

RWE

The energy to lead



RWE Innogy Limited Kiln Pit Hill Wind Farm Community Fund

Impact Report Year 3



**Community
Foundation**
Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
Enriching lives through effective giving

Fund Overview

Fund Name

RWE Innogy Limited Kiln Pit Hill Wind Farm Community Fund

Aims

To support community projects within the boundary of the Parish of Shotley Low Quarter

Fund Policy & Procedures

Applications are considered by an advisory panel once a year in November.

Karen DGLISH

Principal Advisor, Community Programmes

Summary of Fund Activity 2014-2015

Grants

7 grants awarded totalling £15,867.00

Fund Balance

Closing balance £0.00



Fund Report Year 3

This report presents feedback from the third year of grant making from the RWE Innogy Kiln Pit Hill Windfarm Community Fund (the Fund), and aims to give a flavour of the impact that the Fund has had in Low Shotley Quarter Parish over the last three years.

In Year 3 there were seven grants awarded totalling £15,867. Grants from the Fund are recommended by a Community Panel of local people, including representatives from Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council. The Community Panel met twice during the year; once to consider grant applications to the Fund, and part way through the year to review grants made and discuss future priorities. The Panel brings a wealth of local knowledge to the process, and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their support and input over the year.

All grant applications were assessed against Fund criteria, with consideration given as to how they will have a long term impact on the Parish. Whilst the Fund is relatively broad in terms what it can fund, projects supported have all demonstrated that they primarily benefit residents of Shotley Low Quarter.

The Community Foundation reports the impact of its grants under three themes: helping people to overcome disadvantage, creating stronger communities and making an area a good place to live. The grants made through the Kiln Pit Hill Fund generally fall under the latter two themes, with the added impact of supporting people who live in a rural area and may face additional challenges in terms accessing services and feeling isolated (especially if elderly). For example, the contribution that the Fund has made over the last three years towards improvements at St John's Hall has helped create a warmer, more welcoming community asset that is well used by voluntary run organisations. It is crucial that this facility continues to be able to offer a good standard of provision benefitting both the young and elderly, so that people can meet each other, have fun, and feel less isolated.

Perhaps one of the biggest 'success stories' of the Fund to date is the setting up of Whittsonstall Community Band. Following its successful first year, when the Fund made a grant via the Parish Council towards its set up costs, a grant was made directly to the band to continue its growth and development. This reflects the fact that the band has developed its capacity and has a strong core of committed volunteers. The report below demonstrates how the band is going from strength to strength, and becoming a much valued and 'in demand' organisation. This helps create a stronger community by providing opportunities for people to get together and share a common interest.

Many of the grants made in Year 3, and indeed during the lifetime of the Fund, have helped make the Parish a good place to live. For example, the grant made to the Parish Council for safety signage and litter picking



equipment has helped make the annual Parish litter pick a safer event for the 40 volunteers. It also means that residents can borrow the equipment throughout the year to tidy up their immediate locality. This shows the commitment that local people have to maintaining the appearance of the Parish. It also demonstrates how a small investment in equipment can make a significant difference, bringing people together and helping them feel proud of where they live.

The fourth year of the Fund will involve a period of review as the initial three year period of restricting funds to the Parish of Shotley Low Quarter ends. There has been sufficient demand on the Fund from the Parish during the first three years, with several projects in the pipeline to be considered at the November 2015 meeting. The Community Foundation looks forward to working with the Community Panel and RWE Innogy on the future development of the Fund and how it will have the biggest impact in the area.

For further information about the Fund please contact me at the Community Foundation on (0191) 222 0945 or at krd@communityfoundation.org.uk

Karen DGLISH
Principal Advisor – Community Programmes.



Grants awarded

Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council World War I commemorative medal for parish children	503.00
Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council Design and creation of a parish council community website	1,185.00
Shotley Saint John's Hall Trustees Internal hall redecoration and replace the heating system	6,506.00
Shotley Saint John's Hall Trustees Sit on mower	3,000.00
Whittonstall Community Band Community Music Band for all ages	1,895.00
Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council Provision of specialist traffic signage, clothing and equipment to ensure volunteer safety during litter-pick activities	2,142.00
Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council Maintenance and safety schedule for existing parish seating and other community fixed assets	860.00
Less grant refunded Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council	(224.00)
	£15,867.00



Feedback and thank you letters

Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council

Safety Signage – Newlands Grange

Grant amount: £1300

Grant date: February 2013

Number of beneficiaries: all residents within our parish (248 households)

How the grant has made a difference:

The purpose of requesting this grant was to support our residents in the hamlet of Newlands Grange, which is located in an isolated sector of our Parish. Unfortunately this tiny residential area is regularly visited by many high speeding vehicles, every day, as residents and those living outside our parish commute using this route to access the A68 trunk road for Hexham and North Northumberland villages and towns, and access to Consett and Durham to the South through the village of Shotley Bridge.

There are some 5 families who live at this location, 25% of which are very young children. Many domestic pets have been killed here and we agree with these residents it is only a matter of time before a human fatality may be experienced.

The residents have been trying unsuccessfully for some 5 years to persuade Northumberland County Council, this is an "accident waiting to happen" however to date they have been advised their hamlet is "too small" to be considered for any kind of traffic calming notices, which is why SLQPC feel these people and the surrounding area should be supported in this public safety project, which would not only provide some form of protection for those who live at this hamlet, but would most certainly be of use to the wider community who regularly travel through our Parish.

We expect to forward photographic details of the installation for information in the near future, and attach a copy of local support and thanks to the Newlands Grange Resident who kindly volunteered to lead the project – the local community are really pleased with this outcome – at last!



Shotley St John's Hall Trustees

Internal hall redecoration and to replace the heating system

Grant amount: £6,506

Grant date: November 2014

Number of beneficiaries: 1000s

Area of benefit: Parish & wider area

How the grant has made a difference:

The difference made for all hall users is immeasurable! The whole building has been 'uplifted' and everyone enjoys the benefit of controlled temperatures in a very pleasant environment. As you will note, the hall committee has topped up the grant received to complete the job and the outside of the building will also be painted this year.

The best £6,506 we have spent!





Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council

Sit on mower

Grant amount: £3,000

Grant date: November 2014

Number of beneficiaries: 100's **Area of benefit:** Parish & wider area

How the grant has made a difference:

The previous mower was rather old and inefficient and it also belonged to the football team manager! It was taking three hours to cut the pitch, which had to be done on at least a weekly basis. Having spent £40k on upgrading the pitch a few years ago with a grant from the local authority, Sports Foundation and with input from community funds, it is vitally important to use the facilities.

The pitch has always been available, even with the terrible weather over the last couple of years. The playing field also accommodates community events such as a Parish Sports Day, Caravan Rallies and casual play, so it is part of the overall 'offer' of Snods Edge.



Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council

World War 1 commemorative medals for children

Grant amount: £503

Grant date: November 2014

Number of beneficiaries: 150

Area of benefit: Shotley Low Quarter

How the grant has made a difference:

The Parish Council Members decided in 2014 to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War by presenting the youngest members of the community with a remembrance medal to all children who currently attend the parish village First School at Whittonstall.

It was suggested this gesture would be of great value to our young residents and help them understand this extremely important event and allow them their own reminder of this period in history and of the brave men and women who gave their lives in the Great War who will remain heroes forever.

During the past 12 months the local school children have taken part in various educational references to the First World War and visits to our local war Memorials. In some cases children were able to identify family links to those fallen servicemen named on the memorial.

It was important to find a respectful method of presenting the medals to School pupils, and so it was agreed with the Governorship of the Whittonstall First School, this could best be carried out by distribution at an “Achiever’s Assembly” which took place on 22nd May 2015. Our Chairman Councillor Elliot Taylor attended this event, and explained the reason for presentation of the medals by the parish council. Each medal was accompanied by a note to this effect. Those children who live in the parish but do not attend the Whittonstall First School have also been identified, and included in the distribution programme carried out by Council Members.

The Parish Council were happy to cover the additional costs involved and to have had the opportunity of progressing what is generally considered to have been a most significant community project for our youngest residents.

Prior to making a decision on whether to progress this idea, the parish council Members did in fact consult local residents, and we are pleased to report on completion of this project the community’s views are extremely encouraging, and we are certain this project will ensure a lasting legacy in the hearts and minds of our next generation of this period of our nation’s history and culture.



From 2014 to 2018, nations, communities and individuals of all ages will mark, commemorate and remember the lives of those who lived, fought and died in the First World War.

We are all connected to the First World War, either through our own family history, the heritage of our local communities or because of its long term impact on the world we live in today.

To mark the 100th anniversary of this important event the Parish Council would like present every child who lives and goes to school in our community with a commemorative medal to help us remember the sacrifice of so many lives.

By doing this simple thing we are proudly saying as a community...

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



Let's We Forget



Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council

Provision of specialist traffic signage, clothing and equipment to ensure volunteer safety during litter-pick activities

Grant amount: £2,142

Grant date: November 2014

Number of beneficiaries: The Parish

Area of benefit: The Parish

How the grant has made a difference:

Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council regularly organises annual community litter picks to help tidy-up our rural road network to enhance the beautiful place where we live. This activity is conducted in accordance with normal risk assessment conditions and involves young and old residents of the parish. On average we have the assistance of some 40 volunteers each time it is carried out and these numbers are increasing annually.

In the past and to date, home-made traffic signage and borrowed reflective safety wear and pickers have been utilized for this community initiative, however the increasing numbers participating in these events led the Council to require a better provision of equipment so resident volunteers who are willing to be involved in this important community service on behalf of others should have the correct equipment for the job so as to carry out this activity successfully and safely.

Since acquiring the new equipment in April 2015, we have not only organised our usual Spring Litter Pick, but currently many sets of equipment are on loan to a number of residents and groups who were unable to attend the 11th April event, but are keen to borrow the parish equipment and carry out litter picks in their own sector of the parish when more convenient to themselves. So word is spreading and caring for the environment is well on its way through the participation of young school children in the parish becoming “protectors of the parish” from an early age when they turn out to do their bit with other members of the community.



Whittonstall Community Band

Band Master fee and general running costs

Grant amount: £1,895

Grant date: November 2014

Number of beneficiaries: 37

Area of benefit: The Parish

How the grant has made a difference:

It has been an emotional year for the band with many high points but it has been over shadowed by the tragic loss of our band leader and guiding light John Myers. John was our inspiration and the reason why the vast majority of our members joined the band and it has been a huge blow to us all. However, we are all determined that we continue to promote the good work he started.

We had a busy run up to Christmas including concerts at Wheelbirks Ice Cream Parlour in Stocksfield, Tyne Valley Garden Centre Christmas markets in Mickley and our own Christmas concert in the church at Whittonstall. The undoubted highlight however, would be our involvement in the BBC Hadrian's Wall of Sound Project in June 2015, when we performed by the Roman wall at Heddon, playing live to audiences on radio, TV and the internet! We finished the year with a concert at Whittonstall First School's summer fair and another at an open day for Northumbria Gliding Club at Hedley on the Hill.

We are hoping for a good turnout at our 'have a go' evening in October, which we have been able to put on thanks to money from the Foundation and are also looking forward to our first residential at Minstreacres in early summer 2016.

We are growing in maturity as a band and in number, with 37 at our first rehearsal after the summer break. Our repertoire is also developing under our new MD James Tate, who has been with us since April 2015 and we are looking forward to giving some new scores a run out over the next few months. We are delighted to see some younger musicians joining us from local schools and it is fabulous to have several family groups playing together in the band including sons, daughters, parents and grandparents.

The money from the RWE Innogy fund which has helped with our bandmaster master fees has meant that we have been able to concentrate on playing music together rather than developing and managing fundraising ideas. We are sure this is why our band has continued to grow and grow to the thriving band we have today. Our music stand banners also make us look positively professional and instil pride in our performances! It is an exciting time for the band and we are eagerly anticipating another successful year.

Thank you.





