



## Edinbane Community Company Ltd



### Vision and aims

A Company limited by Guarantee with charitable status, established to manage community benefit funds generated from the Vattenfall windfarm. Objects defined in Mem and Arts

**Staff** – 1 Part time Community Development worker , Volunteer Admin Officer

### Avenues for Communication

**Web site** - [www.edinbanecommunitycompany.org](http://www.edinbanecommunitycompany.org)

[admin@edinbanecommunitycompany.org](mailto:admin@edinbanecommunitycompany.org) - Wilf Docherty

[devworker@edinbanecommunitycompany.org](mailto:devworker@edinbanecommunitycompany.org) – Ian Brown

[alistaird@edinbanecommunitycompany.org](mailto:alistaird@edinbanecommunitycompany.org) – Alistair Danter

[stuartw@edinbanecommunitycompany.org](mailto:stuartw@edinbanecommunitycompany.org) – Finance + Co. Sec

**Contact details** for the 8 directors are included on the web site.

### Membership

Voting membership is open to people over the age of 18, ordinarily resident in the community and who support the objects of the company.

Non-voting membership is open to:

Associate members – people not ordinarily resident and organisations wherever located that support the objects, and junior members, aged between 12 and 17, who also support the objects.

**Revenues:** funding from the Vattenfall windfarm + leveraged funding from range of Govt and non Govt funders.

## Projects

### Covid response

A fund has been created to provide up to £500 p.a. for locals in exceptional need due to Covid-19. Referrals are through the Citizen's Advice Bureaux.

### Awards – Full details can be seen on the website under annual reports or on request from Wilf Docherty, where possible ECC always seeks leverage from funding awards.

For financial year 2018-19, awards focussed mostly on support for a Sir Lewis Richie Development officer; school trips and further studies or training courses. There was also support for the village hall, a concert and maintenance around the village, including cutting the grass and looking after the war memorial.

### Apprenticeship Scheme

Support to businesses 'to cover the hourly rate employment costs to the employer of an apprentice attending offsite training in recognition ...that this is often a difficult cost for a small business to cover.'

The scheme is not intended to replace existing support provided to the apprentice for course fees, travel costs or accommodation.

### Edinbane Community Links Project

A survey of potential cycling and walking routes from north of Flashader through Edinbane and on to Greshornish and Dunvegan. A total of 27km of paths, the majority of which follows the A850, with a detailed survey of a 0.5km missing section.

### An Atlas of Edinbane

A project developed by Lateral North and Elgar Finlay Limited for the Edinbane Community Company, setting out of a series of ten key ideas for the future of Edinbane. It is called an 'holistic community-led master plan,' but it has a different feel to the other community plans. It identified an Edinbane brand as the community's top priority; with a community shop, village centre, cafe and heritage centre accounting for 4 of their 10 ideas. The report envisages local produce being sold in the community shop if it uses the new Edinbane branding. Cycle and walking tracks; a viewing platform with public toilets in a lay-by outside the village; community renewables and affordable housing are also mentioned.

The community hall was identified by the consultation as being in need of a further upgrade in order to be able to offer additional facilities, with the aim of being better used by the community, however this project didn't make it into the top 10. The hall was upgraded using benefit funds a few years ago.

## **A Community Energy Survey**

This survey was commissioned by Hilldino, an English based partnership which owns a constrained local wind turbine. The purpose of the survey was to identify a local market for the energy Hilldino is unable to export to the grid when it's windy, due to capacity constraints within the grid. Direct use of local energy has the potential to reduce local energy prices and carbon footprints, as well as relieving local grid constraints, however there are a number of legislative, technical and practical barriers which include:

- The intermittence of the wind and therefore curtailment.
- Possible future expansion of the grid reducing the problem.
- The high cost of the relevant kit and a private wire (£50k per km).
- The cost of electricity - 'Scottish households with electric heating are close to twice as likely to suffer from fuel poverty as those using fossil fuel-based heating systems'

The report therefore seeks to identify capacity within the village that could be supplied by private wire and flexibly turned on and off. The survey does estimate overall energy expenditure within the community, which is significant, especially when transport fuels are included, but it does not start from a place of community need and nor does it calculate levels of fuel poverty, so overall, it is questionable if selling this energy locally is likely to genuinely benefit the community.

The report does say that Vattenfall is considering making some of the community benefit from future wind-farms available directly to householders for energy efficiency retrofits, which could have the potential to reduce fuel poverty.

**Defibrillators** - map of the 6 local defibrillators

## **The company recently carried out the following:**

Renewal of company public and director's liability insurance; negotiation of a 'licence' to be used as a legal 'vehicle' to construct footpaths through the Coishletter woodlands and Edinbane Common Grazing; discussions about a community shop, a development worker; non-motorised access routes; the war memorial and a mobile phone booster.

## **Key current projects include:**

- Purchase of former local shop for conversion to Community Shop / café / ECC Office
- Construction of 6 social housing units
- Development of cycle routes with assistance of Sustrans funding + Benefit funds.
- Ongoing support for Business training and tertiary training courses for local residents.