



WINDFALL ANNUAL REPORT

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The Windfall Fund has been established from proceeds from the new Hyndburn wind farm on Oswaldtwistle Moor. It is a community benefit fund that is being provided by EnergieKontor, the wind farm developer and managed by the PROSPECTS Foundation.

The PROSPECTS Foundation is Hyndburn's community owned environmental charity.

The wind farm became operational in December 2012 and the Windfall Fund was launched in April 2013 from the PROSPECTS Foundation's new premises in Accrington.



Fig. 2 Windfall Launch at the PROSPECTS Environment Centre



Fig. 1 View across Hyndburn from the wind farm

Any voluntary sector organisation is eligible to apply to the Fund and grants are awarded for community projects that contribute towards the environmental sustainability of Hyndburn.

Projects have to fit within one of PROSPECTS' 6 themes of environmental sustainability:

- BIODIVERSITY - protecting and enhancing local wildlife and plant life
- ENERGY – promoting energy conservation and the use of renewable energy
- SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT – encouraging the use of public transport, cycling and walking
- WASTE AND RECYCLING – identifying more ways of reducing, reusing and recycling waste
- LOCAL FOOD – increasing the production of locally grown organic food
- AWARENESS RAISING – promoting environmental projects, environmental issues and the work of PROSPECTS itself

There have been 3 funding rounds in this first year (May, July & September). The applications were submitted to the PROSPECTS Foundation and the decisions were made by a Grants Assessment Panel. £116,975 was received from EnergieKontor for this financial year. We had 60 formal enquiries about the Fund and in total 20 applications were assessed and 16 grants have been awarded totaling £100,807

The list of successful groups is shown below:

SMALL PROJECTS

- Rotary Club of Church & Oswaldtwistle
- Sandy Lane Gardening Group
- Rishton Methodist Primary School PTA
- Belthorn Village Committee
- Friends of Arden Hall & the Coppice
- Woodnook Residents Community Association
- Great Harwood PROSPECTS Panel
- Great Harwood Allotments Society

LARGE PROJECTS

- Lancashire Wildlife Trust
- Hyndburn Used Furniture Store
- One Planet
- Broadfield Friends Association
- PROSPECTS Foundation
- Hyndburn Homewise Society
- Incredible Edibles Accrington

Most of the projects are still ongoing and plenty of work is underway.

Fig. 3 An example of an ongoing project - Boots and Bikes cycle maintenance class



Grants of up to £2,000 are available for small projects and 8 small projects received a total of £10,531. These grants have to be spent within 12 months of approval.

Fig. 4 An example of a small project - Sandy Lane Gardening Group working at Pendle View



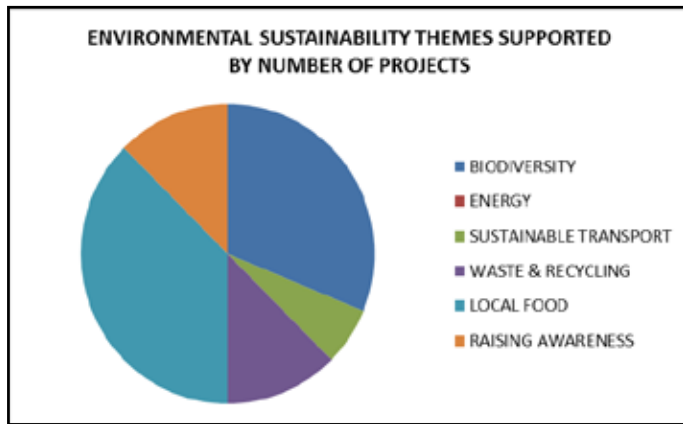
Large projects can attract funding of more than £2,000 and can be for a period of a number of years. Payments for these grants are often staged. 8 large projects were funded totalling £90,276

Fig. 5 An example of a large project - Some of the habitat management work being undertaken at Foxhill Bank Nature Reserve by Lancashire Wildlife Trust



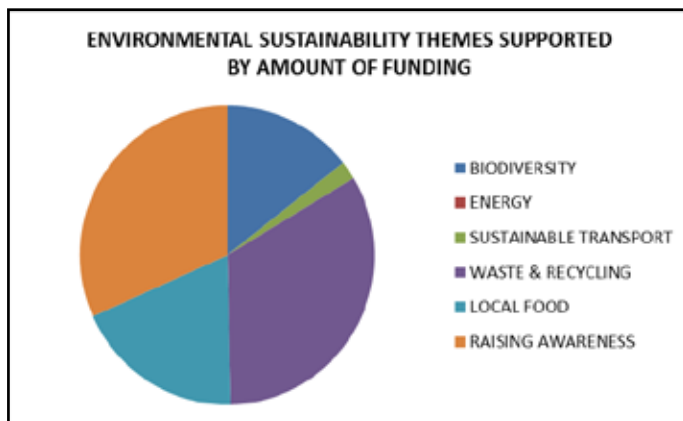
Projects have been funded under 5 of the 6 environmental sustainability themes

Fig. 6 Pie chart showing proportion of projects supported under each theme



Financially, however, the proportion of grant is split quite differently between the themes

Fig. 7 Pie chart showing proportion of grant awarded per theme



For the larger projects it is a requirement of the Fund that some match funding is secured from another source or from the applicant organisation's own funds. Although it is not essential for smaller projects to have match funding some financial contribution from elsewhere does give the application a higher priority and shows a commitment to the project. In total match funding of almost £110,000 was secured against the 16 projects funded, effectively doubling the grant fund. This means the value of the projects to be carried out is equivalent to £210,000. Match funding has come from various sources including Big Lottery Fund Awards for All, Green Partnership Awards,

Lancashire Environment Fund, Hyndburn Borough Council, Lancashire County Council Healthy Streets Initiative, Progress Housing, Forestry Commission, Lloyds TSB Foundation and the Duchy of Lancaster.

All applicants have to demonstrate how they will incorporate sustainable practices into the delivery of their projects. This can include the use of recycled materials, locally sourced products/services and planting native species. Good examples include the use of recycled wood for the raised beds at Pendle View by Sandy Lane Gardening Group; using recycled plastic for raised beds at Broadfield Specialist School; and using a local printing firm that uses vegetable ink and paper from managed forests for the walks and cycle leaflets for the Great Harwood Boots and Bikes project.

DETAILS OF PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER EACH ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY THEME

BIODIVERSITY

Lancashire Wildlife Trust - To reinstate the banking on part of Tinker Brook to protect the adjacent habitats within Foxhill Bank Nature Reserve.

Fig. 8 Bank of Tinker Brook before...



Fig. 9 ...Bank of Tinker Brook After



Foxhill Bank Nature Reserve is a former mill site with two mill lodges and Tinker Brook flowing separately through it. It is the only Local Nature Reserve in Hyndburn and provides an important area of countryside in the heart of an urban environment in the centre of Oswaldtwistle. The central aim of the project is to protect the important habitats within the reserve by reinstating the wall of the brook. This will help retain the flow of water within the banking and reduce the negative impact of flooding and in turn reduce sediment and balsam seed from being deposited on the adjacent land.

Belthorn Village Committee – Improvement works to the frontage and sides of Belthorn village pond.

This is the first phase of a project to improve the habitat of the pond. Phase one involves raising the shoreline, repairs to the dry stone walls and replacing the fence at the front of the pond to make it more accessible to local people. Phase 2 (which would be subject to a subsequent grant application) will involve habitat management activities.

Fig. 10 Belthorn Village Pond



Friends of Arden Hall & the Coppice - To purchase equipment and carry out ecological surveys of the Biological Heritage Site in Peel Park.

There are three parts to this project all based within Peel Park in Accrington. The first part is for an ecologist and volunteers to carry out an NVC (National Vegetation Classification) survey over 3 seasons of a meadow close to the entrance to the Park to identify optimal maintenance prescriptions for the future. The second part is to investigate the environmental potential of one of the ponds in the park by: carrying out an NVC survey to provide a full species inventory and to clarify if water voles are present; carrying out a Great Crested Newt survey on the pond; investigating the current inlet and outfall of the pond; collecting soil samples within the pond to check for contaminants; and carrying out a full topographical survey to help calculate the amount of silt that can be removed from the pond. These investigations will inform future proposals to improve the pond as a habitat and as a local resource. The third element of the project is to purchase equipment to help control Himalayan Balsam in the Biological Heritage Site and for the management of the meadow.

Rotary Club of Church & Oswaldtwistle - To plant crocuses at the entrances to Church & Oswaldtwistle, including Rhyddings Park.

Each year in spring the colour and volume of the planting will raise environmental awareness and the intention is that the bulbs will be sourced from a local supplier and will be planted with the help from students from Rhyddings High School.

Lancashire Wildlife Trust - To improve the biodiversity of 2 prospective Local Nature Reserve (LNR) sites in Hyndburn with a programme of volunteer work.

Fig. 11 Volunteers carrying out habitat management work



It is hoped that increased conservation activity will encourage 2 new LNR designations and at the same time widen the volunteer involvement and encourage local community management in the future. The 2 sites are – Woodnook Vale – which offers visitors 51 Ha of woodland, wetland and heathland on both sides of the steep-sided river valley of Woodnook Water and – Arden Hall, Peel Park and the Coppice – which provides 50 Ha mixed woodland, heathland, grassland and scrub interwoven with an industrial heritage. The volunteer sessions will improve the structural diversity of the woodland and deadwood component by: coppicing with standards and group selective felling; reducing non native species; and

encouraging natural regeneration of the understorey. The volunteers will also coppice woodland margins, footpath rides and lay hedges where appropriate.

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Great Harwood PROSPECTS Panel - To develop a series of walking and cycling routes around Great Harwood.



Fig. 12 Newspaper article promoting the Boots & Bikes project

The project will develop a series of walking routes and cycle rides and publish them in two booklets, as electronic versions and as digital maps. It aims to introduce adults, particularly women, older people and excluded adults to walking and cycling and hopes to support a change in behavior and lifestyle. There will be family bike rides, guided walks and led cycle rides. It is hoped the project will help improve residents' health and encourage people to consider walking and cycling as an alternative mode of travel. Great Harwood PROSPECTS Panel has already formed partnerships with CTC, the national cycling charity and Hyndburn Ramblers and they are currently talking to local groups about their involvement in new themed events such as a photography walk and a local history cycle ride.

WASTE AND RECYCLING

Hyndburn Used Furniture Store (HUFS) - To develop a cardboard shredding business to produce fibre bedding for horses.

HUFS has been providing recycling services since 2004 and is constantly looking to develop new initiatives to facilitate recycling for businesses and residents. This new cardboard shredding business will provide new work and training opportunities, increase the amount of waste diverted from landfill and provide a sustainable green product to environmentally aware customers.

Hyndburn Homewise Society - To further develop the recycled disability aids project to enable the items to be collected, cleaned and sold and for the shop in the Arndale Centre in Accrington to be open for 15 hours/week.

Currently Social Services and hospitals recommend that people put their daily living aids such as walking sticks, walking frames, bath seats etc in the tip when they no longer need them. This project will divert perfectly good equipment from going to landfill and will significantly benefit the local community. It is anticipated that this project will become self-financing within a couple of years.

Quote from Sue Sinclair, Manager at Hyndburn Homewise Society: 'The Windfall Fund has been a life line that will enable us to develop the "Re-use not Refuse" scheme in the hope of becoming self sustainable! The shop is now open Tuesdays, Thursday and Fridays and awareness and sales are increasing. A new leaflet has been produced and a marketing plan is being developed to promote the services further.'

LOCAL FOOD

Rishton Methodist Primary School PTA - To develop a food growing site to educate children about how to grow their own food and use it in cooking.

Fig. 13 Raised beds in situ at Rishton Methodist Primary School



Following the successful development of a Forest School Learning Zone at the school, the PTA (Parent Teacher Association), through class discussions and feedback from families, teachers, and carers, wanted to develop a sustainable food growing project within the school grounds. The planters have been constructed (one per year group) and filled and each class has planted seeds according to a pre-planned crop rotation. The PTA are also keen to have evening classes focused at cooking and aim to use school grown produce as ingredients.

Fig. 14 Rishton Methodist Primary School Pupils working on one of the raised beds



Woodnook Residents Community Association - To further develop the Woodnook Community Garden to encourage organic food growing and raise environmental awareness.

Fig. 15 Woodnook Community Garden



The plan is to help local people create and manage the community garden to produce their own food and to develop wildlife areas with the aim of encouraging people to build a stronger more self-sufficient community. The project will include educating whole families on issues such as the importance of recycling, reducing their carbon footprint and encouraging healthier lifestyles. Items funded include solar powered lights, a solar pond pump, water butts, a wormery and a turbine for the new workshop.

Fig. 16 Organic potatoes from Woodnook Community Garden



Great Harwood Allotments Society - To further develop the community allotment in Great Harwood.

The idea is to encourage other members of the community to get involved with setting up projects on the community allotment and to organise educational visits from the local primary schools and the family centre to help local people learn about organic food growing and healthy eating. The community will have their own raised beds to use for their own growing projects with the help from experienced allotment owners.

Incredible Edibles Accrington - To develop an Alice in Wonderland themed garden incorporating organic food growing and wildlife areas in Oakhill Park, Accrington.

The aims of the project are to bring into use a neglected and unused area within a public park in Accrington and to bring the community together using food, art, literature and history to create a community garden using Oak Hill Park's unique connection to Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland story. The local community has designed the garden and the project will involve schools and youth groups in sculpture design, building and interpreting the project. There will be a selection of edible plants, flowers and wildlife friendly planting to attract bees, insects and birds.

Broadfield Friends Association - To develop a horticulture area and sensory garden accessible to all pupils, including those in wheel chairs.

Broadfield Specialist School has an enthusiastic approach to horticulture as gardening gives special needs children a very rewarding experience. This project will create a wildlife garden with raised beds which the children will plant with edible and non-toxic plants with all year interest. The planting will also include as many sensory plants as possible to give the widest experience possible to the children. The raised beds and benches will be made out of recycled plastic and there will be a living willow arch and a willow arbour for wheelchair users to sit under.

Fig. 17 Work in progress on a large project developing a sensory garden at Broadfield Specialist School



Quote from Lee Bentley, Community Co-ordinator at Broadfield Specialist School: “The school now has more students with limited mobility than ever before. We have been working to raise funds for a sensory garden that is wheelchair accessible and now, with the help of the Windfall Fund, this has become a reality. Our students will benefit from the garden once fully completed but have also been very involved in the whole process of developing the garden. Groups of students have prepared the site, planted herbs and shrubs and they will be working with a willow artist to create a willow arch and arbour to make the garden complete. This development has been fantastic for our school and our students and our staff are very grateful for the Windfall Fund providing almost half of the funding for this”

Fig. 18 Completed raised beds at Broadfield Specialist School



Sandy Lane Gardening Group - To further develop food growing areas at two learning disability projects at Plantation Cottage in Accrington and Pendle View in Huncoat.

At Plantation Cottage the plan is to clear an area of scrub and in its place plant an orchard with fruit trees and bushes. At Pendle View the aim is to increase the accessibility of the garden to all residents by constructing a path down the full length of the garden, building two raised beds and installing a greenhouse suitable for wheelchair access.

Fig. 19 Wheelchair accessible garden and greenhouse at Pendle View



Fig. 20 Opening of Pendle View garden



RAISING AWARENESS

One Planet - To promote the use of environmentally friendly/Fairtrade/local and organic products to voluntary sector organisations throughout Hyndburn.

The aim of the 'Branching Out' project is to promote the use and refill of environmentally friendly cleaning products, Fairtrade, local and organic products to community and voluntary groups, the faith sector and local businesses throughout Hyndburn to try to reduce the negative impact of the alternative products on our local environment.

PROSPECTS Foundation - To employ an Activity Organiser, develop the PROSPECTS Environment Centre and develop a programme of environmental awareness raising activities for the people of Hyndburn.

PROSPECTS' recent move to the PROSPECTS Environment Centre on Broadway in Accrington has provided an exciting opportunity to promote the Environmental Sustainability agenda and local environmental project work to the general public of Hyndburn. This grant has given PROSPECTS the opportunity to equip the ground floor as a training and meeting space and organise an inspirational programme of events and activities that will draw in new people to learn about environmental issues and even to volunteer for environmental work.

Fig. 21 Drop-in activity at PROSPECTS Environment Centre



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In terms of monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of the Fund more will follow in next year's annual report and information will be posted on the website throughout the forthcoming year. Most of the currently funded projects are underway but have not yet been completed and so it has not been possible to collect monitoring information in time for this report. The type of information we will be collecting will include the number of raised beds planted, the number of volunteers having taken part, the number of school children involved, the area of land managed, the number of school grounds improved, the number of awareness raising events held etc. We will also be involving an external consultant to help collect and analyse information and comments to help us review the effectiveness of the Fund and the processes involved in its delivery.

FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN OF PROJECTS

Applicant	Total Amount Awarded
Church & Oswaldtwistle Rotary Club	£300.00
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	£6,307.00
Sandy Lane Gardening Group	£1,940.00
Hyndburn Used Furniture Store	£25,000.00
One Planet	£10,000.00
Rishton Methodist Primary School PTA	£850.00
Broadfield Friends Association	£5,000.00
The PROSPECTS Foundation	£21,953.00
Belthorn Village Committee	£1,000.00
Friends of Arden Hall & the Coppice	£2,000.00
Lancashire Wildlife Trust	£4,909.00
Woodnook Residents Community Assoc	£1,922.00
Great Harwood PROSPECTS Panel	£1,993.00
Incredible Edibles Accrington	£8,607.00
Hyndburn Homewise Society Ltd	£8,500.00
Great Harwood Allotments Society	£526.00
Total	£100,807

Fig. 22 PROSPECTS window display





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