# South Ayrshire Newsletter

Spring 2017



Welcome to the Spring 2017 edition of the ScottishPower Renewables South Ayrshire newsletter. Over the past six months we have been gathering information about our activities in your area that we think you will be interested in finding out about.

As the UK's leading onshore wind developer with windfarms in South Ayrshire, we are keen to be good neighbours and to maximise the local benefits that we create. We are proud to have voluntarily contributed more than £19,250,000 in community benefit to enable local communities to deliver initiatives across the UK.



**Mark Hill Windfarm** 

## **Construction complete at Dersalloch Windfarm**

ScottishPower Renewables' Dersalloch Windfarm, near Straiton and Maybole in South Ayrshire is now operational. During construction, contracts of around £1,800,000 were placed with local companies to provide plant and operators, cleaning services, signage, welding services and concrete supply. Approximately one third of workers on site lived within 30 miles and those from outwith the area lived in local hotels or rented property from local accommodation providers. Our principal contractor spent around £5,000 per month on local accommodation for employees whilst other contractors

utilised local accommodation for an additional 30-40 workers. As the windfarm became operational, work began to create a 70 hectare Habitat Management Area. The area has now been fenced off in advance of tree planting to create a native woodland which will benefit local wildlife.

At the beginning of construction, North Carrick Community Benefit Company was set up to manage the community benefit fund. To date, they have received more that £400,000 which has helped to deliver a variety of local community initiatives.



#### **Local community benefit funds**

To date, the community of Barrhill has received more than £800,000 from ScottishPower Renewables' Areceloch, Mark Hill and Kilgallioch Windfarm community benefit funds. In 2008, they set up a Community Interest Company to help deliver local initiatives with windfarm funding.

Simon Redman, Chair of Barrhill Community Interest Company, said, 'The windfarm community benefit funds have made a great difference to the village, we have purchased and installed Arnsheen Play Park, constructed a much-needed community car park and we provide winter fuel payments to help villagers offset energy costs during the colder months'.

Last summer, a local company was appointed to consult with local residents and update their community action plan. Through the consultation, the community identified improvement work to Barrhill Memorial Hall and energy efficiency measures across the village as two key priorities for their forthcoming community benefit funds.

**Arnsheen Play Park opening** 

#### ? Did you know?

During 2016/17 ScottishPower Renewables installed enough new green energy in Scotland to meet the annual electricity requirements of more than 300,300 homes\*.

## ? Did you know?

During 2016, ScottishPower invested around £ 3,500,000 in the UK every single day. This includes new onshore and offshore windfarms, grid upgrades and infrastructure maintenance.

#### ? Did you know?

ScottishPower Renewables works with the Energy Skills Partnership to donate used turbine parts to colleges across Scotland to allow hands on experience for pupils learning about engineering and turbine maintenance.

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# South Ayrshire at a glance

- £3.9m community benefit funding invested in South Ayrshire by ScottishPower Renewables
- Three operational windfarms
- 147,149\* equivalent homes powered per year
- 49.5MW currently under construction
- 11 community councils receiving community benfit funds

'Based on BEIS's long-term average capacity factor for onshore wind in Scotland (27%) and an average domestic electricity usage of 3.938MWh



# **Habitat Management**

As part of our 924 hectare Habitiat Management Plan at Mark Hill Windfarm, we are now in the process of planting 215,000 trees to create a 192 hectare native woodland. A 16km deer fence has been erected around the site boundary to protect the new trees and pedestrian gates have been installed at road crossings to allow continued access.



## **Nature of Scotland Awards 2016**

In November last year, we were delighted that ScottishPower received a 'Highly Commended' at the Nature of Scotland Awards 2016 organised by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). The Nature of Scotland Awards are designed to recognise and celebrate excellence, innovation and outstanding achievement in Scottish nature conservation. ScottishPower was pleased to receive a commendation for our work to tackle climate change and promote biodiversity in Scotland.

## **Health & Safety Matters**

At ScottishPower Renewables Health and Safety is always our priority and we encourage you to stay safe in your community too. This spring, keep your windscreen clean and your sunglasses handy when driving in low sunshine.

We hope that you found our newsletter interesting and as always we welcome your feedback. Please let us know if you would like to receive our newsletters electronically.

Right; Your local Community Liaison Team Gillian Arnot, Siobhan McLaughlin and Tracy Kennedy



Please contact us at: communitybenefit@scottishpower.com

