



South Kyle Community Investment Fund
Working Group Meeting
4th & 10th August 2021, 7.30pm
By Zoom
Draft Minutes

The working group took place over two meetings due to difficulties getting a date to suit all. This minute combines the discussion from both meetings under each heading.

1. Welcome, intros & apologies

	4 th August	10 th August
Present	Sylvia Sinclair (CREFL), Liz Holmes (Carsphairn CC), Sheena Boyd (NCDT), Davey McMillan (CCT), Shirley Anderson (Dalmellington CC)	Elaine Stewart (Dalmellington PDT) Rae Smith (Dalmellington CC)
Apologies	Lorraine Mair (Dalmellington CC), Susan Kerr (New Cumnock DT)	Lindsay Dwyer (Patna CC)
In attendance	Suzy Mercer and Rachel Searle, Foundation Scotland	

2. Minute of the June meeting and agreement of circulation

The minutes of the June meeting were agreed as accurate.

Circulation of minutes: Both sessions of the working group agreed that it would be appropriate for the Minutes, once approved, to be posted on the South Kyle Facebook page. It was also agreed that once final, members would circulate minutes to their own membership, or share the link to the Facebook page, whichever was appropriate to their group.

There was discussion of there being a two month delay between meetings and the minutes being approved. It was agreed that Foundation Scotland could post headlines on Facebook from each working group's meeting after each meeting so that people not on the working group could stay up to date with what was being discussed, rather than having to wait for two months to see the approved minute.

ACTION: Foundation Scotland to post meeting headlines on Facebook

The Terms of Reference (TOR) were revisited – it was agreed that, following their request, it was appropriate for CREFL to have a representative at the Working Group meetings, as there was a parallel with NCDT also being a body which deals with community benefits. It was agreed the TOR could be revised to reflect this change.

It was noted that the TOR also retained a reference to community members and this should be deleted.

ACTION: Foundation Scotland to update the TOR and circulate.

3. Developing young people's engagement

Foundation Scotland outlined that Vattenfall had approved some funds for an initiative to start engaging young people in the Fund. A paper outlining the proposal has been circulated to all members and will be appended to the minute.

It was noted that in the Give My View polling that children and young people were a priority for every community in the South Kyle area and that it had already been outlined that there was a commitment to do some direct engagement with young people, rather than run an Inform and Inspire session about young people.

Essentially the initiative is to provide children and young people in each of the four areas the opportunity to have a go at spending some money and to think about what they want. Often what money gets spent on is decided at community level — this is about the children themselves actually spending some money and making decisions on money, akin to participatory budgeting, and experiencing the power and the positivity of that. This could possibly warm up some interest in children and young people playing a future role in the Fund, for example there could be a ringfenced amount each year for the first few years for a Young People's Forum – this initiative now could act as a rehearsal for reality.

It was noted that Dalmellington and New Cumnock has experience of participatory budgeting; neither Patna nor Carsphairn has.

Views were sought from the working group members on how best to do this in their communities.

It was noted that while it was relatively straightforward to work with the primary schools, who will be given a budget of £500 each, and the primary schools themselves will be asked to advise how best to run this initiative (it was also noted that there is also a primary in Bellsbank) that it gets slightly more complicated when considering all children in Carsphairn and older children in New Cumnock who attend school outwith the SKCIF area of benefit. For the primary schools the brief could be something like thinking about how they can improve or enhance their outside play and learning environment.

£1,000 has been earmarked for young people in each of the four communities who are of high school age. For Dalmellington, the children go to Doon Academy but in New Cumnock the young people go to the new Barony Campus which includes many other communities and Carsphairn children and young people in the main go south to Dalry which also includes other non South Kyle communities, so consideration will have to be given as how best to approach this.

The timeframe was noted as running until February 2022. It was noted that it is important that the opportunity is available to children and young people right across the area of benefit. Young people may want to think about something extra-curricular they would like to do during the school year or small scale projects they would like to do. Setting a brief would help define it and make it distinctive.

For Dalmellington – it might make sense to ask the Zone to operate a process. It was noted that the Zone also operates youth club activities in Patna.

Dalmellington representatives outlined that there is a Participatory Budgeting event coming up very soon in Dalmellington using Scottish Government Investing in Communities Fund monies, some of which is ringfenced to Children and Young People with primary and secondary pupils taking part. Sharon Smith is running the process on behalf of the Community Council having previously run a successful Participatory Budgeting event. Rae agreed to circulate the paperwork associated with this event so that Foundation Scotland could see it, and FS asked if they could attend if possible. It was agreed that the timing for the South Kyle initiative would be paced to ensure it had a bit of distance from this planned event which also has a significant budget attached to it.

In New Cumnock it was noted that Yipworld have done some youth club activities in the community and might be a potential partner however they have nothing running at the moment; but also that NCDT colleagues not present have other activities planned – Sheena will discuss with colleagues and come back on this.

For Carsphairn it was noted that the smaller number of children and young people spread over a wide range of ages was a challenge. It was suggested that GCAT's Youth Worker might have some outreach work planned for Carsphairn and FS offered to check in with GCAT to find out if anything was in the pipeline that this process could piggyback on to.

4. Programme of set up activity

Foundation Scotland outlined the planned programme of Fund set up activity as follows:

1. Short term activity - a short term aim is to organise community conversations/workshops in each individual community to talk about short term, tangible community goals (more specific than the broad priorities that

have already been established through community action planning and the Give My View polling) and aspirations for the Fund.

Representatives were asked to consider what would work best for their communities and let Foundation Scotland know what their preferred process would be, both the 'how' and the 'who'. Ideally these would be scheduled in the next few weeks. Dalmellington representatives noted they were keen to seek dates from their community organisations and progress this as soon as possible.

ACTION: All representatives to seek views and feedback to Foundation Scotland

2. Some time allocated to exploring potential Fund structure in some detail in the new year. This may be quite a detailed and technical discussion and is therefore recommended at this stage that this is for the Working Group rather than a full community conversation. It was noted that there will be a legal agreement in place and that Greencoat (who will own the site when it is operational) have already stated that they only want one legal agreement.
3. Time allocated to Fund Distribution – an exploration of how the money is made available to/invested in the community.
4. Ongoing activity Linking & learning – refers to the involvement of orgs/projects etc the representatives would like to learn more about or invite to future Working Group meetings. For example it is recognised that the Landscape Partnership is operating with overlap to the area of benefit and they will be likely to be seeking match funding for projects. There was some discussion of what this element of the work programme would look like. Representatives sought an assurance that the primary focus would be on the communities and their aspirations for the Fund.

Representatives gave feedback. Overall the response was that it seems logical and a thorough way to engage the communities on different levels and that it was helpful to start seeing the path between now and 2023 laid out.

The issue of development workers or development officers was raised by representatives at both sessions of the working group. There was a discussion about the value of having paid staff to take action forward. Both groups wanted to know if it was possible to draw down from the Fund early to enable the employment of a development officer ahead of the Fund coming on stream in 2023. It was noted that no other developers in the area have been approached to date for an advance on draw down.

Foundation Scotland agreed that paid support is really helpful and flagged that the wind farm is being divested to Greencoat when it becomes operational in 2023

which adds some complexity, but that FS could raise the question with Vattenfall/Greencoat. In addition it was noted that the Coalfields Regeneration Trust may be considering funding a part time development worker Dalmellington.

ACTION: Elaine Stewart to link Foundation Scotland with Stewart Douglas at CRT to find out more about this.

5. AOCB

FS outlined that Vattenfall has contracted a consultant to look at the added value of the South Kyle work, beyond just the construction of the wind farm. This consultant – Sheila Durie - is considering the social return on investment of Vattenfall's approach, for example looking at the wider benefits brought through their approach to supply chain. As part of that work, Sheila is interested in the development of the Investment Fund and may sit in on future meetings if the Working Group members were comfortable with that. All agreed that was acceptable.

6. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in early October but that the immediate focus now would be on organising some in-community discussions.

Foundation Scotland proposed that it would be helpful to be able to set a regular date to avoid having to schedule each individual meeting and asked for days or dates to avoid so that there were no clashes with routine Board, Committee or Community Council meetings that representatives already attend. Representatives reported regular meetings on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. It was noted Liz Holmes would be away until the 6th October.

ACTION: Foundation Scotland to propose a regular meeting schedule going forward in line with availability outlined above.

The issue of community venues was raised and Dalmellington reported that the Community Centre would be the preferred venue, which has reopened as a Covid secure venue.

ACTION: Rae Smith to supply the risk assessment for the Community Centre