

# Berry Burn Extension – Application Update

MARCH 2021

PAGE 1

## A project thank you

It has been an exciting journey, working on the Berry Burn Extension project. Since we set out in early 2019, we have seen many developments, ranging from wild fires to a pandemic.

During this time we have helped to add to the emergency infrastructure with the funding of a defibrillator and five years of related training, and we've committed to playing our part in the development of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Along the way we have received valuable feedback and engagement. Our planning proposal for an extension has been made better as a result.

We are pleased that there are very few objections to our plans, including no objection from the Cairngorms National

Park, NatureScot (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage), nor Heldon Community Council, where the majority of the turbines will be located.

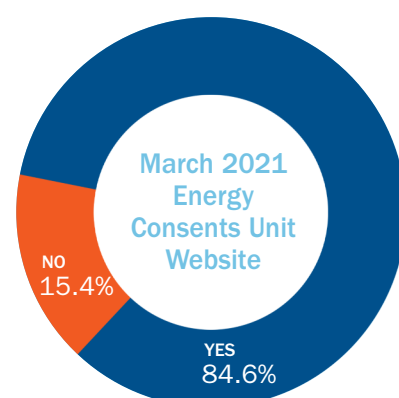
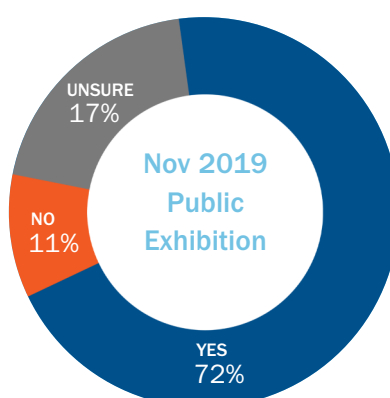
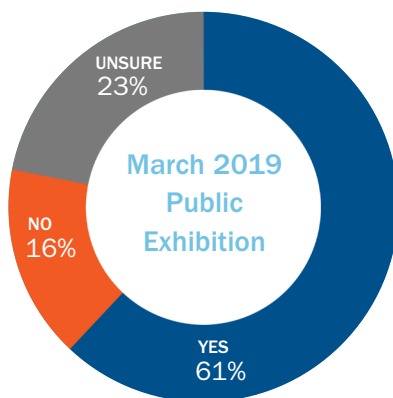
I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who attended our public exhibitions, the community councillors and elected representatives, the consultees and all stakeholders for their engagement with myself and the Statkraft team. As a company we are committed to investment that will continue to bring benefits for communities and the fight against climate change.

Warm regards,

Mícheál Ó Broin,  
Senior Project Manager, Statkraft



The Berry Burn Extension has attracted local support at our public exhibitions in March and November 2019, and now also on the Energy Consents Unit website.



*"The Heldon Community Council will not be objecting to the submission by Berry Burn 2 for the following reasons. This is a major contribution to the "Green Energy " plans. There is an investment opportunity for the whole region to be involved. And there has been an real effort in consultation with local representatives to minimise the impact on the local environment."*

Jim Mountford, Chair of Heldon Community Council, Moray

## ABOUT BERRY BURN WIND FARM EXTENSION

→ Energy Consents Unit Reference: ECU00000718

→ 9 turbines

→ 149.9 metres to blade tip

→ 37.8MW installed capacity

→ Generating 139.1 Gigawatt hours (GWh) per year

→ Equivalent to the average annual electricity demand of over 35,500 typical homes\*

\*based on 2018 Scotland average consumption of 3,910 kWh pa

For further updates and information, go to: [www.berryburn-extension.co.uk](http://www.berryburn-extension.co.uk)

# Local Supplier Register Continues to Grow

Our ‘Good Neighbour’ ethos is important to us. We are resolved to find ways in which we can meaningfully engage with the communities where we have operations. One such way has been to work with the Moray Chamber of Commerce to promote our Local Supplier Register.

We are pleased to report that a good number of Moray companies, ranging from one-person businesses to larger employers, have registered. It means we can source local skills and products for our wind farm and other renewable energy projects in the area.

**Gordon Sproat, a site manager at one of our Moray projects, said: “The Local Supplier Register is extremely useful. It is my first port of call for any services we require. Approximately 75% of our supplier business to date has come from companies on that register.”**

IS YOUR BUSINESS REGISTERED? LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR SERVICES.

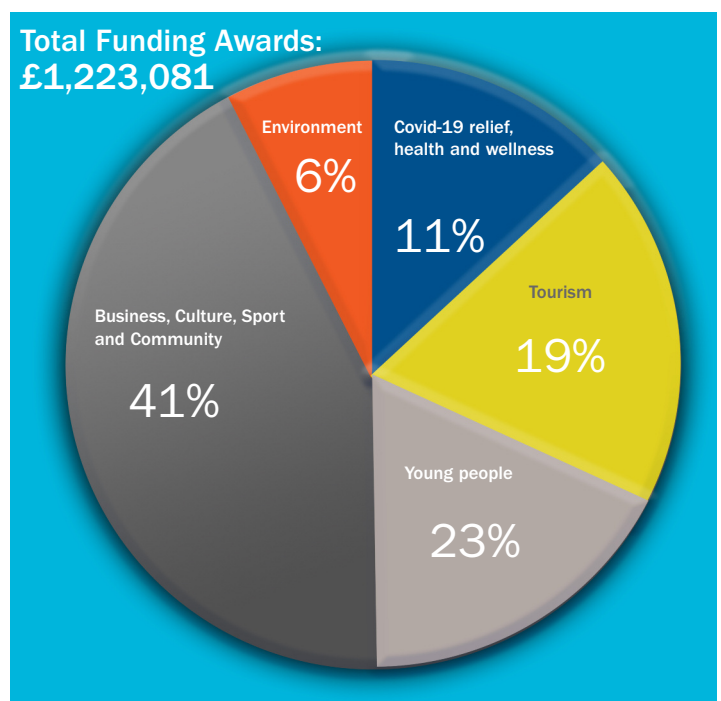
# Covid-19, Business and Tourism Projects Funded

Renewable energy is important for its contributions to economic growth, community developments, and meeting targets for lowering carbon emissions.

The existing Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund has supported a variety of Moray projects. Over £1.2m has been awarded so far, with business, culture, sport and community attracting 41% of those funds; young people 23%; tourism 19%; Covid-19 relief, health and wellness 11%; and environment 6%.

Amazing work is being delivered by people and organisations in the local community. We highlight two of those in this update, including a look at the Moray Firth Credit Union which is helping its members in dealing with the effects of the pandemic. Also featured is the Dulaig Park Renovation project which will benefit locals and tourists alike.

For more information about the fund’s awards and how to apply, please visit their website: [www.berryburncommunityfund.co.uk](http://www.berryburncommunityfund.co.uk)



# Biodiversity Recognised at Major Awards Events



We are delighted to have been recognised by two major Scottish renewable energy awards, being finalists in the categories of “Best Onshore Renewable Energy Project”, and “Outstanding Project”.

Avian Ecology was commissioned by Statkraft to provide a robust ecological plan to deal with the impact of the wildfires in Moray in 2019. Howard Fearn, Director at Avian Ecology Limited said: “We recognised this as an opportunity to increase the environmental benefits the project could deliver. It required innovative thinking and a close-working relationship with NatureScot. The wind farm extension, if consented, would enable a significant biodiversity gain through improving peat habitats, accelerating recovery from fire damage and reducing damage from future wildfires.”

Whilst we ultimately didn’t take the top prizes, our response will enhance the biodiversity of the site. We’re proud of what has been achieved, both in terms of the project design and how we have shared our plans with the wider community.

## Funding Award Helps Credit Union With Covid-19 Response



*Maggie Bell and Jackie Nicol of Moray Firth Credit Union, showing the love. Inset: Cllr Lorna Cresswell, Chair of the MFCU.*

**A credit union based in Forres has welcomed a funding award from a wind farm community benefit fund. The money will enable it to improve its Covid-19 response and help families who are facing significant financial challenges.**

Moray Firth Credit Union (MFCU), which has 1000 members and serves an area with almost 100,000 people, has been awarded £17,160 towards salaries for two part time staff to focus on the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The funding comes from the Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund, which was set up by Statkraft, Europe's largest generator of renewable energy. MFCU, formerly Forres Area Credit Union, has been providing a safe saving and loans service since the 90's though during the pandemic members needed help to access emergency grants, vouchers for food and fuel and information that they were entitled to regarding welfare benefits and business support.

Members of the MFCU, once they have saved, can borrow using their savings as 'collateral' and as the loans are paid back at an 'affordable' rate, members are encouraged to continue to add to their savings.

Councillor Lorna Cresswell, chair of the MFCU, said: "We are mainly made up of volunteers and there are 10 of us at present, including Maggie Bell who deals with volunteer support and Jackie Nicol who is responsible for finance

and promotion. Since the pandemic began we have lost 50% of our team as they shielded and have subsequently resigned. However, we now have the Berry Burn funding to pay two staff a small number of hours until September 2021. This will enable us to recruit and train new volunteers, examine lending processes and support members that have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"When we first set up the Credit Union in the nineties, the unemployment rate was the second highest in Scotland, and we envisage that the impact of COVID-19 will be even worse. That's why we want to make it clear that we have funds that can't be used for operational expenses but can be used for loans, so people should come and speak with us to see if we can help. We are delighted that the Berry Burn Trust agreed to fund wages until September, we can't thank them enough. We also want to thank Statkraft as these community benefit funds are vital."

Mícheál Ó Broin, senior project manager with Statkraft, said: "At this time of pandemic when the negative economic impact on communities is growing, we can only commend the work of the MFCU and their efforts to help people in the area in dealing with financial challenges. Statkraft remains committed to the Scottish Government's guidance on providing meaningful community benefit funds and hope to be investing further in Moray and Scotland throughout 2021."

[www.forresareacreditunion.co.uk](http://www.forresareacreditunion.co.uk)

# Young and Old to Benefit from Award for Park Renovation



Young people, the elderly and families are set to benefit from a renovation project for Granttown-on-Spey that will provide a healthy ‘green space’ for them to play and relax in.

The Dulaig Park Renovation Project has attracted an award of just over £19,600 from the Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund. The park is currently not used as much as it could be and needs a lot of work to make it more amenable for residents and tourists alike.

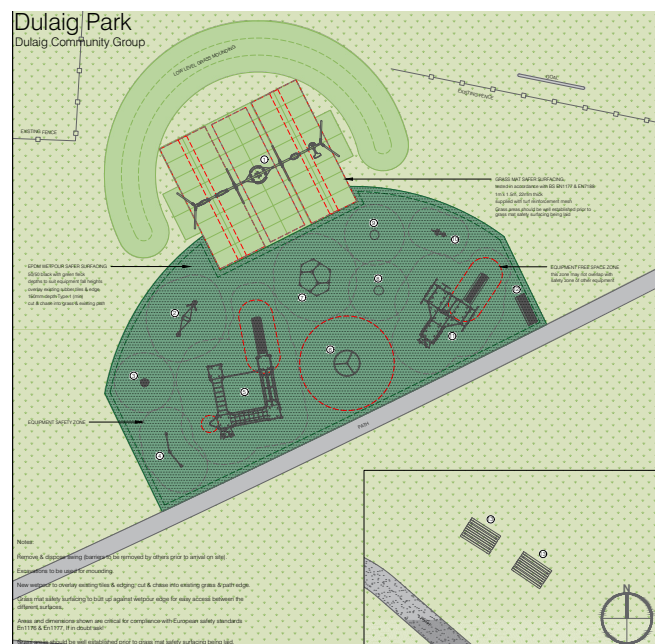
The award provides the support the project requires in order to implement all of its plans.

Ingrid Artus, a director with the Granttown Initiative (a community development company) has been responsible for funding applications to the project: “The pandemic has created a great sense of loneliness. We want to make the park a proper green space where people can relax. People in the community have become so passionate about it. There have been numerous fundraising activities, from a local ‘Virtual London Marathon’ (from the Cairngorm Mountain to Granttown-on-Spey) to raffles and cake sales.”

The funding award will see Dulaig Park upgraded with bespoke solutions for seating, access and enjoyment. There are 220 children in the local primary and over 300 pupils in the secondary school who will be able to benefit. There are also residents of a local home for the elderly who will have a peaceful place to sit.

Ingrid explained: “The area is well served by the Granttown Initiative but the Dulaig Park Project has needed its own funding because the Park sits in an area that has been recognised by the Scottish Government as having a poor housing status. We rely heavily on tourism so the pandemic has hit hard with some people being made redundant. This makes the funding very welcome.

“When I received the email of confirmation from the Berry



Burn Community Fund, I had to sit down. We have been awarded every penny that we asked for.”

The five year plan for the park will hopefully see the play area of the park upgraded during 2021, whilst an area which is friendly for those suffering from aspects of dementia is expected in 2022.

Says Ingrid: “This kind of award buoys the community. It shows people that they can make a difference. It’s a phenomenal amount of money. It provides a fabulous opportunity for the Dulaig Park Renovation Group to fully support the procurement that is vital to the play park.

“This will provide physical and mental relaxation in a green space. We are wholeheartedly thankful to the Berry Burn Community Benefit Fund and Statkraft for the award.”

**Keep in Touch** We would like to keep you informed. Sign up for project updates, ask questions and have your say: [www.berryburn-extension.co.uk](http://www.berryburn-extension.co.uk) or phone: 0800 772 0668