

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

FOR AWARDS OF £250 - £2000

These guidelines are for applicants applying to Ardgay & District Community Council for awards of £250 to £2000 from the Coire na Cloiche Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.

If you would like help with your application to the Fund, please contact A&D CC who will be able to help (secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk)

BACKGROUND TO THE FUND

The Ardgay & District Community Council (A&D CC) shares the community benefit from the Coire na Cloiche (CnC) wind farm with Ardross CC, Creich CC and Edderton CC. The fund is for the benefit of residents within the boundaries of the areas served by the Community Council.

The fund is provided by Rock by Sea who is the operator of the CnC windfarm. Groups and organisations working to benefit people within the Ardgay & District area are able to apply to A&DCC for awards from the fund. An application form can be downloaded from the A&D CC website. Decisions on applications will be made by A&D CC.

The annual fund available to A&DCC is about £20,000 for 25 years.

WHAT CAN THE FUND BE USED FOR?

It is hoped that the awards made will be for projects and initiatives that make a contribution to the community enhancing the lives of those who live and work in the area. The award should aim to:

- Stimulate new ideas and innovative approaches that generate community spirit.
- Support the development and maintenance of community assets.
- Support the acquisition and use of new community assets.
- Support the provision of services that improve the quality of life for members of the community.

ELIGIBILITY

- Groups or organisations in the Ardgay & District CC area.
- Projects or activities should be based in the area.
- Projects or activities should be consistent with the above aims.
- Applicants should normally have a constitution (governing document or set of rules), a bank account, and be set up on a not-for-profit basis. You don't need to be a registered charity to apply. If you are unsure if your group is eligible, please contact the A&DCC for advice.
- Applicants should demonstrate that a percentage of the total project cost will come from other funding sources. Only in the most exceptional circumstances will 100% funding be considered.

AWARDS WILL NOT BE MADE TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING:

- Projects or organisations which do not benefit people living within the areas represented by Ardgay & District Community Council. This does not rule out applications from groups not based in the district but with a membership including local people, nor local groups with a membership including those not residing in the district. It is A&DCC policy to allow up to 5% of overall awards made to be allocated to non-resident groups, where there is evidence of some benefit to local residents.
- Support the advancement of commerce, religion or politics.
- For the purposes of entertainment or hospitality as a reward for normal business activity.
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts.
- Costs already incurred or activities which have taken place before an application has been approved (retrospective funding).
- Payments towards areas generally understood to be the exclusive responsibility of statutory authorities.
- Applications that are for the sole benefit to flora and fauna. Applicants are invited to demonstrate the direct benefit to the local community and/or service users in cases where the application is concerned with flora and fauna.
- Activities which could be construed to be contrary to the interests of wind farm or renewable energy activities, including activities contrary to the interests of the fund provider.

HOW THE DECISIONS ARE MADE:

Decisions on awards are made at a private session following a Ardgay & District Community Council meeting. A&DCC meets at least 6 times a year.

We will consider applications received one week before the day of the meeting, applications received after this deadline will automatically be considered at the next scheduled meeting.

You will be contacted within two weeks of the meeting date to let you know if your application has been successful.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Applicants should provide as much information as possible relevant to their project with the application form.
- You may only apply for one award from the Fund at a time. If your application is successful, you may apply for another award but it should not be for the same project/activity/cost for which you have already received an award within any one calendar year.
- Please give us a breakdown of the projected cost and any proposed or guaranteed sources of funding particularly the source of any additional funding which has been applied for or awarded to the project under consideration.
- We will require quotations if your grant request is for equipment or for refurbishment work. Please provide two competitive quotes. If this is not possible or appropriate, please tell us why.
- If your application is unsuccessful, you may re-apply at any time. We would suggest that you take advice on the reasons for refusal from A&DCC before applying again.

AFTER THE AWARD IS MADE

- Successful applicants will be asked to provide an audit trail (usually invoices) to demonstrate that their award has been used according to the conditions of the award.
- Any grant received should be spent within one year of being awarded.
- Applicants should ensure that the award is acknowledged in any publicity that they use in connection with their project using the Coire na Cloiche / Ardgay & District CC logos provided at the CC website.
- A photo or short article which can be included in the CC's website, social media or local press would be desirable.

APPLICATION FORM COMPLETION

Please complete the attached application form and email to:

secretary@ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Or post to:

Secretary A&D CC

Marion Turner

Oldtown

Ardgay

Sutherland

IV24 3DH

Guidelines updated on 16/02/2021