

## **Langford and Biggleswade Windfarm Community Fund**

### ***What is the Langford and Biggleswade Windfarm Community Fund?***

The Langford / Biggleswade Wind Farm comprises 10, 110m high wind turbines and a substation building. The turbines have been erected on land to the north of Edworth Road, Langford and south of Biggleswade between the A1 and the East Coast Mainline Railway line. The wind farm will have a life span of around 25 years after which the site will be returned to its original condition.

We receive an annual contribution of £24,000, to be distributed as small grants to groups for delivering projects in the parishes of Langford and Biggleswade for the benefit of the residents in those parishes. This is due to the Section 106 Agreement accompanying the planning permission which says that the owner must pay an Annual Community Fund Contribution of £24,000.

### ***Who decides how the funds will be allocated?***

The Langford and Biggleswade Community Fund Group (LBWCFG) is set up to manage this funding, and is made up of representatives of the following organisations:

- Central Bedfordshire Council
- Langford Parish Council
- Biggleswade Town Council
- the owner / developer
- one co-opted member

In accordance with the Section 106 Agreement, the LBWCFG has agreed criteria to decide what local community projects will receive financial assistance, and to what extent that assistance is given.

The Community Fund Group will meet quarterly each year in approximately April, July, October, and January. Ideally, applications need to be submitted by the last day of the preceding month to be considered at the next scheduled meeting. Following submission of an application, applicants will be notified of the date of the next meeting.

### ***Who can apply?***

Applications for financial assistance can be made by any group or organisation providing that the project they wish to spend the money on is located within the Parish Boundaries of Langford and Biggleswade and / or will support primarily the residents of the parishes of Langford and Biggleswade. In order for an application to be considered by the Fund Group, the project will need the support of one of the Parish Councils represented on the group.

Applicants will have the option of attending the meeting to give a short presentation to the Community Fund Group on their project. They will then be asked to leave prior to the decision. The Fund Group's decision will be communicated to the applicant by email usually within seven days of the meeting. For successful applications, a follow up letter will set out the Group's terms for releasing the contribution. For unsuccessful applications, the email will set out the reasons for refusal. The Community Fund Group's decision is final. There is no right of appeal against the Group's decision. However, subject to funding availability, unsuccessful applicants may be invited to reapply providing they can demonstrate they have responded to the reasons for initial refusal and supply additional information.

### ***Applications will be assessed by members of Community Fund Group using the following criteria:***

- The need for the project

- Activity – the project must contribute to one or more of the following criteria:
  1. The use of Renewable Energy
  2. Energy conservation
  3. Environmental education
  4. Initiatives to promote greening of communities with in the 'parishes'
  5. The application of energy efficiency measures
  6. Community engagement and development
  7. Initiatives to encourage sustainable communities
- How will the local residents of Langford and Biggleswade benefit?
- Has the nominee been funded before?
- Deliverability - what level of certainty is there that the project will go ahead if the Community Fund group commit to provide financial assistance?
- What assurances are there that the project will be managed and/or maintained?
- Geographical location (may be taken into account)

Successful applicants are also expected to publicly recognise the source of the contribution received and provide an end of project report to the Fund Group on how the project has performed.

#### **Approved projects (as at February 2018)**

- Langford Scout Hut
- Langford Village Academy
- St Andrews Church Hall
- Beds Rural Communities Charity
- Groundwork
- Langford Football Club
- Age UK
- Langford Village Hall
- Langford Parish Council
- Edward Peake C of E Middle School
- Wanderbus (in principle)

### Fund Objectives

- Energy conservation.
- Environmental education.
- Initiatives to promote greening of communities within the 'parishes'.
- The application of energy efficiency measures.
- Community engagement and development.
- Initiatives to encourage sustainable communities

**Annual Grant** to the Windfarm Community Fund group = £24,000 payable in March each year for the lifetime of the Windfarm anticipated to be 25 years from 2012.

Date	Organisation	Proposal
Jan 2014	Langford Lower School <b>£3,600.00</b>	<p>The project was to educate and develop pupils' understanding of energy use and continue to aim towards Silver Eco-School Award. The school is committed to the improvement of its environmental sustainability through the development of renewable energy usage and more energy-efficient technologies Overall the school is making energy improvements to the building as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Design and location of new zero carbon building (building completed with LED lighting throughout).</li><li>• Potential of installing solar panels on roof</li><li>• Replacement of current 3 boilers with new energy efficient ones to reduce the energy costs.</li><li>• Eco committee to monitor current energy usage.</li></ul> <p>The grant fund contributed to the cost of energy efficient LED lighting in a small new build facility and raised energy efficiency /awareness / understanding amongst pupils.</p>
Jan 2014	1 <sup>st</sup> Langford Scout Group <b>£42,704.40 (4 phase project)</b> 2014: £13,717.50 2015: £10,370.60 2016: £8,984.10 2017: £9632.18	<p>The group HQ required major investment in the Scout Hut which contains asbestos in the ceiling and walls. The objective was to secure a commitment for sufficient funding to combine with group's own financial contribution to allow the group to continue to be effective in providing a valuable contribution to the community.</p> <p>The project is divided into 4 separate sub-projects which will make the building safe and usable for a number of years.</p> <p>The application was split into four sub-projects phased over a 4 year period due to the scale of work required.</p> <p>Over the 4 years, the following works have been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safe removal of Asbestos ceiling panels.</li><li>• Replacement of ceiling lighting units and wiring with modern energy efficient units.</li><li>• Replacement of wall panels containing Asbestos and replacement of rotten window frames. New panels will include energy efficient insulation and energy efficient new toughened glass windows.</li></ul> <p>This funding, combined with their own contribution of 25%, to consist of cash and voluntary labour, levered a £20,000.00 loan from the Scouts Association, allowed the 1<sup>st</sup> Langford Scout Group to continue to run and to provide a valuable benefit</p>

Sept 2014	Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity <b>£6,275.00</b>	<p>To create and equip a Friends of the Biggleswade Green Wheel project.</p> <p>The Biggleswade Green Wheel (BGW) is a partnership project led by BRCC with support from Central Bedfordshire Council and Biggleswade Town Council. It is providing a safe, multi-user route around the town, incorporating publicly accessible green spaces and promoting healthy living and the enjoyment of the areas landscape, wildlife and heritage. Over 50% of the BGW has been completed and funding has been secured to complete much of the route over the next 12 months.</p> <p>This funding will ensure local residents as volunteers are engaged in developing and managing the project.</p>
Feb 2015	St Andrew's Church Hall <b>£3,263.00</b>	Modernisation of building to include efficiency measures such as rerouting leaking pipework, thermal insulation, loft insulation, fire safety doors.
June 2015	Groundwork Luton & Bedfordshire <b>£3,500.00</b>	<p>The Green Aiders project enabled them to recruit and train groups of people with learning disabilities in the Central Bedfordshire area, training them in basic gardening and landscaping skills and health and safety techniques. They then supervised these small groups of volunteers providing a free gardening service to elderly and vulnerable people in the community who are physically struggling to look after their own gardens.</p> <p>The volunteers, supervised by Groundwork staff, focused on substantial gardening tasks to get gardens back under control; removing trip hazards, and tackling the unkempt appearance of gardens that can attract burglars and rogue callers. The service provides social interaction between volunteers and residents, and outdoor exercise for the volunteers.</p> <p>Groundwork secured funding to run this project in Biggleswade, providing therapeutic benefits to adults with learning disabilities who will be engaged as our gardening volunteers. Groundwork works in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council's Learning Disability Service which refers volunteers and provides guidance about required participant support levels, and the provision of a support worker where required.</p>
May 2016	Langford Football Club <b>£9,000.00</b>	The windfarm grant contributed towards the modernisation of the shower facility which was old, unhygienic and inefficient.
June 2016	Age UK <b>£2,000.00</b>	<p>The Warm Homes, Healthy Homes project (alleviating fuel poverty for vulnerable older people); is a development of FREE Information and Advice Services and includes supply and installation of energy efficiency small measures (i.e radiator panel reflectors; draught-proofing strips to doors and windows; letter box covers; etc). The project was a new activity, enabled by a one year British Gas Energy Trust grant.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the programme was to address cold-related ill-health amongst older people affected by fuel poverty; indirectly supporting 1000 older people (by raising</p>

		<p>their awareness of energy efficiency; through community events and marketing), and to:</p> <p>Directly support 1000 older people to achieve more affordable warmth (improving thermal efficiency in their homes; and, maximising their household income), by:</p> <p>Holistic 'Warmer Homes are Healthier Homes' assessments, behaviour-change advice (guided conversations with individual clients in the confidence and security of their home); which include:</p> <p>Welfare Benefits' eligibility checks; and, help with applying for entitlements; energy usage assessment and efficiency advice; signposting to relevant support, such as:</p> <p>Boiler replacement services; home improvement grants and discounts; our Warmer Homes' handyperson service: free installation of energy-efficiency minor measures (radiator reflector foils; draught-proofing of doors, windows, letter boxes; etc); and</p> <p>Acting as clients' advocates: supplier-switching; smart meter installations; energy billing enquiries; support during power cuts; giving qualified fuel debt advice.</p>
June 2016	St Andrews Church <b>£5,000.00</b>	<p>Because of change in regulations the church needed to exchange the boiler for a condensing boiler. This should be more energy efficient. Old boiler was 25-30 years old. A condensing boiler is more efficient and uses less fuel. The church thermostat is set at a constant temperature (10C) as advised by the Diocesan heating adviser. This is increased for services..</p> <p>A reliably heated church enables St Andrews to provide a welcoming environment for regular and occasional congregations and is offer the building for wider community use such as local music groups etc. who wish to use it.</p>
June 2016	Langford Village Hall <b>£5,000.00</b>	<p>Langford Village Hall has no form of effective sustainable heating. There is no gas readily available. Oil and Calor gas had been considered but not viable as it would need tanks outside in a very exposed area, which is open to vandalism.</p> <p>Previously the hall was heated by electrical ceiling strip heaters, which were very costly, ineffective as the heat rises to the ceiling, therefore necessitating that the heating was on longer to warm up the very large main hall. The foyer, kitchen and small halls had no source of effective heating. The maximum amount of installation had been installed but to little effect.</p> <p>The use of an air-to-air pump system, powered by electricity obtained from existing solar panels.</p> <p>The heat pump is a machine which moves heat from a cold place to a hotter one. The energy used by the heat pump finishes up as heat, and this heat appears at the "hot" end where it is added to the heat which was shifted from the "cold" end, so when used as a heater, the heat pump puts out a combination of "free" heat which has simply been moved from one place to another, and "paid for" heat generated from the electricity used to power the appliance. So, it achieves the very useful feat of giving out more energy (in the form of heat) than it consumes – typically 3 times as much – and is</p>

		therefore a very economical form of electric heating.
July 2017	Langford Parish Council <b>£16,500.00 (3 phase project)</b> 2017: £8,500.00 2018: £4,000.00 2019: £4,000.00	<p>Langford Parish Council has 45 Lampposts in its inventory; all fitted with the old-style SOX Lanterns. It is responsible for the maintenance, replacement and electricity cost of all of these.</p> <p>They applied for a grant to help replace 33 lanterns to low energy LED bulbs.</p> <p><i>The Environmental impact of the current lanterns is immense compared to LED bulbs:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. LED lights are up to 80% more efficient than traditional lighting (use less energy)</li> <li>2. 95% of the energy in LEDs is converted into light and only 5% is wasted as heat (decreasing emissions)</li> <li>3. LED lights contain no toxic elements (are safer to dispose of as have no mercury in them)</li> <li>4. LEDs have a better quality of light distribution and focus light in one direction</li> <li>5. The new LED lanterns consume 350mA of electricity as opposed to the existing SOX lanterns which use approximately 5 times that amount.</li> <li>6. LED lights have a lifetime 2-4 times longer than traditional lighting</li> </ol> <p>With LED bulbs the running and replacement costs are envisioned to amount to an energy saving of approx. 60-80%.</p>
July 2017	Edward Peake C of E Middle School <b>£3,500.00</b>	<p>School garden. Rejuvenation of the existing garden to incorporate a new pond for outdoor education, new flower beds and quiet spaces for reflection, relocate the existing flower beds/vegetable patch to promote sustainable communities. Work to be completed by members of the extended Edward Peake community (staff, students and parents) .</p> <p>The extended wildlife walkway will provide insect habitats for endangered species, especially butterflies. We have already installed log-piles and a bug hotel, and more will be installed with the funding. The new pond will contain Koi carp, but there will also be an adjacent bog garden for our local newt population. The new shrubbery and hedges, once matured will also provide habitats for birds – we already have some birds nesting in the garden. It will also teach pupils about sustainability, the environment and looking after outdoor spaces; as well as giving the Gardening Club the heightened responsibility outside the club. The new outdoor spaces will also provide quite reflection areas in line with the school's religious ethos.</p> <p>Beneficiaries will include the wider school community and the New Life Church. The new garden will be managed by the school garden club on a weekly basis.</p>
November 2017	Wanderbus £5,000 In principle	<p>Wanderbus has operated Community Bus Services for over 26 years and is run entirely by volunteers as a not-for-profit organisation.</p> <p>We bring realistically timed, fixed route bus services to the elderly and less mobile with routes covering all of Langford to various destinations – shopping and town centres. We have a</p>

		<p>fixed return time – usually giving 2-3 hours at the destination. We then drop passenger back as close to home as possible helping them with heavy shopping or walking aids providing a unique service valued by all our passengers en route. There is also a strong social benefit amongst the regulars who often live alone.</p> <p>The Wanderbus Committee has decided that in 2018 we need to replace their older bus – 8 years old and 100k miles+ to ensure they can continue to offer reliability, very important to the older generation, and to avoid expensive repair bills that will occur with older vehicles.</p> <p>This capital project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Directly benefits the more needy/ less mobile amongst Langford residents,</li> <li>2. Provides a safe transport solution to all age groups and</li> <li>3. Helps the environment by reducing the use of cars by offering a reliable public transport solution.</li> </ol>
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**Total allocated to date = £105,342 (inc In principle amount to Wanderbus)**

**Total received = £105,409.08**

**We have just received the 2018/19 annual contribution of £30,681 which will be available for the Panel to allocate.**