

# **Swinford Wind Energy Project**

**Community Fund Feedback Report**

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# Swinford Wind Energy Project Community Fund – Feedback Report

In September 2011, work began on the development of the Swinford Wind Energy Project Community Fund. The fund is worth £44,000 annually (index-linked) to the local community for the 25 year life of the project.

The provision of a community benefit fund has become a normal part of wind energy projects in the UK. As a fund that will be in place for a considerable period of time, the process of developing the fund has to be thorough, robust and transparent, to ensure that the best possible fund is established to meet the needs and aspirations of the local community.

The aims of the early stage of engagement for the community fund were to:

- introduce the fund to the local community
- understand how the local community want to see the fund develop
- understand what kind of priorities and ideas the community has for the fund.

## Programme of Activity

Initially, a meeting was held with Harborough District Council to introduce the community benefit fund, and take advice on the proposed programme of engagement in the area. This was followed by meetings with local councillors, parish councils, schools and colleges, as well as wider organisations working with communities in the area (see appendix 1).

Following these meetings, which focused on discussing the process of establishing the fund, work began to inform and involve local residents, organisations and businesses.

## Publicity

A newsletter was sent to all homes within a 4km radius of the wind farm site to inform them of the project's progress and invite them to an information day, which was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011 at Swinford Village Hall

Posters were also displayed locally advertising the information day, with further advertisements and information provided through the local media and Swift Flash.

A project blog ([www.swinfordwindfarm.com](http://www.swinfordwindfarm.com)) has also been established, with a survey placed on the blog to allow local residents to provide their feedback on the fund online (See Appendix 5 for online survey results.)

## Information Day

The information day was the first opportunity for local residents to come along to discuss the community fund and provide their feedback and ideas. Over 100 residents attended (as recorded on the map where each attendee was represented by a dot), with 65 completing a feedback report.

This summary report has been sent to all who completed a feedback report, thus providing us with contact details. A significant number of attendees chose not to fill in a feedback form, and as such it was not possible to send them a summary report.

The information day's main components were a series of information and feedback panels. The first panels provided background information on the community fund, the process and why the feedback was being collected. This was followed by a series of panels displaying questions which asked for feedback on a number of important issues that need to be understood to begin to develop the most

appropriate fund (hopes/concerns about the fund, who has a stake in the fund, what activities might benefit the area etc).

A number of case studies were then shared on the final panels on the experience of other communities in developing funds, and participants were invited to provide their reflections. A number of reports were also available on a table in the centre of the exhibition offering further case studies and research on community funding.

The final element of the information day relating to the community fund was a “Wall of Ideas”, where participants shared ideas they already had for specific projects or activities that might benefit from the fund.

## **Information Day Results**

56 separate ideas were offered on the wall of ideas (see appendix 2 for the full list of ideas), with a further 242 comments offered through the information panels. Below is a broad summary of some of the key themes that emerged from these comments (see appendix 3 for a full record of all the comments received):

- **What interests prompted attendance?**

Many attended the information day seeking more information about construction and the impact of the project on the area. Questions were raised around the efficiency of the project and the time it will take to recover the energy cost of its construction.

In relation to the community fund, attendees indicated their interest in understanding who might benefit, when the funding might be available and how it might be used.

- **Relationship to the area**

The majority of attendees were residents from local villages, with most coming from Swinford (76), followed by Walcote and Misterton (17) and South Kilworth (11). Residents also came from North Kilworth (4), Shawell (7), Catthorpe (1), Cotesbach (1) and Lutterworth (7). A number of locally elected representatives also attended, as well as representatives of local clubs and community organisations. Some attendees worked in the area or were interested in working on the project.

- **Hopes for the fund**

Under this heading, suggestions were made on who should and shouldn't oversee/manage the fund. The importance of fairness, transparency and a clear application process were raised as important issues, and a number of comments noted the importance of involving the wider community and ensuring that decision-making was representative of the community.

Hopes for projects or activities that the fund should support were offered (e.g. a sports hall, reducing energy bills, improving broadband connections) as well as suggestions on how the funding should be distributed (e.g. ensuring that care was taken to maximise its value, consideration of the opportunity to use the fund as match funding, and ensuring fair distribution amongst local communities).

- **Concerns about the fund**

The majority of the concerns raised focussed on matters relating to determining who should benefit from the funding. Concerns were noted about ensuring that funding wasn't “wasted” on projects without a need. There were differing views offered on how the fund could best be managed – with the importance of transparency, fairness and the importance of making sure people had the chance to be involved emphasised. Reference was also made to individual as opposed to community benefit from the funding.

- **Who has a stake?**

There was a majority view that local residents should be the ones to benefit from the fund. It was also noted that those villages most affected by the project should be the ones to benefit, with suggestions

offered on how funding might be divided between the villages. Local community groups and businesses were also mentioned as organisations with a stake. The importance of ensuring that individuals who want to be involved in developing the fund have the opportunity to do so was stressed. Once more, it was noted that all residents should benefit from the fund.

- **Strengths of the area**

The people and sense of community in the area was the overwhelming strength noted by attendees. A sense of shared community and “not being a number” was important to local residents. The local landscape and local innovation were also raised as strengths.

- **Activities in the area**

A long list of local groups and activities with which attendees were involved with was collated – ranging from activities for young people, religious groups, OAP groups, groups representing local facilities, drama and environmental groups and activities as well as sporting groups.

- **Issues having an impact on the area now/in the future**

Most of the issues raised here expressed concern (as opposed to matters that could have a positive impact). A concern regarding the impact of the wind farm was the most common answer – with clear concerns with regard to the physical impact of the project, but also the continuing divisions within the community, and the importance of ensuring that any funding was used effectively. Local transport was the next greatest matter of concern, with further comments on affordable housing, erosion of the countryside, and safer roads.

- **Projects or activities that could make a real difference**

Improving or creating new community facilities was the most frequent type of project noted by participants, with suggestions for projects ranging from new sports facilities to a local post office/shop. This was followed by projects and activities to benefit young people and/or schools locally. The next most common response expressed support for community transport schemes, followed by reducing energy bills (for homes and local facilities). A number of specific local projects were also noted.

- **Case Studies**

This attracted the fewest comments. Those that offered comments found the case studies useful, and many of the case studies were suggested as being relevant and useful learning to consider. The case studies also prompted more general comments around how the funds could be distributed fairly and the importance of clear criteria and transparency.

# Chill-out Bus and Schools – Feedback from Young Residents

Getting young people involved is always an important element of establishing a community fund that will be in place for such a considerable length of time. To ensure that young people living locally had a chance to have their say, the team worked with the local Rural Youth Voice Project Officer, to develop the most appropriate methods. The full results are offered in appendix 4.

During the first weeks of November, the Chill Out Bus visited local schools and villages to talk to younger residents about their priorities for the community. The questions were very similar to those which the area's adult population answered, but the methods for asking these questions differed. The project also had a stand at the local Article 12 Democracy Week session to gather feedback.

Around 130 young residents offered their ideas and thoughts about the fund. They are summarised below.

- **Key Themes**

There were a number of very clear themes from the feedback from young residents:

- Sports equipment and facilities (e.g. skate parks, Astroturf, netball/rugby/football/basketball posts, sports halls) as well as cycling opportunities (e.g. safe cycle routes)
- Parks and outdoor equipment (e.g. nature trails and play areas, a wider range of play equipment in existing parks, tree houses and places to “hang out”, places to grow their own produce).
- Safe places to meet and spend time with friends locally
- Improvements to local schools
- More clubs and activities locally (e.g. arts and craft clubs, cinema/film nights, drama/dance groups etc)
- A local café/shop

- **Who should be involved?**

There was a range of views on who should be involved, but young residents felt that they should and would like to be involved in making decisions on the fund. Generally they felt that everyone should work together to develop the fund.

- **What do they like/don't like about the area?**

Young residents generally liked their area, being near to friends, school, walking, cycling, playing with friends, and the quiet community.

Some anti-social elements were raised that they did not like within their community (drunks, litter, traffic, cigarette butts).

There was a general view that it would be good to have more activities for them in the immediate area to enjoy with friends (film nights/cinema activities in particular were raised repeatedly, as well as sporting activities and arts and craft, dancing clubs and so forth).

# Online Survey

An online survey was available from the end of September for two months. The survey asked the same questions as were asked at all other sessions. 13 persons took part in the survey with almost equal gender split and mixed a range from age 25 to 77. The majority of people had heard about the fund through word of mouth but also through local media and newsletter distribution.

Participants were given the opportunity to skip questions and 71 comments were given through the survey. Below is a broad summary of some of the key themes that emerged from these comments (see appendix 5 for the full list of comments received).

- **Relationship to the area**

The majority of respondents were from the local villages of Swinford, Misterton and Walcote, South Kilworth and Cotesbach with two coming from Lutterworth and two with a fundraising interest for a club or charity.

- **Hopes for the fund**

There was a strong consensus that the fund should benefit local projects and support community activities. A fair distribution of the fund between the local parishes was considered an important factor along with individual benefit. It was noted that as many people as possible should be involved, with a large focus on young people involvement. Energy efficiency and sustainability were also noted as being important matters for the fund.

- **Concerns about the fund**

The main concerns raised were about the fund being used elsewhere and not within the local villages, along with the potential that the fund could create conflict between communities. There was also concern that the fund could become difficult to manage without the required experience.

- **Who has a stake?**

The general consensus was that the fund should be used to benefit as many people as possible within the local communities in a close geographic surrounding the wind farm site and that this should be defined in some way. It was also noted that local groups and organisations should benefit from the fund. An additional idea was to have formal bids in writing to a panel of people in charge of managing the fund.

- **Strengths of the area**

The key strength here was the sense of community spirit, along with the local landscape and self-sufficiency.

- **Activities in the area**

Sporting activities were the most noted type of activities, along with community based clubs, the local schools and churches. It was also noted that there is a renewable energy support group.

- **Issues having an impact on the area now/in the future**

The main issue raised here was the local economy including a lack of employment locally, lack of funding from local authorities, increasing house prices and an increasing number of properties with no facilities to support them.

- **Projects or activities that could make a real difference**

It was noted that affordable housing initiatives and sustainable living were key projects that could make a real difference. More facilities for the younger members of the community and the maintenance of existing facilities were also considered to be important. The need for new local facilities was also noted.

## Next Steps

On 28<sup>th</sup> November, a local engagement steering group was convened, in line with the discussions outlined in Appendix 1. The group discussed the feedback report and the next steps in the process.

It was determined that a Terms of Reference document for the group was required, to make clear to the local community the role of the group and how they would work within their respective communities. Any individuals with comments or ideas for the group's terms of reference should contact their local parish council or councillors, who are represented on the group.

It was also put forth that the area of benefit for the fund should focus on seven parishes – Swinford, North and South Kilworth, Cotesbach, Cattothorpe, Shawell, and Misterton and Walcote.

The group also agreed that as a next step, 2-3 scenarios of how the fund could be distributed and divided between these parishes should be developed to take forward discussions on the practical management of the fund. This work will now be undertaken and fed back to the community in the New Year. Further opportunities will be available for local residents to be involved with the developing plans, but it was felt strongly that this work was necessary to enable the process to progress constructively.

Once this work is completed, all residents who expressed an interest in being involved or informed in the developing work on the fund will be contacted and offered further opportunities to comment on this work.

A key point of discussion was the continuing engagement of younger residents in the process, particularly as the fund will be in place for a significant period of time. It was determined that further advice would be sought from the Rural Youth Voice Project Officer and discussed at the next meeting.

We expect to provide a further update at the end of January.

# Appendix 1 – Meetings with local councillors, parish councils, schools and colleges

## Harborough District Council - Community Partnerships

### Notes

- Harborough District Councils sees this fund as benefiting the local community and do not see them playing any role in allocating or managing the community fund, but will however offer what support they can so that the community can make its own mind up what to do.
- HDC's view is that; it should be the immediate community that decides what to do with the money.
- HDC would support the immediate establishment of a steering group to lead the engagement with the community and ending with the setting up of a permanent vehicle to manage this community fund.
- The Steering Group should be representative of the area (both people and places) and will probably contain Parish Councillors, School Governors and other community leaders and possibly have Swinford over represented as they are the closest neighbours to the wind farm.
- Power should not be concentrated within a small and unrepresentative group.
- HDC would support the engagement with the community through open days at schools etc. to get initial ideas.
- HDC do not support initial engagement with community and voluntary groups based outside the identified boundary.
- The Council would like to be kept informed and will offer what support and advice they can throughout the process.

## Councillor Graham Hart – Meeting

### Actions

- Cllr Hart offered to look into finding the contact for Catthorpe Parish Council and inform them that we are trying to make contact.
- Nuon to send an advert to the Swift Flash regarding the 22nd September.

### Notes

- The issue of the how the community fund is calculated was discussed. Nuon clarified that the sum was linked to the installed capacity of the wind farm.
- It was noted that the community fund and the way it is spent and managed were decisions that should be made by the local community.
- The benefits in the implementation of a steering group involving local representatives to take forward the process of establishing the fund was discussed. Cllr Hart explained that he would like to be kept briefed, but is of the opinion that both District and County Councillors/Officers should only be involved with the process and steering group in an advisory role. Cllr Hart explained that the councillors who should be doing the negotiating and making the decisions should be the relevant Parish Councillors.

- It was noted that it would be beneficial to send an article into the Swift Flash free publication by Monday or Tuesday to advertise the information day as it was well read locally.

### **Councillor John Everett – Meeting**

#### **Actions**

- Nuon to ensure that Nick Fothergill is contacted and fully informed of progress on the project.
- RJ to make Misterton and Walcote Parish Council aware that Cllr Everett has been briefed on the project.
- Nuon to consult with Cllr Everett first when arranging the steering group meetings to ensure availability

#### **Notes**

- Cllr Everett outlined his involvement Low Spinney project and its community benefit fund. The outcome of the engagement on this project has been the establishment of separate, equal funding for each of the three local parishes. . The trustees of the fund are to be members of the parish council.
- It was noted that Cllr Everett is the Chairman and Clerk of Westrill and Starmore Parish Meeting.
- Cllr Everett explained the make-up of his ward. The process of electing Parish Councils was explained, as well as the role of Parish Meetings.
- It was noted that Nick Fothergill and Stanford Hall should be included in any communication on the project to ensure they are fully informed and have the opportunity to be involved in the work.
- Cllr Everett agreed to be a part of the steering group for the process of establishing the fund and would be prepared to act as chair if this was appropriate.
- The importance of involving the community in the development of the fund was discussed, to ensure that they are fully involved in making decisions on the fund.
- The initial zone of engagement was discussed. Cllr Everett queried the inclusion of Lilbourne and Clay cotton and it was clarified that they were being included only to ensure they had information regarding the planned programme. It was not expected that they would be closely involved with matters such as the development of the community fund, and no parish council meetings were taking place.

### **Shawell Parish Chair – Meeting**

#### **Actions**

- No actions

#### **Notes**

- The children from the parish generally attend schools in Swinford and Lutterworth.
- In terms of potential ideas for the fund, it was noted that a community transport was recently withdrawn.
- It was noted that Mr. Fisher as Chair of the Parish Meeting would be prepared to represent the parish meeting on the engagement steering group.
- No further issues were raised following the discussion on the engagement proposals.

## **Cotesbach Parish Council – Meeting**

### **Actions**

- Nuon to check the access point from the motorway
- Nuon to send Parc Cynog feedback report to parish council.
- Nuon to advertise the information day in the Swift Flash.

### **Notes**

- Children of the village mainly go to Swinford or Lutterworth for school.
- Some ideas for potential funding were offered, including community transport.
- It was suggested that an advert be placed in Swift Flash, a free weekly newsletter, on the information day
- Discussion focussed upon funding allocation, and the importance of ensuring fairness, both in relation to the impact of the project on local parishes, but also in terms of the size of the parishes. The distribution of funding was a key issue, and some understanding on how this could be achieved fairly was noted as a vital point for the engagement process to address.
- It was explained that following the first phase of the work, which would focus on gathering information from local residents on their priorities/aspirations/concerns etc, some options for the fund would be developed and case study examples of what other communities had developed would be shared with local residents to raise awareness and understanding the options open to them for the fund.
- It was raised that government guidance would be helpful.
- It was further emphasised that fairness in how the fund is distributed is key, and also the issue of other potential wind farms in the area, and the cumulative impact of these in relation to community funds (for example, a lot of new bodies to manage many different funds might be very time consuming for residents, and issues of who might be involved with the various funds were also raised).

## **South Kilworth Parish Council – Meeting**

### **Actions**

- Nuon to send advertisements regarding any information days/sessions to the parish news. This will also be sent to the South Kilworth website.
- Nuon to email Suzanne Taylor to confirm when the events for young people are likely to be so that the article can be printed in the local newsletter.
- Nuon to send 6 posters to Suzanne Taylor.

### **Notes**

- Some suggestions for projects that might benefit from funding were offered, including completion of the village hall extension, a scooter park, improvements to the water system at the bowling green and improvements/equipment for the school. Also the Agar Venture is struggling to complete the playground project and the funding would be very useful to assist with that.
- The issue of how applications would be made was discussed, and the importance of keeping things as simple as possible was noted.

- The possible role of the parish council in distributing the funding was discussed, and the issue of how the funding would be allocated between local parishes was raised. The idea of splitting the funding equally amongst the villages and also splitting in terms of impact the wind farm has on each village was raised during discussion. The potential of villages taking it in turns to receive funding was also discussed. It was also noted that a holding committee could be an appropriate method to distribute the money.
- It was highlighted that the smaller voices/smaller parishes may get “drowned out” and the engagement process needs to seek to address this matter.
- It was mentioned that planting trees could possibly minimise the impact of the wind farm on local residents, and that funding might be available from the District Council.
- The Big Lottery system of bidding for money was raised as an example of how applications/bids could be managed, with the importance of keeping things simple again emphasised.
- A member of the parish council would be willing to be part of the engagement steering group.

### **North Kilworth Council and Councillor Brian Smith Meeting**

#### **Actions**

- Nuon to send a copy of the Parc Cynog Application form to Cllr Brian Smith.
- Nuon to write an article to Swift Flash to advertise the information day.

#### **Notes**

- Brian Smith and Peter Lawrence were briefed on the project and what can be expected to happen in terms of the construction process and the engagement process for the community fund.
- Some suggestions for possible local groups/activities that might benefit from funding included improvements to the entrance of the sports club and to the Bowls Club, also purchasing the land outside the Village Hall.
- It was raised whether the fund will be available to purely groups or to individuals too. It was explained that the development of the fund would be guided by the feedback from the local community.
- It was noted that the parish council would be prepared to provide a representative for the engagement steering group.
- It was queried whether the process of application for the fund was known, and the importance of keeping things simple was discussed. An example from another project was shared for information.
- The Swift Flash was mentioned as a good publication to place an advert regarding 22nd Sept.
- A briefing was given to the other council members and members of the public. No questions were raised.

### **Misterton with Walcote Parish Council – Meeting**

#### **Actions**

- Nuon to provide further information regarding the Public Rights of Way during the construction process and during operation.

#### **Notes**

- The zone of initial engagement was discussed along with the process of developing a fund and the various options that were possible
- It was noted that a representative of the parish council would be prepared to join the engagement steering group
- The issue of whether events in other villages beyond Swinford should be held was raised. Nuon will keep a full audit of attendance on the 22nd September to ensure that we have a full picture of who has and hasn't attended. This is the first session in a year long process, and it was explained that the next steps would be guided by the community, including when, where and how we engage with them over the coming year.

## **Swinford Parish Council – Meeting**

### **Actions**

- Nuon to meet Lutterworth High School as well as Lutterworth College.
- Send example feedback reports to the parish council.
- Nuon to provide hard copies of questionnaires to have them available locally.

### **Notes**

- The issue of how the money will be distributed between the parishes was raised. It was explained that at this stage it is not known what the fund will look like – the process will be guided by the feedback of the local community.
- The youth project was discussed and ideas for ensuring young people locally were aware of when and where it would be in the village were offered.
- It was noted that the zone of engagement could be too wide, but Nuon explained that it was important to be inclusive in the early stages, to ensure that the local community is well informed. It was clarified that this initial zone was not necessarily the area for the community fund. Again, such decisions would be guided by the feedback from the community.
- The question was raised as to the way in which other communities had used their funds. It was noted that case studies would be provided on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to give the community an idea of the potential opportunities. Some broad examples were discussed, explaining that a wide range of different approaches could be seen in terms of the ways in which funding had been used - education to sustainable community buildings renewable to donations to local charities.
- The issue of how the funding would be allocated between local parishes was raised. It was noted that the impact of the project on the various parishes should be a key consideration for the distribution of the funding.
- The issue of the wind farm being divisive locally was raised as a key issue of which Nuon should be aware.

## **Swinford Primary School Headteacher – Meeting**

### **Actions**

- Nuon to send any illustrations that are available of what the wind farm will look like from the school field.

### **Notes**

- It was noted that there are many groups within the school that would want to be involved and given the chance to provide including; the eco group, friends near and far and the school council.
- The eco group will likely be keen to provide feedback on the fund and also visit the site to learn more about the work that will be progressing.
- It was noted that the school would be interested in arranging the opportunity for the pupils to see the turbines being construction later in the school year,.
- Some ideas for the fund were raised, including an additional teacher, a ground source heat pump for the school, before and after school clubs, community transport, and making the village sustainable.
- It was agreed that that getting the youth bus along to the school during school hours would be best to give the pupils the chance to share their ideas for the fund. It was also mentioned that it would be possible for the youth bus to use the school grounds.

### **South Kilworth Primary School Headteacher – Meeting**

#### **Actions**

- Nuon to send an article advertising the Information Day for the school newsletter

#### **Notes**

- The school would be interested in receiving an education resource pack, and it getting the youth bus along to the school during school hours to get the pupils involved with the community fund and offering their ideas.
- Post exams in May the children will be learning about electricity and so it would make sense to tie this in with the turbines being erected.
- Some ideas of how the fund might benefit the school were raised, including a sports hall and work to make the school/village sustainable.

## Appendix 2 – Information Day Wall of Ideas

- Funding to go to most affected villages
- IT training for all the community
- Walcote community
- All weather court for sports i.e. tennis, basketball, football etc
- Benefit whole community
- Another grit bin in Swinford
- Community shop! (Swinford)
- Skate park in South Kilworth
- Marmites – toddler group in South Kilworth
- South Kilworth C of E Primary School ✓
- South Kilworth Village Hall extension funds
- Street lighting
- Community transport to enable access to local services
- Some of the money should go to a fund for young people to administer – skills, responsibility and give them stake in community
- South Kilworth Primary School Fund for a school hall ✓
- South Kilworth Allotment Association – funds for a water supply, perhaps a solar pump from nearby stream/river. [Harborough DC etc grants are no longer available] – one shed gives little run off! And all we're allowed
- More school books
- Community nature reserve / green space esp. For kids
- We are the local playgroup serving Swinford and surrounding villages and Lutterworth. We would love to have a purpose built facility with our own outdoor area. At the moment we rent an area within the village hall and would settle (happily) for improvements to this, new tiling in the kitchen, reliable heating, new windows, which open and a new non-slip floor. Like most playgroups we run on the generosity of our parents (past and present) for equipment (indoor and outdoor).
- Trust fund – safeguard investment for future development
- Marmites
- Toys are all donated, some in dire need of replacement
- Struggling to run over summer holidays. Valuable group, and extra money would help us run in holidays
- Visiting sessions – we would have maybe 4 sessions a year e.g. music, crafts, magic show
- South Kilworth Primary School – local school, very active parent-participation, lots of scope for development – in desperate need of school hall ✓
- Percentage of funds to be divided out according to the closer the turbines are to the village
- Allotment improvements in Catthorpe
- Fund to be divided per percentage of population
- Walcote Village Hall – Essential storage extension required to benefit all community groups
- Sports facility for Swinford
- Hard ground sports area suitable for multi sport activities e.g. tennis
- Give community's youngsters and active adults something to do
- New village hall / sport facility in Swinford
- Help residents improve energy efficiency starting with Swinford and moving out to other villages
- Solar panels at primary schools locally
- Footpath / cycle way between North Kilworth and Walcote
- Swinford 2000 Charity Fund
- Speed humps

- Speed signs
- North Kilworth Sports Club extension and access imps
- 'Swinford 2000' Charity
- Community bus
- Sweet shop!
- Session worker qualified to set up and support youth activity
- Venue for this
- Using local residents for knowledge
- Replace the much loved and used marquee at Swinford pub which has been damaged. Used for parties, children's birthdays, sports events, money raising events, fetes
- New business start up's fund for affected area
- Use funds to reduce residents energy bills
- Swinford Church heating
- Swinford church would love peel of bells
- South Kilworth playground needs completion
- Reinstate local regular bus service which was stopped some years ago
- Energy efficiency programme
- Schools
- Community buildings
- Match funding for residents to improve efficiency of homes?
- Outdoor play area for Swinford preschool
- Walcote Wrigglers outdoor equipment
- Village Hall extension at North Kilworth to increase capacity in line with village growth and provide range of health services for older people
- Funding made available to protect existing community facilities including the local pub S!
- Coffee shop / meeting place for the older members of the village – Swinford
- Traffic calming in Catthorpe
- Walcote on Wheels – additional ramp to existing facilities steered by the youth group
- Safe cycle routes between villages
- Swinford, Catthorpe and Shawell do not even have a bus or bus service anymore. This should be reinstated
- New village hall and community centre / shop / coffee shop in Swinford
- 'Swinford 2000' charity
- Multi-purpose sports court
- North Kilworth
- Millennium Green
- Village Hall roof
- Affordable homes
- Allotments
- St. Andrew's toilets
- Improved road signage through Catthorpe
- North Kilworth Bowls Club improvements
- Community shop and PO facility supported by community and paid individuals in Swinford
- Loads of park

## Appendix 3 - Information Day Comments

### **Welcome and thanks you for attending the information day. What interests or concerns prompted you to come today?**

- What is overall 'energy' cost of development + operation of wind farm + how long will it take to recover this (as opposed to financial costs)?
- Interest in Community Fund
- As above with appropriate weighting regarding size of the community and of the proximity to the wind farm?
- How many communities will share the fund?
- Work opportunity
- To share the experience from Low Spinney Wind Farm where Dunton Bassett/Ashby Magna/Gilmorton have agreed to split the money equally + for the PCs to be responsible for choosing the projects that benefit.
- How/who decides when community funds are spent
- Confirm that funds not spent/allocated in one year "roll-over" into the next year i.e. ALL money pledged by Nuon will be spent on community projects
- To understand how construction will affect us ✓ ✓ ✓
- To find out where the money is to be spent
- To support green energy and to find out about funding opportunities
- Will the fund be general or restricted to renewable energy schemes?
- To understand the effect of the wind farm on our village ✓ ✓
- To understand the efficiency & need for so many wind turbines in this area?
- To see if there is any local benefit for residents affect by the development

### **What is your relationship to the area?**

- Resident and ward councillor
- Employer of local people
- Resident and village hall treasurer
- Resident (retired and hoping for peace and quiet)
- Staff of local community foundation
- Resident of local village – Ditto – Ditto – Ditto
- Residence and employment
- Walcote resident
- Resident of Swinford
- Live in parish of Walcote (within 1km of the turbines)!

- Resident
- 2 residents – Swinford
- Swinford resident ✓ ✓
- Employer and service provider to village and surrounding villages
- S. Kilworth resident and allotment treasurer
- Walcote resident (trustee >MWCT/parent supporting fundraising of boys project>WOW
- Walcote resident and Parish Councillor
- Resident in Chapel Fields + Parish Councillor
- Swinford resident, Swinford “2000” trustee
- Swinford resident
- NK resident and green energy investor
- Parish Councillor representing the village of Cotesbach
- Resident of Stanford on Avon
- Resident of S. Kilworth (Horse rider/dog walker)
- Swinford resident who will see them all from house
- Swinford resident
- Trustee – MWCT
- Secretary – WOW
- Secretary – Cricket Club
- Swinford resident

## Hopes for the fund

### When thinking about this specific community fund, what do you hope for?

- Swinford 2000 or other local group to over-see fund spending in Swinford. /Walcote /N.Kilworth /S.Kilworth
- Proper sports hall facility
- Surely the fund should be used to reduce energy bills for local residents – not providing loft insulation but reducing the unit cost of electricity. – totally agree! +2 more +1 ✓ +1 +1
- Ensure everyone’s thoughts and needs are considered and fairly +1
- Should only be used for those villages affected. How does North Kilworth + Misterton you obviously don’t know the area and Churchover they will have their own wind farm fit into this! Agree.
- Clear application criteria – agree ✓
- An open and transparent application process – agree ✓ ✓
- Decision making representative of the community – agree ✓

- Decided by local community ✓
- Driven by all 4 local parish councils + liaison committee
- Benefits maximised by encouraging its use for 'seed' funding
- Evaluation 'points' system to be agreed at the outset
- Application criteria to be published and clear
- All applications to be written and via presentation to "committee"
- Reasons for award/decline to be published
- Parish Councils AND other community representatives
- Benefits awarded to groups on their merit of application by an elected committee
- Pay our electricity bills
- Improve broadband connections to all villages locally ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
- Improve community projects since other funds (eg D. Council) funds very scarce now
- To provide 'match funding' not all funding for projects
- To allow Swinford 2000 to develop on its existing projects and others
- Valued projects that affect all residents in the fund
- % split of fund to be measured according to "effects of the farm"
- Support solar PV and local anaerobic digestion schemes
- Support for future projects
- Better broadband speed + stop the frequent power cuts we get!
- Swinford church heating
- £44k per annum will not cover all the projects that need to be completed. So it is important beneficiaries know how much per year they will receive – so they can plan their projects – and that they will get this money for 25 years.
- It will make community stronger – our community in Walcote is positive about the fund – seems others are divided amongst groups
- The fund should be used to assist residents with the long term impact of the wind farms, it is to be seen if this will affect property values. It certainly does not appear to reduce energy bills.

**Concerns about the fund. When thinking about the fund, what [if any] concerns or fears do you have? (Again this may be concerns about what you think the fund will be doing that you don't want it to do, fears about how it will be developed, or how it will be managed)**

- It looks as if villages totally unaffected will benefit
- The money should be divided equally between all parishes, and a steering group with equal representation from each community. No one community has all the say!! ✓ Agree
- Concerned that the money will cause more upset and anger amongst the villagers than when it was first suggested that we were getting the windfarm.

- Why do Swinford assume it's all for them?
- It's just a bribe. **It is! Agree.** I agree too.
- How will we decide what to use the money for?
- How will each individual resident in the "communities" (however many that is?) be made aware of choices and decisions!
- £44,000 – how was this figure arrived at. It is such a small amount – what guarantee that it will always be paid.
- That it will be controlled by a local minority and not benefit everyone – **then get involved yourself**
- It must not be used by selected organisations it must be for all.
- 44k x 25 years = £1.1m. Q. How bankable is £1.1m – don't waste £44k each year, spend £800k on a proper village hall / sports facility & sell this plot for development. – **This would only benefit one community. Needs to be divided equally/fairly across all communities impacted!!**
- What happens after 25 years?
- Money wasted on projects that don't have a real need. Bureaucratic nightmare if lots of projects – could waste money on cost to administer.
- Money should be used to offset electricity bills and devaluation of our houses. **+2. – will houses be devalued? I doubt many will. – Have email from E.Garnier MP saying it will devalue all houses in area!**
- Should not be given to any landowner who has already benefitted and given nothing back in return! **Ditto. ✓**
- Buy the properties of those in the middle of the site at market value.
- Each group should provide evidence of ongoing fundraising for their projects, and not just expect it all to be paid for from this fund. **Put the work in to get an amount out. Agree.**
- That all ideas for the fund are taken seriously
- That the fund value is transparent all the time and that it is clear on what it is being spent
- Don't let the councils get their hands on it.
- Will the fund be pro rata per village population/amenities? **✓**
- Suggest the fund is distributed to parish councils who then co-ordinate allocation of fund within parish.
- Fund should be distributed on a pro rata basis to populations but also distance from centre village to windfarm i.e. a number + impact allocation.
- Any money not spent on those immediately affected will devalue the grant.

**Who has a stake? Who do you think should be involved with this community fund and why?**

**(again please be as specific as possible – whether it's ideas about specific villages, groups, demographics etc etc.)**

- Every resident, not just individuals with children at a local primary school.

- Should all residents benefit? (landowners already receiving payments?) ✓
- Why 8 villages? Not all are affected to same extent.
- Focus should be on villages most affected. - And benefit all households in those villages (except windfarm landowners.) Agree. Ditto.
- All residents are to benefit, each community represented by a % of core people – say 6 from each.
- Although everyone should have opportunity to be involved, too cumbersome a committee structure will cause deadlock and few decisions will ever be made. ✓
- Evaluate projects on carbon footprint benefits
- Develop a population/distance matrix/weighting
- Local infrastructure organisations (e.g. VASL) who can directly support groups on strategy, projects, volunteers, governance etc. e.g. MWCT. e.g. WOW.
- Parish councils
- Local voluntary and community groups
- (District council(s))
- Representatives of local businesses
- Every resident it is affecting!
- Every resident should benefit. – aren't some affected more than others?
- Every resident should have equal opportunity to benefit
- Community support groups e.g. kiddies clubs, OAP clubs, sports clubs, etc. Teenagers. Other community initiatives.
- Formally constituted bodies
- Community facilities e.g. village halls, transport initiatives.
- Every resident who is prepared to be involved in the fund
- Will residents receive a reduction in their bills
- Use German rebate model – those who see them get rebate. This negates property value loss!
- Each community
- To support the localism agenda each residents view should have equal value not only those sitting on or in Cllr roles at Parish/District level.

**Your area. Please tell us what you value about your area? What do you feel are the area's strengths?**

- It was an intimate landscape – now changed totally ✓
- Whole area now blighted!
- Place all the rubbish developments in this corner of South Leics.

- Swinford was a rural village until the A14/M1 Junction, pressure for more development & now a windfarm – it's an industrial area now! ✓
- Our community has active, involved residents.
- Shared community, serenity of village life, feeling part of the community, not being a "number".
- Strong community
- Communications
- Extant Environmental Innovation (CIC's etc)
- 'Community – Swinford'
- Landscape – Swinford
- The local landscape
- The people
- Relative peacefulness
- Rural community
- People talk to and help each other
- Village is great place to raise a family
- Projects get support from the whole community – in all villages
- The landscape, the people, the community, the social/community events
- Strong sense of community in Walcote
- Local pub keeping community together
- The village supports residents to live in a safe/strong community

**Your area. What activities/groups are you involved within the community/the area? Are there any local initiatives or activities that you particularly value or find inspiring?**

- South Kilworth – Mamites toddler group – run on a voluntary non-profit basis by local mums, always in need of new facilities.
- North Kilworth – Kilworth Challenge, Village Hall development, Community Dev. Initiative.
- Swinford Community Bus
- Walcote Allotments Association
- Misterton with Walcote Community Trust (MWCT)
- Swinford Community Groups
- WOW (Walcote on Wheels) – This is particularly inspiring as steered by the youth.
- St. Leonard's Church, Misterton/Walcote
- Swinford Primary School
- St. Nicholas' Church, Stanford on Avon

- South Kilworth Under 9's Football Team. (T-shirts with Nuon on would be great) No
- Friends of South Kilworth School – fund for school hall. – sports hall perhaps which could be used after school by village
- Swinford 2000 Community Projects Group
- Local schools – South Kilworth, Swinford
- Mamites toddler group, South Kilworth
- Walcote Wrigglers
- Thursday Lunch Club (OAP's)
- Walcote Cricket Club
- Walcote Allotment Assn.
- Swinford Playgroup: Children from surrounding villages attend, we provide employment and allow parents to work with the knowledge their children are being well cared for and educated
- South Kilworth Allotment Association – self driven initiative but lacking a water supply. Solar power pump is most sustainable solution for a very “green” initiative but no funds/grants now available.
- MWCT (Misterton with Walcote Community Trust)
- Walcote Village Hall, Storage extension
- WOW (Walcote on Wheels)
- Skateboard Park for all youth. – is this extra to existing?! Yes. They are still part of the community.
- Walcote park play area/Walcote Wrigglers Playgroup
- Swinford 2000, and its ongoing projects
- Swinford Skirts
- Friends of Swinford School (FOSS) PTA
- Swinford School Governors
- North Kilworth Community Interest Company (CIC)
- North Kilworth Millennium Green
- South Kilworth Drama Group / W.I. / lunch club (OAPs)

**Your area. What kind of issues (big or small) do you see having a significant influence on this area now and/or in the future?**

- Transport – no local transport links / no buses!
- Noise - how far will this reach? ✓
- Loss of wildlife habitat ✓
- What happens to the turbines in 25 yrs (or less/more?)

- The whole windfarm issue dividing communities ✓
- Catthorpe Interchange – if it happens!
- Safer roads ✓
- Building work and noise x ✓
- Gradual erosion of countryside – homes, roads, windfarms etc.
- Devaluation of our homes! ✓
- We need a bus service ✓ - South Kilworth has one! Walcote has one!
- Widening of A14 to a motorway toll road
- Windfarms!!
- Will subsequent meetings all be in Swinford, or will they move around the area? Agree
- How many more to follow? More cash??
- Erosion of countryside
- Noise = Sleep deprivation!!
- Impact on wildlife
- Community photovoltaic buying group
- Affordable homes
- Community anaerobic digestion schemes
- Information going to schools should be a balanced view – not just Nuon's
- Impact on footpaths
- Lack of public transport – especially evening& weekends even if buses on during the day. – is this a windfarm issue? Local county council
- The windfarm will detract the area ✓
- If the farm is “decommissioned in 25 years” how will the area be returned to its previous state??
- Who pays when the wind turbines have to be turned off?! ✓
- That circa £1 million pounds is not “frittered” away on things that do not last the lifetime of the project.
- What the cost to families? Home/house values, quality of life, access to services.

**Your area. When thinking about your area in the future, what kind of projects or activities do you think could make a real difference to you/others living locally?**

- Services to benefit the whole community
- Improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure
- Footpaths between communities & safe cycle routes – agree
- Projects which have ongoing/long term benefit

- Projects which benefit large proportion of community
- Making sure village schools are sustained
- Projects that reduce fuel bills – residents, schools and especially those who struggle to afford to heat homes
- Traffic calming in Catthorpe **No!**
- Cheaper heating – we're on oil! So electric needs to be cheaper for local communities!!
- Rebate on electricity bills for local residents **Yes I agree**
- Buses ✓✓
- Should be way of measuring how many agree or disagree with each point by allowing them to indicate by each one
- Any way windfarm land used as nature reserve etc?
- Reduction in council tax bills
- Sports facility (i.e. multi-purpose sports ground) for Swinford – **yes please!** **And Walcote – agree**
- Speed deterrents - Swinford – **including Rugby Road end near A14 junction. - but not humps!**  
**Why we have not had an accident in 30 years – and the sharp bends slow traffic.** – yes we have approx. 197
- Young people's groups – **in all villages**
- Post office facility combined with community shop – desperately required – **totally agree!**  
**(Swinford) We agree!!**
- Improve local facilities (e.g. village community centres), sports + playgrounds + equipment, community shop
- Training/apprentice schemes
- Extend skateboard facilities in Walcote (used by the youth of all villages +Lutterworth) **Or build local facilities – more sustainable**
- More local sporting activities
- A better facility in Swinford for pre-school / sports clubs / community groups etc. See Welford Community Centre as a good example locally
- North Kilworth Anaerobic Digester project
- North Kilworth Affordable Homes project
- St. Andrews NK – toilets
- Walcote – all community projects
- Schools are the hub of the community. Our children will grow up surrounded by turbines & know no different. The 2 schools affected should be the main benefactors with guaranteed annual income they could plan for a major project – South Kilworth school need a sports hall.
- Teenagers need more facilities – sports and social activities
- The villages need both services and access to services these need to be both affordable and accessible.

### **Case studies: Thoughts?**

- Percentage of the funds to be divided out according to the closer the turbines are to the village
- Like the Burton Wold example – makes sense that the fund helps energy efficiency in local community – agree but also fund community events / groups, not just infrastructure projects
- Cefn Croes Community Fund sounds like a reasonable model but there are also good features to consider from Manton and Goole
- Good case studies – should be equal % involvement from each community
- Drunderg and Cefn Croes look to be exemplars as formal not for profits or charities
- Transparency + a well considered set of criteria for giving vital – community – biodiversity – low carbon
- Subsidise residents electricity bills

## Appendix 4 – Youth Feedback and Ideas

**Article 12 Event – young people were asked; add your idea, my local area is, my local area should be, what I would like to see / do in my local area...**

- New fundraising ideas
- Upgraded park
- More parks
- Local leisure centre
- Improve youth clubs
- Rugby facilities
- Skate parks
- More places to meet up!
- More parks and shops
- More funding for parks
- Another place for older people to hang out
- Extra equipment in our local park!
- Ice rink
- Upgrade the park more fun stuff
- Skate park local
- Social clubs
- Leisure centre
- Sports hall
- Youth clubs for all ages
- More children's play areas for kids
- More art clubs and fun clubs
- Bigger parks
- More ramps at Skate Park
- Youth clubs
- Skate park
- A nature trail
- More gardens and parks
- It should be friendly
- More skate parks
- More youth clubs
- Skate parks
- More places for teenagers to go / hang out with friends
- A leisure centre
- Chill out clubs
- More places to hang out
- A cafe or fast food restaurant
- More skate parks
- Leisure centre!
- More activities
- Outdoor stage for summer gigs
- Half pipe at skate park
- Nature trail
- Play parks, skating, football, chill out
- A roof / gazebo over skate park
- Horse paddock

## **The Chill Out Bus Tour**

**Swinford Primary School 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 12 – 3pm**

### **Age 4**

- Toys x 7
- Park or playground equipment x 2
- Somewhere to go with friends x 2
- Swimming pool x 4
- Horse riding paddock
- Donkey rides
- Kite flying x 2
- Sweets
- Somewhere to walk the dog

### **Ages 4 to 6**

- Swimming pool x 7
- Somewhere to build snowmen
- Theme park x 7
- Parties x 3
- Park or playground equipment x 6
- Somewhere to go running x 2
- Arts and crafts
- Trips
- A forest
- Somewhere to watch TV
- Roller skating x 3
- Bowling alley x 2
- Cinema x 2
- Somewhere to play with friends
- Sweet shop x 2
- Quad biking x 3
- Scooter park x 2
- Cycling
- Ice skating x 2

- Shop x 2
- Somewhere to fly kites
- More trees
- A pond at school
- A safe area to live in

### **Ages 6 to 8**

- Skate park x 3
- Cinema x 3
- Ice rink
- Horse riding
- Nature park or trail x 4
- Cycling
- Swimming pool x 5
- Park or playground equipment x 7
- Toys x 3
- A pond x 2
- Horse riding x 2
- Science lessons
- Theme park x 5
- Sweets in school
- Lights in park
- Tree house
- Sweet shop
- More trees x 3
- Adventure trail
- Parties x 4
- Place to chill out x 5
- Shop x 2
- Trim trail
- Cricket pitch

- New football goals next to school
- Arts and crafts club

### **Ages 9 to 11**

- Skate park
- Scooter park x 2
- Park or playground equipment x 9
- Lights in park
- Water park
- Shop
- Farm shop
- Arts and crafts classes in the area
- Football pitch
- Tree house
- More bridle paths
- Nature park
- Sweets
- Allotments x 2
- Go karting
- Orchard
- Cycling routes
- Growing produce in school to sell on a market stall
- Farm shop with proceeds to school
- Sweet shop
- Toy shop
- More time on the Chill Out Bus

### **South Kilworth Primary School 8th November 2011 9am - 1pm**

#### **Ages 7 - 11**

- Park or playground equipment x 21
- Swimming pool x 14
- Nature trail x 3
- Astro turf x 2
- School hall x 32
- Shelter
- Shop x 7
- Skate park x 9
- Sweet shop x 10
- Cinema x 9
- Extend Swinford reservoir
- Horse riding x 7
- Theme park x 6
- Rugby pitch x 5
- Youth club x 3
- Football x 6
- Tennis x 4
- Ice skating x 7
- Preserve the Roman Village near the village
- Somewhere to walk the dog x 2
- Falconry park x 2
- Museum
- Gardens x 3
- Somewhere to chill out
- Sledging
- Traffic calming or speed cameras x 6
- More street lighting
- Benches and bins x 2
- Shopping mall
- Film nights
- Trips x 3
- Cycling routes x 5
- Toys
- For everything to be on the door step

- Pelican crossings
- CCTV to prevent crime
- School car park to stop parking on the road outside x 2
- We don't want the wind turbines – **but they are better than a power station**
- Leisure centre x 4
- Hotel or b and b
- Quad biking
- Crazy golf
- Baseball pitch
- Astro turf
- Fast food restaurant
- More open space
- A pond
- Somewhere to go with friends x 2
- Scooter park x 2
- Bowling alley
- Somewhere to fly kites
- Hockey
- Books
- Netball posts
- Village clubs e.g. dance x 2
- Sporting events
- Street and park lighting x 3
- Footpaths to school x 2
- Golf course x 2
- New TV in school
- Dance school
- Theatre
- Kitchen at school x 2
- Hot tub
- Hair or beauty parlour x 2
- Computer cafe

- Snow dome
- Less roads
- BMX track
- Water park x 2
- Zoo x 2
- A farmyard/animal area open to the public x 2
- Money
- School bus
- Beach
- Lake for fishing
- More houses to make a bigger village
- A river

#### **Who should decide how the fund is spent?**

- Children x 9
- Everyone in the community x 3
- Older people x 2
- Parish council x 3
- Young people and parents together
- The school x 7
- Teachers x 3
- The village and schools together
- Headteacher
- School governors

#### **What, if anything, would you like to change about where you live?**

- Where I live is perfect
- I live in the middle of nowhere, so somewhere to go or something to do would be great
- I would like a bigger place to live in
- It's boring so I would like something to do

- Better wifi
- Make the roads less busy
- Get owners to clean up after their dogs
- To not wear school uniform x 2
- Reduce the amount of traffic
- A bigger garden
- Make a safe place for me to visit friends on my own

**What do you enjoy doing in your village and surrounding area at the moment?**

- Cycling x 2
- Park x 4
- Football
- Horse riding x 2
- Listening to music
- Playing video games x 4
- Watching films
- Going to the park
- Big areas for dogs to run in x 2
- I don't have to walk very far for school
- Big open spaces
- My friends live nearby
- Sport x 2

**Swinford Village Green 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 6 – 7pm**

**Ages 12 to 14**

- Cafe
- Better pub
- Cycle path to Stanford
- Church heating
- New village hall and sports facilities at the hockey club – keep existing village hall for SODS Club
- Solar panels on community buildings

- Skate park in Lutterworth
- Swimming in Lutterworth

**Are there any problems where you live?**

- There is no shop
- Horse riding is far away
- No school hall
- Traffic
- Dog poo
- Litter
- Drunks
- Fighting
- Cigarette butts
- We don't have a cinema

**What is the best thing about where you live?**

- School
- Friends x 2
- The sweet shop in Lutterworth
- The park x 4
- Family
- Peace and quiet
- My dog

- Rugby posts up on the cricket field
- Tennis courts up on the cricket field
- New village hall up on the cricket field
- Community shop
- More youth bus sessions
- New community bus

- Young people should decide how the fund is spent
- Skate park behind the park
- Sort out church bells
- Youth club
- More events at the pub
- Better park equipment and upgrade what is already there – a seesaw, roundabout, a big swing

**What is the best thing about where you live?**

- There is a wind farm being built

**Who should decide what the fund is spent on?**

- Farmers
- Not the parish council
- Young people

**What do you like doing in the area at the moment?**

- Walking
- Cycling to Stanford in the summer to get an ice cream from the caravan park

**Are there any problems with where you live?**

- No public transport
- We need a better community bus

**Walcote Memorial Hall 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011 5 – 6pm**

**Aged 13 and 14**

- Equipment and games in the village hall e.g. table tennis and badminton nets
- Cricket nets at the playground
- Tennis courts
- Basketball nets
- Shelter
- Varnish skate board ramps
- Goal posts
- Kids club with a tv

- Airport
- Clean out the brook
- Traffic calming and pedestrian crossing on the main road
- Bins
- Flood lights (at the park)

**Who should decide what the community fund is spent?**

- Young people

**South Kilworth Village Hall 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 5 – 6pm**

**Ages 6 to 16**

- Garage
- Water park
- Skate park x 8
- Zip wire x 2

- Somewhere for young people to go and hang out
- DJ equipment and club (for practice)
- Cinema
- Night club
- Swimming pool x 2

- Tennis court
- Basketball court
- Basket swing
- Tree house
- Free horse riding school in the field
- Fast food restaurant x 4
- Arcade x 2
- Restaurant
- Go kart track
- A pub
- A rollercoaster
- Cricket pitch
- Post office

**What would you change in South Kilworth?**

- Park equipment – it is too babyish
- Change the big field into AstroTurf
- Have a cinema in the village

## Appendix 5 – Online Survey Results

13 people completed the online survey. Questions and answers as follows:

### 1. How did you hear about the community fund?

Answer Options	Response Count
Received a newsletter	3
The local newspaper	2
Swift Flash	0
Five Parish News	1
Word of Mouth/talking to people locally	6
Local radio	0
Local television	0
Internet	1
Other	3
	Answered question = 13 Skipped question = 0

### 2. Please tell us how you would describe your relationship with the area

Answer Options	Response Count
I live in Swinford	4
I live in Misterton and Walcote	1
I live in South Kilworth	2
I live in Shawell	0
I live in Cotesbach	1
I live in Stanford	0
I live in North Kilworth	0
I live in Lutterworth	2
Historic/family connection	0
Professional/work interest	2
Visitor	0
Other (please specify)	3
We live in the same Council District	

Fundraiser for Lutterworth RFC Chair of Ullesthorpe Preservation Trust, Windmill Project, a registered charity	
	Answered question = 11 Skipped question = 2

### 3. Gender

Answer Options	Response Count
Male	6
Female	7
	Answered question = 13 Skipped question = 0

### 4. Age at last birthday

Answer Options	Response Count
Under 16	0
16 - 24	0
25 - 34	2
35 - 44	3
45 - 54	2
55 - 64	2
65 - 74	3
75 +	0
Do not wish to answer	0
	Answered question = 12 Skipped question = 1

**5. When thinking about this specific community fund, what do you hope for? (this may be your thoughts on how the fund can make the biggest difference to the community, what you want it to be able to do. It may be your thoughts on how you want to see the fund developed, who you want to see involved.) Please explain your answer as fully as possible.**

**Answered question = 9**

**Skipped question = 4**

#### Comments

- I hope this fund will be available to all groups that apply for some funding for local projects. It must be there to be used by all communities, and distributed fairly. There needs to be a group of

volunteers to run this, and on this group needs to be equal representation from each parish/village that are entitled to use of the fund.

- I would like to see as many people as possible involved in the local communities liaising with local Parish Councils, Parochial Church Councils, School and other community groups.
- 1) Some compensation to those who have reasonable objections to the impacts, e.g. visual impact within 500 m (e.g. in effect a contribution to their electricity bills, as with winter fuel payments). 2) Support for energy efficiency, e.g. external insulation, electric vehicles. 3) Support to youth, e.g. grants to local students at university, extra teacher at primary school
- Help the young people by providing facilities, at Lutterworth RFC
- I hope that the fund goes some way towards reimbursing UK taxpayers for the complete waste of money that this windfarm project will be. Sadly I doubt it will.
- To galvanise local communities and their members; to provide a centre for the community to gather; to provide employment opportunities for local people; a chance for young people to get involved.
- I'd hope for each household to have the chance to decide whether they want to draw a direct benefit from the fund (effectively in the form of an annual cash rebate split evenly between all qualifying properties) or to have the choice to then gift this to a pool to benefit the wider community.
- That it will be used to provide useful and sustainable opportunities for the residents of the local area.
- I am hoping it will improve the lives of local residents, but supporting the various community activities and facilities we have in place.

**6. When thinking about the fund, what [if any] concerns or fears do you have? (Again this may be concerns about what you think the fund will be doing that you don't want it to do, fears about how it will be developed, or who will manage it etc.)**

**Answered question = 8**

**Skipped question = 5**

### **Comments**

- It worries me that one group or community feels they have all the rights to the fund. each community needs to have a voice.
- I think it is vital that the funding is shared in as fair a way as possible - with those affected the most receiving the most.
- A cooperative at with a local resource
- My main concern is that this is used to justify something that will not achieve the objectives that have been peddled over the past few years. However, it may serve to pull some wool over some people's eyes. Shame it couldn't be better used to educate people as to the real impact of this development.
- Creating division and conflict between communities and individuals. To become a "chore", something that needs to be managed and becomes hard work and a burden on the shoulders of very few people. As with so many community projects, everyone wants to benefit but no-one wants to have the responsibility. Lack of experience in managing projects like this.
- Biggest concerns.
  - 1) Will be managed by the developer, in the developer's best interest. Needs to be completely

arms length and to have a group of people involved who will stand up for the community's interest.

2) Has the potential to cause big disputes, with different villages and factions within each village arguing for their share of the loot. Potential to turn nasty if one group feels preferred over the other. Hence the point made above. Every household (defined as properties within the catchment area at date of site being commissioned) should have right to an equal payment. If they then want to donate that back to the central pot, that is their annual choice.

3) Vested interest groups will try to hijack the fund/ control of the fund. Therefore, you need local representation to be independent and not tied to existing local bodies.

- That groups from Lutterworth will try and use the money. It should be for the local villages.
- I fear that much of the money will be soaked up in bureaucracy

**7. Who has a stake? Who do you think should be involved with this community fund and why? (again, please be as specific as possible – whether it's ideas about specific villages, groups, demographics etc etc.)**

**Answered question = 9**

**Skipped question = 4**

**Comments**

- It should be available to residents of defined communities. If groups that serve parts of the communities in these defined areas apply for part of the fund that has to be brought to the committee to decide if funding can be offered. I feel funding should be matched by the organisation in their outside fundraising.
- See my previous 2 answers. (I would like to see as many people as possible involved in the local communities liaising with local Parish Councils, Parochial Church Councils, School and other community groups. I think it is vital that the funding is shared in as fair a way as possible - with those affected the most receiving the most.)
- People living or working, or institutions within about 10 miles of the windfarm
- Lutterworth Rugby Club
- DCLG
- Local people. Existing community organisations. Perhaps an outside project manager with relevant experience in this field. No-one with a political agenda. No-one from Nuon.
- Tight geographic area around the windfarm. The further you push the net, the more it gets diluted. I'd argue for only properties, or properties that are part of a settlement within a 1km boundary of the site. So I guess that in village terms you are talking Swinford, South Kilworth and Stanford. No further. Within this geographic area, you have to offer all an access/ share. Can't just be for, old, or young, or rich, or poor, or property owners (e.g. rental tenants not included). Has to be seen to be universal.
- The local villages. Swinford and South Kilworth. It should be used sustainably with a future-focus. Schools could use the money to benefit generations of children.
- I think people should put in formal bids (in writing or in person) and these should be considered by an independent panel

**8. Please tell us what you value about your area? What do you feel are the area's strengths?**

**Answered question = 8**

**Skipped question = 5**

**Comments**

- Walcote has always had a great community spirit. I have been a resident in this village on 2 occasions with a 6 year break. I couldn't describe to my partner why I wanted to come back, but having both been resident here for the past 11 years, we wouldn't want to leave.
- Beautiful countryside - not too much pollution. Good community spirit and people looking out for each other. There is also an excellent newsletter - the South Kilworth News.
- Self sufficiency
- Good place to live strong community
- The people and sense of community.
- Pretty local landscape. Local historical buildings including Stanford Hall and local churches. Accessibility to the trunk road network. Local people who are welcoming. The local pub in Swinford and the publican.
- The rural landscape and the village communities.
- Community spirit, village hall activities, local school. Lots of enthusiasm for organising events, just not enough money.

**9. What activities/groups are you involved within the community? Are there any local initiatives or activities that you particularly value or find inspiring?**

**Answered question = 8**

**Skipped question = 5**

**Comments**

- I am a trustee on Misterton with Walcote Communities Trust....The Village Hall. ml am one of the 3 parents that support Walcote on Wheels.....a group of children fund raising to build and now extend the village skateboard park.
- Kilworth Korks - a fun and active ladies group. The South Kilworth Bowls Club a very good social network and to keep fit. The Art Club very creative and fun. Also the church community - Swift Group - very welcoming.
- renewable energy support group; local history; local theatre; local sport; enterprise by youth
- Lutterworth Rugby Club
- local sports teams; local schools
- I value Swinford 2000 and the Five Parishes Newsletter that keeps us all in touch and is written and printed by volunteers.
- Have been involved with Swinford 2000 charity. Currently involved in the Five Parishes Newsletter
- Ma-mites toddler group, village school, church, village hall functions.

**10. What kind of issues (big or small) do you see having a significant influence on this area now and/or in the future?**

**Answered question = 8**

**Skipped question = 5**

**Comments**

- I hope that the community fund is not going to spoil relationships between the different groups in the community.
- Any building development should be very carefully considered and renewable energy programmes should be encouraged
- lack of local jobs; lack of affordable housing for rural workers
- Employment for our young people, activities to keep the young engaged.
- A change to our access to the motorway network. More land being turned from agricultural to residential and no-one building supporting facilities such as shops, pubs, doctors etc. Absolutely no thought put into building communities - simply big building houses and making money. No public transport. No affordable housing for young families and young people who grew up in the area and want to stay here.
- Like all rural communities, we remain at the mercy of local authority funding constraints. This means access to services, schools, transport etc will continue to be stretched. Proposed reshuffling of parliamentary boundaries will leave Swinford/ Shawell further isolated as we move from Leicestershire sphere of influence into Daventry. Also we remain off the high speed internet grid, hampering ability of local businesses to operate.
- The schools.
- house prices are making it hard for young families to set up home here

**11. When thinking about your area in the future, what kind of projects or activities do you think could make a real difference to you/others living locally?**

**Answered question = 7**

**Skipped question = 6**

**Comments**

- All communities will feel their project is the most important and should receive funding, All projects should be presented to the group responsible and they should decide on how the money is split. The fund must be used for local projects which serve their local communities.
- Protecting the environment is important. It is also good to allow people to choose for themselves how their community develops but maintenance of community buildings and facilities is important so the projects and activities have their own space.
- Sustainable housing and living
- Improve the availability of starter homes
- A centre for the community that gives us a place to gather and hold events, including local small business units for small, independent tradesmen, artists, craftsmen, producers of food etc, with sustainably low rents. A doctor's surgery, even if only part-time. A shop, a cafe, a new village hall. Something to bring the life and trade back into the village of Swinford rather than seeing it ebb away.

- Not for me to say. Key issue is to create a funding structure that is robust, independent and accountable. Then up to community to go forward.
- More facilities for older children/teenagers, as they are not very well catered for at the moment. Also, ongoing support of the existing projects and support to village hall activities, school and toddler group

**12. This is the place to share any specific project ideas that you think the funding could support. They could be your own ideas, a project being developed by a group with which you are involved, or a local project you have heard about that you think merits support. They could be ideas for immediate projects or projects that you think could be developed for the future.**

**Answered question = 8**

**Skipped question = 5**

### **Comments**

- MWCT extension to village hall for extra storage for all user groups.
- Active memorial to the first example of airplane flight nearby, thereby enabling a windfarm visitors centre to link the two.
- Lutterworth Rugby Club Development of facilities
- see question 11 answers (A centre for the community that gives us a place to gather and hold events, including local small business units for small, independent tradesmen, artists, craftsmen, producers of food etc, with sustainably low rents. A doctor's surgery, even if only part-time. A shop, a cafe, a new village hall. Something to bring the life and trade back into the village of Swinford rather than seeing it ebb away.)
- Too early to say - no point setting out dreams at this stage.
- South Kilworth Primary School is the only local school that has no school hall. They have nowhere to eat or deliver sports lessons in the colder months.
- Ma-mites toddler group
- Walcote on wheels.....youth fundraising for extending skate boarding facilities
- School
- All weather sports court.....Walcote village
- Agar Venture
- Village Hall
- Facilities for older children
- Church
- New windows for Swinford Village Hall

## Appendix 6 – Information Day Panel Boards Including Case Study Examples

***Welcome and thank you for attending the information day. What interests or concerns prompted you to come today? (this might be a general interest or concern for the village/area, it might be because of where you live/work, interest in the character of the area/effect of the wind farm? To find out more about the project etc. etc.)***



***What is your relationship to the area?*** (e.g. *I live in....., I live nearby, work here, general interest in the area, holiday home here, live within 1km of the wind farm, etc.*)



## ***A general introduction to Community Funds***

*Community funds have become a normal part of wind energy projects in the UK as a way of providing direct benefit to local communities hosting projects.*

*There are now many examples of community benefit funds across the UK. There are a number of ways in which a fund can be structured, but the important point is it is a fund for the local community, and should be driven by your priorities.*

*The Community Fund associated with the Swinford Wind Energy Project will be worth £44,000 annually to the local community. It is an index-linked fund (this means that the fund is linked every year to the Retail Price Index to ensure it maintains its value in real terms). The fund will be in place for a 25 year period, and will start from the date that the wind farm is fully commissioned and is generating electricity (currently we expect this to be in the Autumn of 2012).*

*It is hoped that the details of the fund can be agreed with the local community by this time. Sometimes it takes longer. If this was the case, and more time were needed to establish the legal vehicle to manage the fund, no funding would be lost. The community's money would accrue from the date of wind farm commissioning.*

*Today is the first opportunity for you to get involved with the work to develop the community fund.*



## ***Why is it important to have your feedback?***

*At this stage we do not know what funding structure can best meet your needs as a community. There are many different options (we've provided a range of case studies to give you an idea of what is possible so please read these).*

*To determine the best option, we need to understand what kind of things you want to see the funding do here – both now and in the future.*

*This is the start of the work – there will be many more opportunities to get involved. Before you leave today, there is a form for you to fill in to tell us how you would like to be involved next. Please fill in this form. The information you give us will help us plan ahead and ensure we*



*are doing the right things to keep you informed and involved.*

*We are asking a broad range of questions today, to get a picture of who lives in the area that will benefit from the fund, your interests and needs, all of which will guide the research into the best community fund options for you.*

*Please bear this in mind when providing your answers - the more detail you give us, the better we can understand what's important to you and follow up on the points that you've raised appropriately. So for example, if you have specific thoughts or ideas of relevance to a specific village, group or demographic, please say so; let us know if the ideas regarding hopes and aspirations or fears and concerns, are immediate ones (potentially attainable/ threatening in the next one or two years) or longer term issues.*

*We shall type up all the comments we receive today and make them widely available. We'll also seek further response from you and others, in relation to using this information from you, and how best to act on it.*

## ***Hopes for the fund***

***When thinking about this specific community fund, what do you hope for? (this may be your thoughts on how the fund can make the biggest difference to the community, or what you want it to be able to do. It may also be your thoughts on how you want to see the fund developed, who you want to see involved.) Please explain your answer as fully as possible.***



## ***Concerns about the fund***

***When thinking about the fund, what [if any] concerns or fears do you have? (Again this may be concerns about what you think the fund will be doing that you don't want it to do, fears about how it will be developed, or how it will be managed)***



***Who has a stake?***

***Who do you think should be involved with this community fund and why? (again, please be as specific as possible – whether it's ideas about specific villages, groups, demographics etc etc.)***



***Your area***

***Please tell us what you value about your area? What do you feel are the area's strengths?***



***Your area***

***What activities/groups are you involved within the community/the area? Are there any local initiatives or activities that you particularly value or find inspiring?***



***Your Area***

***What kind of issues (big or small) do you see having a significant influence on this area now and/or in the future?***



## ***Your Area***

***When thinking about your area in the future, what kind of projects or activities do you think could make a real difference to you/others living locally?***





***Case studies – what are the possibilities?***

***Here we have provided examples of a range of different funds that operate in the UK (the examples are not just linked to wind farms).***

***They are provided to give you an idea of the range of options that are available through real examples from communities across the UK. They range from relatively new funds, to funds that have been operating for many years, which is relevant as this fund will be in place for 25 years.***

***Please provide any thoughts you have on these – you may see something that inspires you and would like to see considered for this fund. Or maybe you will see examples of things you don't think would work well here. Again, please be as specific as you can.***

## Burton Wold Community Fund

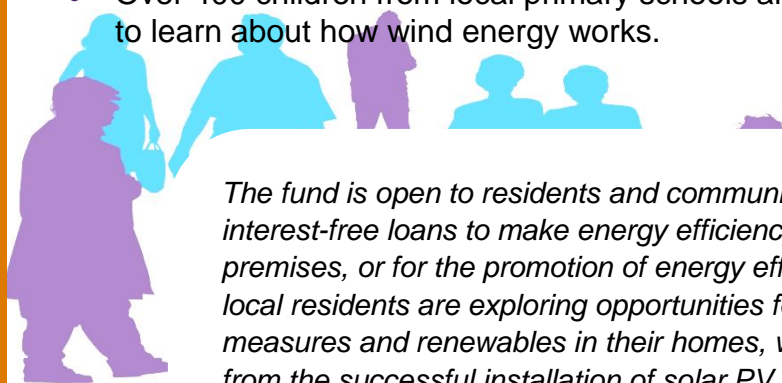
Following close consultation with the local community it was determined that a community benefit scheme would be established to support greater energy efficiency and options for smaller-scale renewable energy projects. A community fund was therefore established to support such projects, as well as supporting education initiatives related to renewables and energy efficiency.

The community received a lump sum of £40,000 upon construction of the wind farm, and receives £10,000 every year over the life of the project.



Over the last four years the community fund has enabled:

- The installation of solar panels at Yeomans Court Housing scheme in Burton Latimer, providing zero-carbon hot water to all communal areas and an estimated saving of 25% on annual energy bills.
- The installation of sun tubes at St. Mary's School, providing natural lighting to enclosed areas and a high-efficiency heating and hot water system for a local Girl Guides' building.
- The installation of energy-efficient heating and improved glazing to Burton Latimer Guide Centre, replacing old ceiling-mounted electric radiant bar heating systems.
- The purchase of children's books for the local library and funding for a community information point for residents and visitors to learn about the wind farm and energy efficiency.
- The installation of improved energy-efficient glazing to the old Health Centre, Burton Latimer now reopened as a full community use centre with community meeting rooms and facilities.
- Installation of a solar PV system at a resident's property in Park Road, Burton Latimer.
- Over 400 children from local primary schools and over 1,000 people to visit the wind farm to learn about how wind energy works.



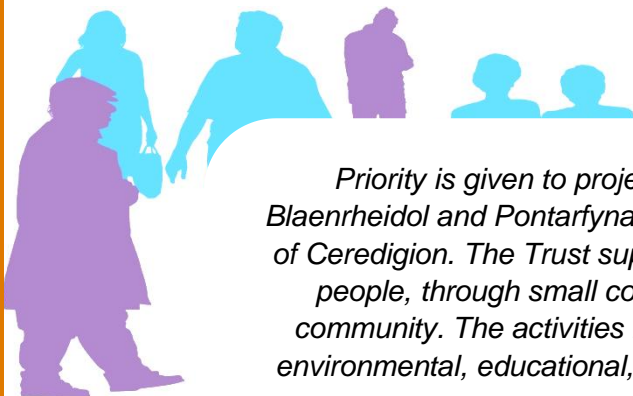
*The fund is open to residents and community groups to apply for grants and interest-free loans to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes or premises, or for the promotion of energy efficiency education. To date, sixteen local residents are exploring opportunities for installing energy efficiency measures and renewables in their homes, with one resident already benefiting from the successful installation of solar PV systems on their property.*

## Cefn Croes Community Fund

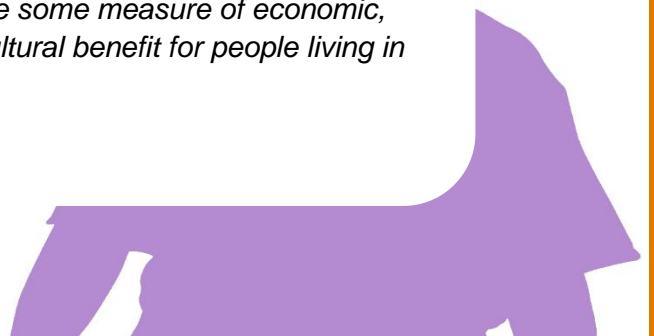
The Cefn Croes Wind Farm Community Trust was established in November 2005. It is a Charitable Trust funded by Cambrian Wind Energy (a Falck subsidiary), which contributes £58,500 (increased annually with the RPI) annually into the Trust. The Trust is managed by a board of five trustees: This Trust has five trustees, one from Cambrian Wind Energy and two from each of the community councils of Pont-ar-Fynach and Blaenrheidol. The Trust is now a registered charity.

The trustees consider applications for funding from members of the community and decide how the funds should be allocated to those projects.

- Projects receiving grants vary significantly, from churches, to schools, play groups, community transport and communal community areas. For example, in 2007, Blaenrheidol Community Council was awarded £15,000 to purchase new equipment for the play, with another organization provided with £3,750 in 2007 and a further £1,756 in 2008 for its work in improving the community woodland.
- Other grants awarded include, £1,335 to Eglwys Newydd Church in support of an Autumn Community Event; a total of £6,384 to Mynach Primary School for purchasing computers and digital camera equipment, and developing a recreation area for school activities; a total of £10,530 to Ponterwyd CM Chapel for the refurbishment of the schoolroom and upgrading the graveyard; £3,490, Ponterwyd & District Art Club for the provision of tutors, training aids and equipment; and £4,500 to Plynlimon Heritage Trust for restoration of the water wheel



*Priority is given to projects in the Community Council Areas of Blaenrheidol and Pontarfynach, and then to the wider area of the County of Ceredigion. The Trust supports any type of activity that involves local people, through small community organisations, that benefit their community. The activities must provide some measure of economic, environmental, educational, social or cultural benefit for people living in the area.*



## Constantine Enterprise Company (CEC)

Constantine is one of the larger parishes in Cornwall. There are about 1,650 residents. There is a primary school of 120 children with another 120 children attending senior schools in Helston, Penryn and Falmouth (all about seven miles away). There is a GP surgery, a dentist, Post Office with a general store which houses the biggest off licence in the county, a Spar shop, an electrical shop, a butchers, a craft and local information shop and over 30 clubs and community groups.

In 1997 the Constantine Parish Council wanted ideas and projects to celebrate the millennium. A committee was formed of representatives from the village and the Parish Council, and a survey was undertaken with the help of Cornwall Rural Community Council which produced lots of different ideas around sport, arts, education, IT, heritage, and improvements to the local built and natural environment. To take forward these ideas, Constantine Enterprise Company (CEC) was formed in 1998.

The founding mission of CEC was:

*“Constantine Enterprises Company endeavours to foster community co-operation thus enabling the residents of and visitors to the parish to celebrate its past, fulfil the potential of present opportunities and embrace the challenges to a secure prosperity in the next century.”*

The organisation's activities are all delivered by volunteer staff.

## An asset base

**Tolmen Centre:** The primary asset held by the CEC is a former Grade 2 listed Methodist Chapel. The listing restrictions limited what could be done with the building but, when it came up for auction, the CEC's bid of £20,000 was accepted.

The downstairs offers meeting rooms for local community groups and a community-run café with a couple of rooms rented to a local hairdresser and a homeopathic consultant. However, the upstairs has been transformed into an exciting 180 person theatre space with the existing tiered pews forming a horseshoe around a central stage. The Tolmen Centre offers professional theatre performances, concerts (including an international guitar festival), film shows, and cabaret shows as well as the occasional wedding or conference.

## Community benefit

Since the acquisition of the Tolmen Centre, the CEC has been heavily involved with many other projects including:

- Setting up a parish newspaper and an associated parish printing resource
- Environmental improvements to a village bus stop (with a mosaic done by local children)
- Education and training courses
- Guides to local walks and a heritage trail
- A community internet access point
- A pre-school Kids Club.
- A 'green team' has also been established to look at environmental and sustainability issues (geothermal, PV and solar panels, wind and water power), with 'experts' who live in the parish joining the team. The CEC is now seeking to buy a local woodland and an associated quarry where it can develop small workshop units and a hydro-electric scheme as well as a new heritage trail focussing on the quarrying history of Constantine.



## Drumderg Community Fund

The Drumderg Wind Farm was established for the benefit of the Alyth and Mount Blair community council areas in Perthshire. The Alyth community council area includes the town of Alyth and surroundings, and the Mount Blair community council area comprises the glens of Strathardle and Glenshee in Perthshire.

A local advisory panel was established to make decisions on how the fund should be spent. The panel is made up of people who live and/or are active in the Alyth and Mount Blair community council area and it is supported by the Scottish Community Foundation.

In this example, the developer provides an grant to a charitable fund, which is held by the Scottish Community Foundation for the community. The Foundation receives and assesses proposals to support a wide range of projects providing public benefit to people living in the area. We then provide recommendations to the advisory panel which confirms final decisions on grant awards.

The process enables local people to make local decisions without a legal or administrative burden.

*The Fund aims to promote community spirit and bring people together; enhance quality of life and promote people's well-being; and foster vibrant, sustainable communities. Groups and organisations matching these purposes and providing public benefit to people living in the area may apply for a grant award.*

Applications to £2,000 and some to £10,000 are considered by the advisory group. They also consider requests for larger grants where a strong case for support can be demonstrated, but we do not expect to make any grant over £50,000.

For grants less than £250, Mount Blair Community Council and Alyth Community Council are administering a micro grants programme available to groups and individuals.

Some examples of local projects that have been supported through the fund include:

- Funding for the local education centre, to purchase computers with a further successful application to run a local art course
- Funding for a village parade and open air festival
- Funding to enable the transfer of the local village shop, café and petrol outlet to community ownership



## Caernarfon Gallery

The gallery is a private company limited by guarantee without charitable status. The company was set up in 1992 to meet the following objective:

*“To pursue sustainable projects in a creative way in order to realise the cultural, economic and environmental potential of the local community and its environs”.*

In 1992, Galeri received a capital grant of £100,000 and a three year revenue grant together with a cash donation of £250,000 from the area’s Council, and work began on regenerating the town. It used their funding to buy up empty properties, both commercial and residential, with the object of renovating and leasing them.

From the outset, the trust had a clear aim to be a social enterprise and now has a property portfolio worth over £2 million. To date the development trust has renovated and refurbished 20 neglected and vacant properties, which are now occupied by tenants, including shops, offices, flats, 2 cafes, a music training centre and a pub. The properties were selected on the basis of availability and condition. The programme has created many jobs in the local building industry and reversed economic blight in the town centre by letting good quality premises to local businesses at affordable rents.

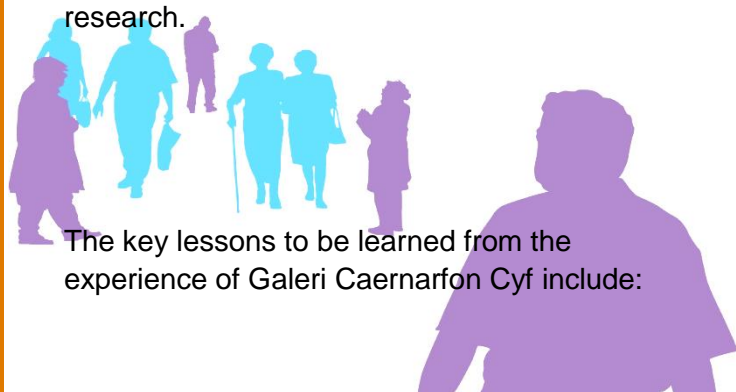
Another main strand of Galeri’s activity has been developing an arts programme. In 2001 it set up the Caernarfon Arts Project which by 2005 had over 300 local people taking part in a range of arts activities. This arts programme is now housed within the brand new „Caernarfon Enterprise Centre“, the development trust’s most ambitious project to date.

The Trust also runs its own community arts project 'SBARC!'. This project, mainly for young people, offers weekly drama and Rock School classes. It also holds occasional events such as Photomathon, Marathon Rock, and singing, puppet making, make up for film and digital story workshops.

The initial decision to invest in the purchase and renovation of properties in the town centre arose from a clear local need and concern that had been the subject of local discussion and research.

A clear and ambitious vision has guided the Trust throughout its 18 years of work and development.

- It has focused on dealing with **clear and expressed local needs**, which has enabled it to engage local community and political support.
- It has used one specific **business model** - the acquisition, refurbishment, development and management of property – as its main business activity
- This model has provided the opportunity for other businesses and individuals to contribute to the regeneration of Caernarfon town centre thus having a high **multiplier effect**.
- An **asset-based** approach has enabled Galeri to become increasingly self-financing.
- Galeri's approach suggests a method by which a social enterprise can undertake a **gradual and methodical development** towards financial success and becoming a significant employer in its own right



The key lessons to be learned from the experience of Galeri Caernarfon Cyf include:

## Goole Trust

The Trust was created in 1997 to support economic, social and environmental regeneration in the port of Goole, located on the confluence of the rivers Don and Ouse. The Trust's first activities involved the disbursement of grants to local social enterprises and other community groups.

Since then, its main, though not sole, focus has been promoting the development of the local economy through the provision of training, premises and finance. It has succeeded in significantly diversifying its funding base by attracting grants from schemes as diverse as the European Social Fund (to provide training for local businesses), the Phoenix Fund (to provide premises and loans for local business) and Social Enterprise Humber (for helping facilitate the creation of social enterprises).

While it continues to look to external funding for most of its business support activities, the Trust has been embarking in recent years on a strategy to increase its own autonomous income through various initiatives, including working on a contract basis for other local economic development agencies, launching and managing a local lottery, opening a café and buying and refurbishing the building from which it works, part of which will be leased as premises to local businesses.

The core lessons learned are the following:

- **Grant funding** can be very valuable to enable a community organisation to develop capacity and **acquire assets**.
- Community organisations should remain focused on their **core vision** and raise funds to achieve that rather than applying to all available funding pots and running the risk of becoming disconnected from the original vision.
- Grant funding will be available only for a limited period – it needs to be used and invested skillfully so as to **develop the organisation's capacity** and assets to enable it to generate an ever greater proportion of its own funding.
- The organisation's board needs to be carefully selected so as to **represent all of the key actors** in the area's community and economy. The Goole Development Trust has a board of 12 people chosen to include representatives of the public, private and voluntary sectors, including five local entrepreneurs, one local councillor as well as a former councillor, the town clerk, the head of a local college and the CEO of a local charity.
- It is imperative that the services delivered should be of clear and immediate **benefit to local people**.
- The community organisation should be prepared to take **calculated risks**. In the case of the Lottery, for example, around ten per cent of the total population had to play for the scheme to break even. However, it was felt to hold out sufficient promise both as a generator of funds for local concerns and to raise the profile of the Trust that the risk was taken to proceed with it. It has proved successful and is now an established part of life in Goole.



## Manton Community Alliance

Manton Community Alliance decided to use participatory budgeting to determine the allocation of a pot of local money. The short-term aim of the process was to build trust within the community and to give residents real power over the way that a pot of grant funding was spent in the area. The board agreed that residents would never really have any power until they held the purse strings for their area and felt as if they really could make a difference

In 2007 the Manton Community Alliance gave the opportunity for local residents to decide where £50,000 of money should be spent.

*A scrutiny panel was set up to oversee the process and to make sure that the projects that were submitted fitted in with the residents priorities. The panel included Local residents; a local councillor (involved in the second year), Local authority officers and others involved with providing the grant funding.*

*The residents involved in the panel and board shared their knowledge of local issues, and, together with issues identified through other consultations in the area, 42 main priorities for the area were identified. Local residents were then asked to number their top five priorities – 1 to 5.*

The Scheme was promoted as “Voice your Choice” and there were three stages to the process:

1. People decide what the priorities are through local events
2. People decide what proportion of the money is allocated to each priority
3. People decide which project/organisation gets the money to address the identified priorities

The top priorities were then taken to residents to decide how much money they felt should be spent on each of the priorities.

The five priorities which had the most amount of money assigned to them were then used to identify projects.

Local community and voluntary groups were asked to put forward projects and ideas which addressed the five priorities. The scrutiny panel shortlisted the projects based on the funding criteria.

The successful groups and organisations were asked to provide information on their project (a number of ways have been used – from information booklets to DVDs and events in community halls).

Voting took place over a week to make sure that more people got the chance to vote. This voting was the way of making a final decision on which projects should get the funding from the shortlisted projects



## Neilston: Space to Live

The trust has its roots in a community project, “Neilston: Space to Live”, that was set up by residents in 2004 to work for spatial and cultural renewal in Neilston.

This grew into the Neilston Development Trust. This trust aims to champion, facilitate, support and drive the regeneration of Neilston in Renfrewshire.

## Main Achievements

In 2006 the Trust bought the former Clydesdale Bank in the town. Buying the Bank was not an easy step and in order to do this a ballot was held in Neilston to gauge the support of local residents. The community owned and run facility is now home to the community cafe and also available for hire to local groups.

A cultural programme has also been developed, which includes an annual Neilston Festival.

*It is now a charitable company limited by guarantee, with a strong local membership (The governance board is made up of local residents (currently eight) who are voted on to the board at annual AGM, and the work is supported by around 40 local volunteers) and an ambitious programme with 3 key themes:*

- *developing Neilston’s physical environment,*
- *developing the cultural life of Neilston and,*
- *sustainability.*

In the future the trust is working to:

- Develop the old bank as a cultural centre for the village
- Ensure long term sustainability for the village including development of independent income streams, possibly from renewable energy, recycling and an ongoing cultural program.



