

## **South Kyle Community Investment Fund**

### **Minute of the Working Group Meeting**

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2021, 7.30pm – by Zoom**

**Present:** Angela McFarlane (Patna community), Elaine Stewart (Dalmellington PDT), Lorraine Mair (Dalmellington CC), Rae Smith (Dalmellington CC), Davey McMillan (Carsphairn CT), Sylvia Sinclair (Carsphairn CC), Liz Holmes (Carsphairn CC), Susan Kerr (New Cumnock DT)

**In attendance:** Rachel Searle and Suzy Mercer (Foundation Scotland)

**Apologies:** Drew Filson (Dalmellington PDT), Shirley Anderson (Dalmellington CC), Sheena Boyd (NCDT), Lindsay Dwyer (Patna CC)

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

- Dave McMillan, Chair of Carsphairn CT; also involved in other community orgs and longtime resident
- Sylvia Sinclair; on Carsphairn, Chair of CREFL and support the community groups in the village, longstanding resident
- Susan Kerr, Chair NCDT, longstanding resident of New Cumnock
- Lorraine Mair, Chair of Dalmellington CC and on DCPDT, and resident of Dalmellington for six years
- Liz Holmes, Carsphairn CC representative, has lived in Carsphairn for 50 years
- Angela McFarlane; Patna community member involved in re-establishing the Community Council in Patna; pharmacist and lived in Patna for 10 years
- Elaine Stewart, member of DPDT, local resident and work in the area, Coalfields Regeneration Trust and the Zone
- Rae Smith, Manager at local Community Centre; representing the Community Council and also a member of the Trust; sit on the 9CC group and the CCLP Board. Resident for 60 years +
- Suzy Mercer, Community Funds Manager for Foundation Scotland's South of Scotland team. Based in the Glenkens.
- Rachel Searle; Head of Communities at Foundation Scotland, working on behalf of Vattenfall

## 2. Setting the Scene & Understanding the Wider Context

Rachel Searle introduced the purpose of the Working Group (WG) which is to work with Foundation Scotland, operating on behalf of Vattenfall, to shape and structure the South Kyle Fund and support communities to be ready for what will be a very significant Fund of £1.5M per year.

The purpose of the meeting was to agree the Terms of Reference for the Working Group and confirm next steps.

It was acknowledged that the South Kyle project is one of a number of wind farm projects affecting Carsphairn, Dalmellington, New Cumnock and Patna at various stages of development. Representatives were asked to comment on other funds they were involved in so that overlap could be taken account of and any duplication ideally avoided or opportunities maximized.

**New Cumnock:** Detail not to hand but could be provided. Other community benefits come into the community and equally, NCDT looks at other funding beyond community benefit.

**Dalmellington:** Receives no community benefits currently. Close proximity to Darshalloch but doesn't receive income from it. Four developers committed and further six showing an interest in the 9CC group arrangement. The plan for these nine community councils is to put a percentage of the community benefit monies into agreed strategic projects and the rest will be divided on a matrix basis. Not coming through until 2024/2025, so South Kyle will be first CB that Dalmellington benefits from. Other funding streams will also be important – for example to establish the mountain biking range the Development Trust wants to develop.

**Carsphairn:** Windy Standard One first arrived 25 years ago – small scale in comparison to what is being built now. Fund is comparatively small. Windfarm Fund from Wether Hill at Moniaive which is pro rata share of the fund depending on output of turbines in the CC area. Also have Windy Standard 2 shared with New Cumnock. Windy Three, Benbrack, Trostan and Glenshimmeroch are consented. Eucharhead and Sanquhar 2 are scoping; Cornharrow is at appeal. Windy Rig is being constructed and Carsphairn has been involved in that liaison group from the start. Windy Rig will cover 10 communities, including Dalmellington. Carsphairn borders Pencloe wind farm and responded to planning but not part of the 9CC group as their boundary is the East Ayrshire boundary.

**Patna:** Has a couple of wind farms in the near vicinity but as the community council is brand new Patna has not accessed any funding streams yet. Patna will be a

member of the 9CC group when the Community Council is formed. No other streams of funding at the moment.

It was noted that all communities are different and there may be a point during the lifetime of the fund where one community's needs are more paramount. So the Fund should be established to be equal and be fair across the communities, but recognise changing needs. Sometimes communities work really hard to slice evenly across themes and places and despite this sometimes money stacks up.

It was agreed that it would be helpful to regularly check in on developments with other funds – so everyone is aware of how community benefit plans are emerging for other developments happening in the same operating context at South Kyle.

## **2. Reviewing the Draft Terms of Reference**

The draft Terms of Reference for the working group was reviewed section by section:

### **a. Purpose**

This was agreed as appropriate.

### **b. Role**

It was noted that there were clear actions for groups under Role; there will be a need as part of the Fund development process to get 'under the skin' of each community's plans and priorities and the status of these. Also to get an understanding of the landscape that the Fund will operate in. It was noted that working group members can task Foundation Scotland (FS) to go and find information on the Working Group's behalf. It could be helpful, for example, for the Group to advise FS on points that the wider community is consulted with or stakeholders and groups who should be involved in these conversations but haven't been to this point.

It was noted that in Dalmellington there would be good community reach via Lorraine Mair's bar users, the youth groups and that there was an Electoral Reform Society event 'People's Parliament' coming. Elaine Stewart will tag Foundation Scotland on to email with Phil Connor.

Clarification was sought on Vattenfall's support for 'distributing differently' – what does that mean? It was clarified that this was linked to the size and scale of the Fund and the opportunities that a fund of this scale presents for different ways to invest in the community, beyond one which just does conventional open grant-making. So for example, while it would make a lot of sense of each community to have its own pot of money, there may also be common themes across the

communities. For example - Tourism & Heritage doesn't exist in isolation so perhaps the Fund could support a common investment in a tourism initiative, for example, by commissioning an organisation that could deliver what members want for the area. That is one example of 'doing things differently'. Another example might be an arrangement whereby, from the outset, the Fund supports a number of dedicated posts who then lead on various activities for the communities. These posts could be scheduled to commence immediately the money arrives. So each development trust or equivalent could appoint one or two workers and those costs could be budgeted for from the outset. It was noted that a Fund of this scale can contribute to core costs like salaries for an indeterminate period of time.

It was noted that the concept of 'distributing differently' was about being enabling rather than prohibiting communities being in control of their own destinies. Finally it was acknowledged that the Fund will be handed over to Greencoat who will require robust community benefit arrangements to be in place.

#### **c. Membership**

There was a discussion about whether residents, not affiliated with any particular group, should form part of the membership of the group. Those present felt that although the membership present are on core groups, they are also still residents and therefore there wasn't really any need to seek additional residents. And speaking pragmatically, it was likely to be difficult to get people to volunteer. Any residents who would be interested in joining a meeting would likely already be a member of a community organisation. WG members highlighted that residents will have the opportunity to feed in via the Community Council.

It was agreed to change the proposed composition to one or two community councilors from each place and one or two anchor reps to give a bit of flexibility; and to remove the resident clause.

Discussion turned to statutory representation. It was agreed that it should be a community led process and the focus should be on community direct representation. It was noted that the Community Councils can consult Elected Members any time they want and they are good at advising and helping. It was agreed that having the option to invite guests was helpful and Council representatives could be invited to input where relevant and appropriate.

#### **d. Meetings**

Agreed that every couple of months sounded like the right balance.

Foundation Scotland will produce the Agenda – it was suggested that group members share the Minutes with their respective organisations.

**e. Conduct & Interests**

This section was agreed.

**3. Next Steps:**

It was agreed that Foundation Scotland would make the required change to Clause 6 and then the reissued Terms of Reference could be shared with respective Groups.

Foundation Scotland will draw up a programme of activity over the next 12 months by which time the aim is to have the structure of the Fund broadly validated. The programme will be brought to the next meeting but in the meanwhile FS will pick up on the piece of work to engage with young people and send plans for comment. FS will work on the basis that they can proceed with proposed work unless members of the group say differently.

**4. Date of Next Meeting**

Foundation Scotland will use a Doodle Poll to get dates with an aim to connect in late July with a preference expressed for face to face.