

ST BRIAVELS WIND TURBINE COMMUNITY FUND DONATIONS EXCEED £25k WITH LATEST ALLOCATIONS

May 2015

The six month period to end of March 2015 was characterised by seasonally high winds at St Briavels and the Community Wind Turbine made good use of the readily available resource. As the local community shares directly in the turnover achieved, this means the six monthly donation to help build community resilience within St Briavels and environs was higher than in the previous round.

The total amount available for allocation at the May meeting of the St Briavels Wind Turbine Community Fund Advisory panel was £10,300. Applications to end April 2015 were considered by the Advisory Panel, and the following award allocations were made.

£2,500 (in match funding): to the Friends of St Briavels Church towards required maintenance of the Grade I listed landmark, and installation of pew heaters to make the building more readily usable throughout the year by the community at large. The group intend to run a raffle and a major fund raising event on 27th June 2015. A match funding approach was requested in the application to encourage the whole community to get behind the project. The panel were impressed by the suggested approach which shows great commitment and strong community spirit.

£1,500: to the Charles Lord Denton Almshouses, a local charity which provides secure and affordable accommodation to older people who have a reasonable need. The funding will help with repair costs recently incurred and planned including drainage work, pathway ramp repairs, gable painting and chimney replacement.

£500: to St Briavels Parish Council towards the creation of a village handyman service. The panel agreed with the council that the village could benefit from a general tidy and completion of some simple village maintenance tasks. The panel look forward to seeing the benefits for the village over the next six months and would be happy to consider further applications at future funding rounds.

£552: to Heartbeat St Briavels to cover 12 months maintenance of the publicly accessible village defibrillators which are located at the Assembly Rooms, the Pavillion, Lindors, and the fourth soon to be installed outside the school gates. The panel were pleased to hear that 100 people have now been trained in the use of the potentially lifesaving equipment and would be happy to consider further applications on an annual basis.

£250: to the St Briavels Playgroup towards purchase of replacement waterproof clothing to enable the youngest members of the community to participate in scheduled outdoor Forest activities to nurture an appreciation of the natural environment, even in inclement weather.

£350: to the St Briavels Lunch Club which provides older citizens with a regular meal and chatter. The club has been run by the same team of dedicated volunteers for the last 8 years and the panel felt that their community commitment deserved recognition. The funds will enable the group (including volunteers) to be treated to a meal at a local pub.

The panel increased the strategic reserve fund to £4,648 as it is keen to support a larger, more strategic proposal that ideally focuses on creating community resilience for the longer term. Any shortfall from the Friends of St Briavels Church allocation will also be added to the strategic reserve (although we wish them well with their fundraising and anticipate donating the full amount specified).

PREVIOUS FUNDING AWARDS FROM THE WIND TURBINE COMMUNITY FUND

£800: Heartbeat St Briavels towards a defibrillator and battery for the village.

£800: St Briavels School for two laptop computers for pupils' benefit.

£500: St Briavels Music Society to help with event costs and keep ticket prices affordable.

£400: St Briavels Playgroup for storage space.

£1,500: St Briavels Memorial and Playing fields towards a zip slide for 8- to 14-year-olds.

£1500: St. Briavels School PTA, towards an all-weather canopy over the KS1 play area

£2,500: St. Briavels Assembly Rooms towards a new roof.

£850.81: St Briavels School Breakfast & Gardening Clubs – including equipment for preparing and growing food, a visit to a farm-based composting facility and infrastructure to enable children to keep chickens.

£1027.50: St Briavels Senior Citizen's Club for a group trip to the National Memorial Arboretum to mark the Centenary of the First World War.

£2,000: Governing body of St Briavels Parochial Primary School to help with building works.

£184.38: Forest Schools St Briavels to connect young children with local woodland, for outdoor equipment and traditional tools such as bill-hooks.

£200: Parkinsons UK / South Forest Parkinson's group, towards running costs.

£1,621: St Briavels Parochial Church Council towards restoration of the historic church organ.

£1,100: St Briavels Congregational Church towards pointing to address damp problems.

TOTAL ALLOCATIONS LINKED TO OPERATION FROM JANUARY 2013 to MARCH 2015 = £25,283.

The funding to date exceeds the financial predictions for the early years of operation and the project is on track to deliver the predicted average donation over its 25 year operation of £15,000-£20,000 per annum.

To apply to the community fund go to <http://www.theresiliencecentre.co.uk/apply.html>. Or apply in writing c/o Anthony Cooke, Great Dunkilns Farm, St. Briavels, Lydney, GL15 6QY.

The next deadline for receipt of applications is 30th October 2015 and six monthly thereafter. The Advisory Panel will meet to decide on allocations of available funding in November 2015.