

10 June 2011

Dunblane Development Trust
Dunblane Community Council

Wind Farm Grants for Local Groups in Dunblane



Each year through the *Braes of Doune Community Benefit*, Scottish and Southern Energy provide a grant of around £12,000 to the community of Dunblane. This is the 4th year that funding has been made available since the Braes of Doune wind farm came into being in 2007.

In the first year the funding was used to carry out long overdue repairs and improvements to the Braeport Centre. Two years ago the Dunblane Community Council and Dunblane Development Trust joined together with other community representatives to form the Dunblane Windfarm Fund Committee in order to receive applications for funding from local groups active in the community and to make recommendations on how best to distribute the funds

Craig French, the Chair of the Windfarm Fund Committee, said 'the quality of the applications was once again very high and the Committee had some very difficult decisions to make. We are very pleased to be able to have supported 7 local groups which between them cover all age groups from young children to pensioners and touch on issues as diverse as health, the stage, the environment, the arts and sports'.

The successful applicants for funding were:-

Mr William Inglis - for the licensing of high-quality images (e.g. paintings, aerial photographs, archaeological finds and historic sites) to illustrate a new book entitled *Dunblane from the Stone Ages to the reign of Mary Queen of Scots*.

Drumcastle Court Proprietors Association - for the construction of steps and a path to allow access to a part of the communal gardens. Drumcastle Court is a sheltered housing development in Dunblane with 30 flats.

4th/85th Dunblane Scout Group : to purchase climbing equipment (helmets and rope) and archery equipment (bows, arrows, targets and required safety items).

First Response Dunblane - to purchase an advanced training manikin to support the training of its volunteers. First Response is a local emergency first aid team aiming to achieve the fastest possible response times in the community where the statutory ambulance service cannot. Since 2009, the team has responded to over 100 calls.

Dunblane in Bloom (DiB) - to purchase plants, compost and fertiliser. DiB is a group of volunteers within the Dunblane Development Trust who carry out works and projects to improve the environment in and around the town. The aim is to encourage community spirit and civic pride, and to attract tourism.

Dunblane Youth and Sports Centre - to equip the centre's recording studio with studio monitors and speakers, the rehearsal room with microphones and accessories and the function room with lighting equipment.

Kinbuck Community Group - to refurbish the toilet facilities in the Kinbuck Community Hall.

Further information

Braes of Doune wind farm

Early construction activity commenced in July 2005 on the 72MW wind farm at Braes of Doune and was completed in July 2007. The 36 V80 turbines were manufactured by Vestas in Campbelltown. The site was officially opened by Michael Russell MSP, Minister for the Environment on Tuesday 13 November 2007.

Braes of Doune wind farm also marked the achievement of 1GW of renewable energy for the UK. Alistair Darling MP, visited the site on the 9 February 2007 to mark the occasion.

The wind farm is a joint venture between Airtricity, the renewable energy development division of Scottish and Southern Energy, and Centrica, each company having a 50% ownership. The partnership arrangement was finalised in August 2007. The power purchaser for the site is Centrica's British Gas and Scottish Gas businesses.

The wind farm has a capacity of 72MW which could power around 57,000 homes (based on household consumption of 3,300kWh a year)