw Windfarm REF to facilitate the installation of solar panels and air-to-air heat source pump system; and
- (3) that a grant be awarded to Glenbuck and Douglas Football Club of up to £79,570 from Middle Muir Windfarm REF to facilitate flood light installation.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. Since 2004, the Council has collected and administered Community Benefit funding through the Enterprise and Sustainable Development Service. The Service is responsible for securing the contributions from windfarm developers, advising potential applicants, assessing applications and monitoring projects to ensure that the community benefits associated with each project are delivered. Processes are continuously reviewed to ensure the best practices in grant provision and monitoring is undertaken to ensure the necessary support is delivered to eligible communities.
- 3.2. Grant awards above £20,000 require approval from Committee. Awards below this level are approved by the Head of Enterprise and Sustainable Development under delegated authority. All grants awarded are reported annually to the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee.

#### **4. Grant Recommendation**

- 4.1. Application Number 914  
Wiston Village Hall Association – project value £163,342.54  
Proposed Grant award £81,671.27 intervention rate of 50%  
The proposed grant of £81,671.27 will be funded from Middle Muir Windfarm which contributes into the REF.
- 4.2. Wiston Village Hall Association (WVHA) is an established charity with its purpose being:-
  - ◆ Fostering community spirit through achievement of these and other such objectives as may be deemed to be charitable and for the benefit of the community residents in the neighbouring districts. Providing, maintaining and managing facilities which can be used for recreational, heritage and cultural pursuits in order to improve the wellbeing of the community and visitors to the area. Promoting community spirit within Wiston and the surrounding area. Delivering community-based events and providing access to both the public and groups/clubs with the opportunity to book the facilities for the purposes of taking part and/or providing classes/activities to a wide area of the community thus offering participation in sports from entry level through to advanced, initially requiring little or no levels of fitness.
- 4.3. The organisation manages the facility, independent from any Council support for the community. The facility can be used for recreational, heritage and cultural pursuits to improve the wellbeing of the community and visitors to the area.
- 4.4. WVHA has a 7 member management committee and 4 regular volunteers. WVHA consulted with the wider community and residents within the area regarding the project to ascertain, coordinate and reflect the views of the community.
- 4.5. The grant will allow WVHA to proceed with the next step in plans to refurbish the hall for the benefit of the community. The Hall is at the centre of that community and an integral part of the social, welfare and education facilities in the small rural community. The organisation has built up a loyal support in the village and surrounding areas through a variety of events and educational functions, and now find limitation due to the age and condition of the building, which was constructed in 1916 for the benefit of Wiston residents. Planned improvements include better access to the building and internal areas for disabled patrons, upgrade the kitchen and toilets, improved fire and security measures and upgrade to more energy efficient heating and lighting. The refurbished hall will provide modern efficient facilities for recreational and leisure activities, with a broader scope and reach than can currently be provided.
- 4.6. The group secured funds through the Clyde Windfarm Fund to undertake an initial feasibility study (£8,730). The project now requires funding to allow WVHA to proceed with the selected architect team to complete technical surveys, technical design, specification, planning permission and complete tender documentation to RIBA Stage 4 – Detailed Design. This will provide the group with the information required to pursue funding to refurbish the hall.
- 4.7. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will improve inclusion and sustainability and support opportunities for the surrounding area.
- 4.8. The application was scored as 32.5 and which permits an intervention rate of up to 60% of eligible costs.

- 4.9. All REF awards are conditional on suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 50% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Value</b>
Clyde Windfarm Fund	To be confirmed August 2023	£81,671.27
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (50%)	For approval	£81,671.27
<b>Total project value</b>		<b>£163,342.54</b>

- 4.10. The anticipated start date for the work is September 2023 and Council officers will work with the applicant to monitor progress.

## **5. Grant Recommendation**

- 5.1. Application Number 926  
Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society – project value £47,465  
Proposed grant award £27,465 intervention rate of 58%  
The proposed REF grant of £27,465 will be funded from Andershaw Windfarm which contributes into the REF
- 5.2. Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society (CMWCS) is an established charity with its purpose being:-
- ◆ The Objects of the Charity are, to provide facilities for such forms of recreation and other leisure time occupation as are conducive to the improvement of the conditions of living of the inhabitants of Coalburn and neighbourhood thereof and to address rural exclusion (including disadvantage by reason of unemployment, poor housing, low income and poor health) and promote the wellbeing of the local community by, among other means, providing a 'One Stop Shop' for the local community.
- 5.3. CMWCS is a multi-function community facility, all lands and buildings belong to the Charity which includes Coalburn Miners' Welfare Bowling Club and Coalburn Miners' Welfare Social Club. CMWCS deliver a range of activities within the facilities including a Heritage Centre, Community Cafe, Citizens Advice Bureau, SLC/Connect 2 Renewables Employability Service, IT Suite, Cinema Club, Lunch Club, Room and Conference Hire for the community and surrounding area.
- 5.4. CMWCS has an 8 member management committee, 40 regular volunteers, 3 full time staff and 10 part time staff and 400 members all of whom have been consulted regarding the project to ascertain, coordinate and reflect the views of the community.
- 5.5. An Energy Audit carried out on the premises recommended the installation of an air-to-air heat source pump heating system at Coalburn Miners' Welfare Social Club and Coalburn Miners' Welfare Bowling Club. It was also advised solar panel installation at Coalburn Miners' Welfare Bowling Club. The Charity currently has air-to-air heat source pumps as a backup system in the Social Club area which is 15 years old and currently out of order. The new air-to-air heat source pump system and solar panels will be more cost effective and environmentally friendly the estimated cost savings will be 32% annually.
- 5.6. The project requires capital funding to instal solar panels, air to air heat source pumps and all electrical and joinery works to complete the project.

- 5.7. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will improve inclusion and sustainability and support opportunities for the surrounding area.
- 5.8. The application scored 33 which permits a maximum intervention rate of up to 60% of eligible costs.
- 5.9. All REF awards are conditional on suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 58% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Value</b>
Dalquandy Trust Fund	To be confirmed August 23	£20,000
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (58%)	For approval	£27,465
<b>Total project value</b>		<b>£47,465</b>

- 5.10. The project is scheduled to commence in September 2023 and be complete by October 2023. Officers will work with the applicant to monitor progress and any impact on the timescales.

## **6. Grant Recommendation**

- 6.1. Application Number 919  
Glenbuck and Douglas Football Club – project value £113,667  
Proposed grant award £79,570 intervention rate of 70%  
The proposed REF grant of £79,570 will be funded from Middle Muir Windfarm which contributes into the REF.
- 6.2. Glenbuck and Douglas Football Club (GDFC) is an established charity with its purpose being:-
- ◆ The Objects of the Charity are, to support the advancement of public participation in sport and the provision of recreational facilities and activities, while improving the conditions of life for young people with a healthy, safe and fun means of recreation for the community of the Douglas Valley and the surrounding areas. This done through football coaching and community football teams including boy and girls of all ages, abilities and skill levels, through accessible coaching and participation.
- 6.3. GDFC provide football training to children from all social backgrounds within the village of Douglas and the surrounding communities. The Club has 5 different age and ability groups within the academy ranging from ages 5 to 13 years old who compete in the Central Lanarkshire Youth Football Association league on a Saturday morning. They also have a programme to support and develop children and mini kickers encouraging healthy active and social interaction. All young people benefit from training and coaching on various days within the week at Douglas 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation pitch during Spring/Summer months.
- 6.4. GDFC has a 4 member management committee, 10 regular volunteers, and 160 young people all of whom have been consulted regarding the project to ascertain, coordinate and reflect the views of the community.
- 6.5. This project will install floodlights at Douglas Primary School improving accessibility for the local community using the 9-a-side MUGA pitch attached to the school. The MUGA pitch will operate after school hours Monday to Thursday through a community let, allowing groups to book the pitch. The addition of floodlights will allow extended

access on the darker nights. Previous attempts to open the MUGA to the public unsupervised has resulted in vandalism and complaints of anti-social behaviour. The community let will mean the opening of the school grounds and facilities (toilets) will be controlled. The work is being carried out on Council owned land and is part of the Education Estate. The project will be managed by Housing and Technical Resources. The tender exercise has been carried out and the Council has 180 days to award the contract from receipt of the resulting successful bid. A partnership agreement between the Council and GDFC will be entered on successful funding award.

- 6.6. The project requires capital funding to meet the cost of construction, installation, fees and ongoing maintenance costs this will ensure no cost implications to the Council.
- 6.7. The project has been established in response to community demand, it will improve inclusion and healthy activities and opportunities for the surrounding area.
- 6.8. The application scored 40 which permits an intervention rate of up to 71% of eligible costs.
- 6.9. All REF awards are conditional on suitable match funding being secured. The REF grant sought is 70% of the project value with the match funding as set out below.

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Value</b>
Clyde Wind Farm	To be confirmed August 23	£34,097
SLC Renewable Energy Fund Grant (70%)	For approval	£79,570
<b>Total project value</b>		<b>£113,667</b>

- 6.10. The project is scheduled to commence in October 2023 and be complete by January 2024. Officers will work with the applicant to monitor progress and any impact on the timescales.

## **7. Employee Implications**

- 7.1. There are no employee implications arising from this report.

## **8. Financial Implications**

- 8.1. The awards will come from Middle Muir and Andershaw Windfarms which contributes to the REF. The Funds have sufficient resources to meet the proposed grant award commitments detailed in this report.
- 8.2. REF funding grant awards are conditional on all other funding being secured.

## **9. Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 9.1. The 3 grants will help deliver sustainability and help reduce carbon emissions in different ways. All projects will support local village facilities and reduce the requirement for transport to reach good quality community facilities. The grant to CMWCS will fund the installation of energy efficient PV panels and air to air heat source pumps reducing carbon emissions. The design work for WVHA will incorporate energy efficiency and carbon reduction within the design helping to minimise future running costs for the hall. The pitch lighting for GDFC will be new, however, the lighting will be energy efficient and only used while the pitch is being used by the community.

## **10. Other Implications**

- 10.1. The risks associated with the project are focused on the potential for cost overruns, delays to the projects or match funding not being secured and the long-term use of the asset. Work will continue with the applicant to help ensure match funding is secured and that projects are delivered broadly on time and within budget.

## **11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 11.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function, or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

**David Booth**

**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

7 August 2023

## **Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

### Values

- ◆ Focused on people and their needs
- ◆ Working with and respecting others
- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient and transparent
- ◆ Ambitious, self-aware and improving
- ◆ Fair, open and sustainable

### Priorities

- ◆ We will work to put people first and reduce inequality
- ◆ We will work towards a sustainable future in sustainable places

### Outcomes

- ◆ Good quality, suitable and sustainable places to live
- ◆ Caring, connected, sustainable communities
- ◆ People live the healthiest lives possible

## **Previous References**

- ◆ None

## **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 926
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 926
- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 914
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 914
- ◆ Completed REF Grant Application Form for application number 919
- ◆ Completed REF Appraisal Scoring Sheet for application number 919

## **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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