

### Article 3.1 The Community Fund Support Grants

This article focuses on our well established Community Fund. The fund was originally set up in order to distribute income from the wind turbine to residents of the island, in order to benefit members of the community directly. The main purpose of the fund is to support community projects on Hoy, supporting the island's groups with events and works to be carried out in order to promote health and well-being, island heritage, and encourage greater foot fall which supports local businesses and increases Hoy's profile. Successful groups will receive funding for projects which weigh heavily in favour of community benefit over benefit to an individual.

We are hoping to distribute a newsletter and associated article at a later date detailing possible support for groups through the Community Fund for feasibility studies, infrastructure and help with becoming constituted amongst other things. Please keep an eye out for this, as we're always looking for ways in which we can help the community!

Article 3.1 focuses on our Community Fund, there are many other funding opportunities offered by the IoHDT, information on these can be found at: <http://www.hoyorkney.com/newsletter/>

#### **The Community Fund – Support Grants**

##### **What is it and how much are we entitled to?**

The Community Fund has been in operation since early 2014, each constituted group within the Hoy and Walls Community is entitled to apply for unlimited funding\* towards a variety of community projects. The applications will be assessed to ensure that the projects meet the funding criteria and the aims of the trust which are:

1. To provide in the interests of social welfare, facilities within the Community for recreation and other leisure time occupation available to the public at large;
2. To preserve, restore and improve the environment in through the provision, maintenance and/or improvement of public open space and other public amenities and other environment and regeneration projects;
3. To preserve, for the benefit of the general public, the historical, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in and around the Community in buildings of particular beauty or historical, architectural or constructional interest;

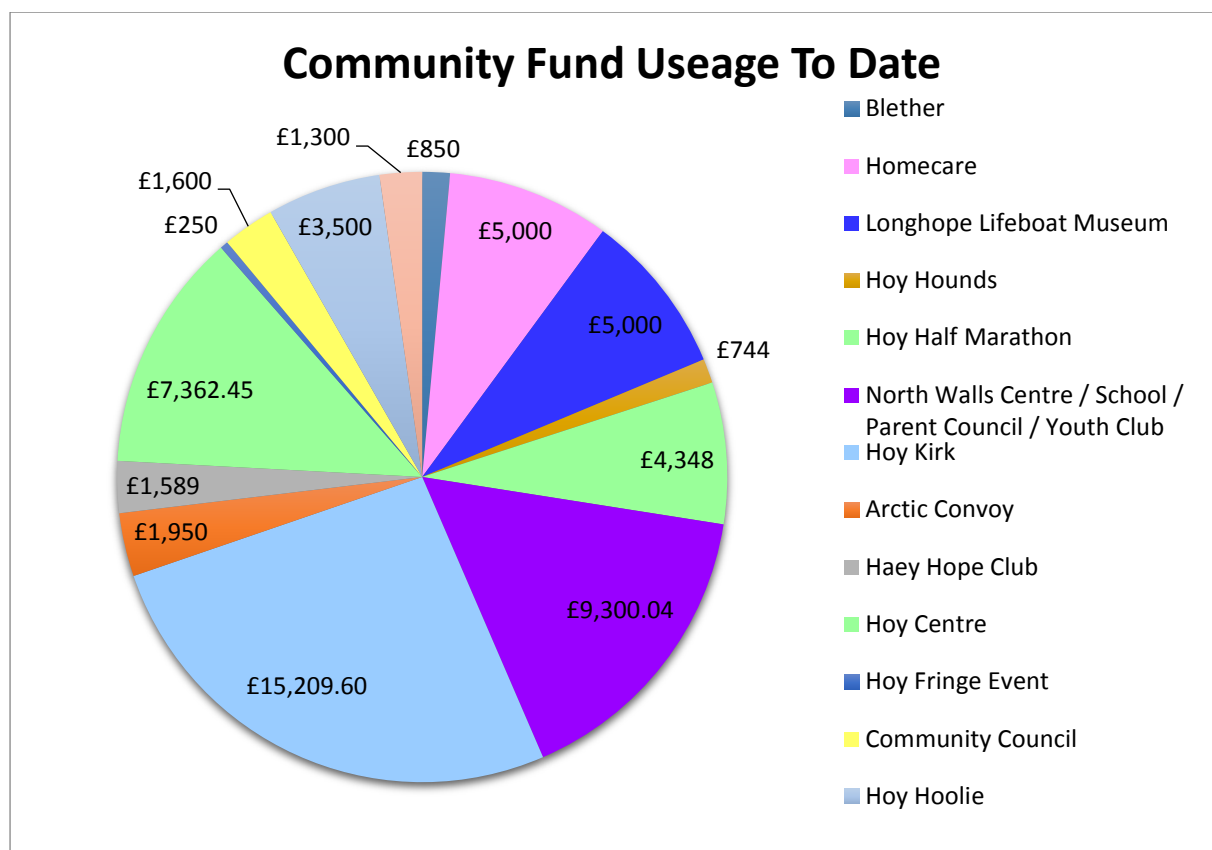
Applications to The Community Fund are reviewed by the Project Evaluation Panel (PEP). This group of people is comprised of eligible members of the trust (not including directors), and other community bodies such as the community council and members of the community. The PEP panel get together once per quarter to discuss and review applications submitted by the deadline for the previous quarter. Posters are distributed around the island informing groups of the Community Fund deadlines.

\*Please note, allocation of these funds is dependent on the number of applications that the trust receives and the value of awards that we have granted during the year, so don't delay in submitting your application!

### So what could your group use it for?

So far, we have approved **31** applications for funding in the Community Fund category, with a combined total of **£58,003.09** paid out, with a number of groups reapplying for additional funding for other community projects within the same year, or in subsequent years.

The pie chart below details the expenditure to date and where the funds have been allocated.



There are literally 100s of possibilities, so, to help your group decide, here are some areas in which your fellow island groups have utilised their funds...

Creation of storage facilities for island clubs



Funding of paid employment positions within island groups beyond the IOHDT

Community dancing events



Conservation of historical memorials on Hoy

Up to date equipment for local events



Social events for vulnerable island groups

The list of community projects is not exhaustive and if you are unsure as to whether or not your groups' project could potentially be funded, we urge you to get in contact with us and we can assist you with this. Whilst the grants are only available to constituted groups, if you are an individual, or your group is not yet constituted, please do not be put off. We encourage the community to discuss ideas with us, there may be a way in which your idea could be a reality and we will work with you if there is a possibility that we can make it happen.

**OK, we've got an idea for a community project, how do we apply?**

It's easy! Applications can be done in a number of ways. You can download a form by clicking on the following link: <http://www.hoyorkney.com/2016/06/community-fund-application-form/>, we can email, or post you a hard copy, or why not pop in to the office and we will be happy to dedicate our time to discussing the application in detail with you? Just let us know when you would like to get together.

Project funding may depend on groups applying for match funding as well as funding from the Development Trust. In some instances, projects may attract external support and groups should investigate this in order to qualify for funding through the trust, the office may be able to assist you with this, please feel free to contact us.

Applications for funding must be received prior to projects being undertaken and we may have to refuse funding if the application is retrospective.

### **How often can we apply?**

Each group can apply to the fund as often as they want to. This means that if you receive funding for a particular project, you are welcome to continue applying for further funding for projects in the future providing that they meet the aims of the trust as detailed at the beginning of the article. Group applications are entirely independent from one another. This means that individuals involved in a variety of groups can still take part in applying for project funding simultaneously with no effect on applications elsewhere.

**So far, the island has been delighted with the funding. Here's what some of the groups had to say about the benefits of using the fund and the application process...**

*'The event went very well with huge engagement from the community. In addition, it was gratifying that a large percentage of the spend was within the community.'*

*'The project has helped the club deliver more to its members than expected. It will help the club to go forward with confidence. The grant process we found clear and help was available if necessary.'*

*'We have achieved keeping this annual big event alive by meeting high costs. Over 80 people came to Hoy and experienced the superb hospitality and saw some of the island. The application was easy to submit.'*

*'The timing system worked extremely well for the Hoy Half Marathon. From now on we will be able to dispense with manual timekeeping, freeing up volunteers to work on other tasks. It has allowed us to offer 30 more places (in future), the more entrants we have, the more people visit the island. The grant process was simple and it was easy to complete the forms.'*

*'The grant process was clear and understandable.'*

**So why not put in an application form? Download, fill in, and send it back to us and your group could be benefiting in no time!**

