



Laigh Hills Park, Dunblane

Funding Strategy & Grant Funding Opportunities

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Introduction

The Masterplan can be broken down into a number of separate elements and for funding purposes, it may be useful to try and consider the plan as a set of linked proposals rather than an overall strategic plan. This is because the various funds available will have strict guidelines as to what they can and can't fund. This means that a large number of funding applications will have to be made, with no guarantee of success.

It is worth noting some basic guidelines for attracting funding especially in relation to writing grant applications.

1. Very few grants provide 100% of funds; most expect some match funding to be provided by the applicant. 50% is a typical grant rate, but each fund is different.
2. Funds change over time. What is available today may not be available next year. Priorities change and funds run out. It is worth applying whenever a fund is available rather than thinking it might be possible to apply to that fund in a later year.
3. The funders make the rules. If they say they need something then it must be provided. Many grants have been lost because of small administrative errors. A key point is that work must not start before the funding is approved.
4. The funders also set their own priorities. If they say they support something specific then that is what they will fund. Too many applications are unsuccessful because the applicant felt that their project is good and highlighted its strengths – while they might highlight an excellent project, if it doesn't cover what the funder specifies then the application will be unsuccessful.
5. Timing can be difficult. Often in the rush to meet a deadline an application might be made before all costs are known. Funders are reluctant to fund something if they are not confident that the costs provided are the final costs. So where there is still uncertainty over costs it is better to firm up figures before submitting a funding application.

The Funding Strategy

It is our recommendation that the funding strategy is clearly defined and agreed at an early stage. It is also our opinion that funding strategies are not easy to follow, simply because writing applications is a time consuming and often thankless task, there are "losers" as well as "winners" which can be off-putting, different members of a steering group or management body might have different priorities and different opinions on how to write funding applications. With this in mind, the strategy described below is suggested as a way forward, although local players should develop and fine tune the strategy to suit their precise situation. The key elements of the proposed funding strategy are:

Setting Up the most appropriate vehicle for managing the process

We recommend that a charitable “Friends of Laigh Hills Park” type community organisation is set up. It is likely that the existing Dunblane Development Trust might be a suitable vehicle for this purpose and should be considered in the first instance as the potential lead Funding body. Should DDT not wish to take on this role, then it is recommended that a new community driven body with charitable status be set up purely with the purpose of activating the funding strategy and applying for grants. Given the extensive nature of the development proposals and the need to apply for multiple grants, there may be benefits in having more than one body playing this role, largely because some funds restrict applicants to one grant per year or one application every two years. A second, related but more targeted organisation, could work alongside DDT and specialise for example in sports field provision or projects that enhance education. There are disadvantages to setting up an organisation with charitable status, and charity trustees/directors will have responsibilities, but this model provides a community driven, not for profit body to apply for grants. Some grants are only open to registered charities. The charity should be registered with OSCR (who have simplified the process in recent years). As a first step, advice could be sought from Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise who will advise on the different types of charitable status available, the benefits and disbenefits and the responsibilities. It is likely that the trustees will be elected initially by a community meeting and potentially annually at an AGM thereafter.

Grants, donations, investments, activities and sponsorship

Funding can come from different sources. The easiest to control is the grant funding element and this should be a priority because the Friends of Laigh Hills Park can prepare and submit applications and watch as funding targets are being met through successful applications. Not every grant application will be successful; the process is time consuming (and often dispiriting as rejection letters arrive) and needs hard work from committed members (who will probably be volunteers). Winning grants is a tough job and consideration could be given to paying experts to write applications. This however, is not universally popular and it will mean giving away valuable funds and very few professionals are prepared to work on a voluntary basis. However, appointing a professional to provide some advice and help with some management, overseeing and perhaps editing of initial applications may be a worthwhile investment. It is worth noting that grants often need match funding, so other avenues will have to be pursued to ensure that enough funding is secured.

Donations can offer valuable assistance. This could come from local businesses, wills or those currently active with the park. However, this is a difficult area for many organisations. How exactly do they get someone to leave funds to the cause in a will? It is not easy, but there may be local personalities who have potential access to people who might donate funds. One opportunity might arise through housebuilders who may be encouraged through relevant planning permissions to donate to the park restoration as an element of planning gain or planning agreement. Often known as Developer Contributions the process is covered in Scottish Government Planning Circular 1/2010¹

Some donations could take the form of sponsorship, although this is not a route favoured by all. Could naming rights be sold? Would a local (or national) business be interested in having say the sports pitches named after them? Working with businesses to try to attract sponsorship could form a useful element of the strategy. Could local sporting heroes be contacted for their support?

¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/01/27103054/0>

There are very few investment opportunities as it is unlikely that many of the elements of the park will generate income. However, a micro hydro scheme could possibly be funded as an investment – the organisation who pays for it would receive the income from the Feed in Tariffs and electricity generated. The organisation behind this could easily be a not for profit community group, who may possibly access a low interest loan devised to help increase renewable energy. This option is worth investigating further. Unfortunately other investment opportunities appear limited unless lets on sports pitches could be charged by a private investor. Not all supporters of the park would favour this as it's clearly a step towards a privatised park.

There are many activities that could be carried out to help raise funds. This is where local residents, schools and sports clubs take it upon themselves to help raise money through carrying out sponsored activities, fund days, and general fundraising activities. Plots of the park could be sold and monitored on a large map (e.g. members of the public purchase a sq. m of parkland and are recognised by being named on a permanently available plan of the park). While local fundraising activities are unlikely to generate all the income required they have several advantages; they encourage participation and ownership by the local population, they help to ensure a no-local-stone-untuned approach (in that by involving more people it is likely that most residents will be targeted somehow for a contribution however small), they can involve schoolchildren (and their parents) who are less likely for example, to write grant applications.

Overall, the best approach is likely to involve grants, donations, sponsorship and local activities. In this way many more people can feel that they have contributed which is useful for the longer term acceptance and support for the park and each option will hopefully reinforce the others.

Understanding of Quick wins and a Longer Game

Sometimes grant funding can be a slow process – for example there is one lottery fund where the final outcome is unlikely to be known until 18 months after the application is first submitted. While the bigger funds will inevitably take time to come through, there may be benefit in applying for some smaller, but quicker grants to help create momentum and retain the enthusiasm of those involved. If each grant win is well publicised locally it will help create a positive spirit and potentially further support. It will also demonstrate that the Friends of Laigh Hills Park or other responsible body are actually working and being active and successful.

Partnership working where appropriate

There may be opportunities to work with others – for example some funds are only open to local authority applicants. The approach should be to make friends and work with others, rather than trying to go it alone.

Maintain a grant funding schedule

This is an administrative task which can be tedious, but it helps keep the responsible body active and progressive. It is also a common complaint that boards or voluntary management organisations accidentally miss grant deadlines because they weren't aware of them. This is not a criticism, keeping tabs on every grant deadline is difficult and time consuming, but if someone is made responsible for it, and a process is established, then fewer deadlines are likely to be missed. The

schedule will also highlight priorities, quick wins, elements that might be covered by a grant and responsibilities.

Maintain an aggressive progress reporting structure

Interest will inevitably wane if the first few grant funding applications are unsuccessful. Pressure would be developed at the outset by setting dates for monthly meetings for the first year and perhaps every 6-8 weeks thereafter to ensure that the funding strategy is being followed and that applications are being submitted. A highly visible funding thermometer (which shows the “mercury rising” as each new financial success is added and which shows a target figure) is suitable in some cases, but in the case of Laigh Hills park, there are probably too many unknowns and too many disparate elements of the overall scheme to make this approach worthwhile.

The Strategic Landscape Masterplan

The Masterplan recommends a large number of activities, investments, proposals and management actions. While it may seem time consuming, the best means to win funding is to break the project down into constituent parts and apply for funds for each of these. The reasons for this will become clear as each specific part is covered below.

It should be noted that at any one time there may be as many as 3000 grants available across the UK. For this reason, the list below is representative rather than exhaustive. This section should be updated and reviewed once precise costs are known and any permission granted. However, the application process can begin when one element is ready to go even if the full development costs are not known. For this reason, the first section to be considered is the micro hydro feasibility study which could, probably started immediately.

1 Micro hydro feasibility study

There is one fund that provides opportunities for supporting renewable energy feasibility studies. Micro Hydro should be a suitable technology to qualify for this grant.

Known as **CARES**, the fund is administered by Local Energy Scotland and is targeted at Community driven schemes. The fund asks “Are you in the early stages of thinking about a community renewable energy project and not sure where to start?”

CARES provides grant funding to help towards the start-up costs of feasibility studies, community consultation and other preparatory costs. Up to £10,000 is available for community groups to fund non-capital aspects of a project.

You may wish to look at what is feasible in your area, learn what other groups have undertaken, or develop a plan for a community benefit income stream from a local CARES loan funded renewable energy project, or from a large-scale commercial development.

These should be early stage activities without which the installations would not be able to go ahead. Before applying for CARES funding we recommend reviewing your ideas with our team and also looking to other sources of funding for early stage community capacity building activity.

Further Information: <http://www.localenergyscotland.org/media/25590/Start-up-Grant-Guidance.pdf>

Grants of up to 100% might be available up to a maximum of £10,000.

This fund stresses that the scheme should be community driven and the application should therefore be the local community council or a properly constituted local community group or trust.

The initial requirement is for a feasibility study, and CARES / Local Energy Scotland offer the best prospect for attracting funds to support a feasibility study.

2 Sports Pitch Drainage Improvements

Although the requirement is for drainage improvements, it may be worth extending the focus to the overall management of the sports pitches, and in this way grants could possibly be won which include an element of funds for drainage but also contribute to the longer term well-being, maintenance and management of the pitches.

The starting point should be based on developing a relationship with Sport Scotland who may wish to develop a formal relationship with any club who may wish to use the pitches regularly. Working with SportScotland is key to successful fund raising for pitch improvements and they may well offer a development officer to work with the project to ensure long term continuity.

The Sport Facilities Fund. This programme covers the provision or upgrading of all facilities for the general community. In the main, proposals will be led by local authorities, clubs or trusts.

This fund supports developments that are for the public good and will provide opportunities for increased sports participation by the community at local level.

Priority will be given to projects that have established/will establish with the sports programmes and/or initiatives operated by the local authority, national governing body for sport and their associates/partners.

Applicants need to demonstrate that the proposed development is for the public good and will provide equitable opportunities for increased sports participation by the community at local level.

This fund is for capital expenditure only and not for projects that are already underway, or where building contracts are already let.

Legacy 2014: Sustainable Sport for Communities Fund is a £1m fund which will help communities to be able to realise their ambitions of owning and running their own sports facilities.

The initial package of support available will focus on clubs and organisations delivering sport and physical activity in their community who wish to:

- take on ownership and operation of existing local facilities
- build and operate new facilities

- make better use of current facilities through capital improvements

Clubs and organisations will initially be invited to apply for a package of support up to a maximum of £25,000 to cover the cost of investigating and progressing their ideas. This could include technical support such as architect and design fees, feasibility studies, community engagement, legal and financial support, mentoring support and assistance with organisational development.

Note: The closing date for expressions of interest is 23rd May 2014.

The applicant should be either a local sports club or a specifically formed Laigh Hills Park Amateur Community Sports Club.

The CashBack for Pitches Fund has been created from monies recovered under Proceeds of Crime legislation. A total of £2million of CashBack funding has been made available by the Scottish Government to support the delivery of a network of full size third generation synthetic turf pitches for rugby and football in communities across Scotland, focussed on, although not exclusively, where anti-social behaviour, violence and crime particularly affects the life chances of those living in or around these communities, with a clear emphasis on young people (under the age of 19).

Awards are limited to a maximum of 50% of the total eligible project cost, up to a maximum of £300,000.

Applications are invited from, preferably, local authorities, worked up fully in partnership with rugby and football clubs. The partner clubs must be able to demonstrate a track record of investing in and supporting increasing numbers of players and teams at particularly junior and youth levels and be actively engaged with the Scottish FA or Scottish Rugby across the key developmental areas.

The Barclays Community Sports Awards is an award to recognise the outstanding achievements of individuals and groups that use sport to benefit communities across the UK. It is a very competitive scheme that only offers small grants so perhaps might not be a priority.

The Maximum award is £5000

Further info: <http://www.barclayscommunitysportsaward.com/> 

The fund supports more than just pitch improvement

- Facilities / Buildings / Places
- Equipment
- Performance sports and athletes
- Coaching
- Training or continuous professional development
- Projects specifically targeted at young people
- Projects specifically targeted at students
- Community sport
- Projects designed to engage people in sport
- Outdoor sport

3 Biodiversity and habitat management

The aim here is to attract funds to help meet the costs of Native woodland planting, wetland habitat improvements & 'wild' grass lands management.

The main sources of funding are likely to be through Central Scotland Green Network, The Forestry Commission and Scottish Natura Heritage. The Central Scotland Development Fund 2014-15 is expected to offer a good opportunity but unfortunately the fund is now closed to new applications. It is hoped that this will reopen next year.

The Forestry Commission also offer opportunities for winning funds through several regular schemes. These include:

[RP22701 Woodland Improvement Grant - long term forest planning](#)

For preparing a 10-20 year plan of the management of woodlands on a property. This grant is open to new applications during 2014 and is subject to an "on-going approval process".

[RP22703 Woodland Improvement Grant - woodland habitats and species](#)

Preparing a management plan and carrying out work that will benefit habitats or species that are a priority under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. This option is open to new applications during the 2014 transitional arrangements provided that the woodland activities take place to bring designated site SSSIs into favourable condition.

[RP22704 Woodland Improvement Grant - restructuring regeneration](#)

For even-aged woodland areas that are to be restructured through tree felling and re-planting. This grant is open to new applications during the 2014 transitional arrangements.

[RP22705 Woodland Improvement Grant - non-woodland habitats](#)

Preparing a management plan and carrying out work that will benefit priority habitats under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

This option is open the new applications during the 2014 transitional arrangements provided that the woodland activities take place to bring designated site SSSIs into favourable condition.

The Grow wild grant is currently closed but may reopen. It targets youth groups which may offer the project an opportunity to broaden the age group that can play a genuinely active part in the park's development.

Youth groups are invited to apply for grants of £500 to £5000 from Grow Wild to create exciting transformational wild flower sites in their local area. Smaller Young Grow Wild grants are also available of up to £100 for youth groups via Youth Scotland.

Grow Wild is working with Greenspace Scotland and Youth Scotland to provide funding to Scottish groups and communities to use native wildflowers and plants to create a space for everyone to enjoy. It is a nationwide initiative to inspire people and communities to come together to sow, grow

and support UK native wild flowers, led by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and backed by the Big Lottery Fund.

A Grow Wild project might be an unloved area to be reclaimed for the local community. Or perhaps somewhere that's a bit neglected or run-down to be turned into an inspiring space for everyone.

4 Community orchard

Forth Environment Link has funded the Central Scotland Green Network Orchard Grant Scheme 2013 / 2014 although its future is currently unknown. It is hoped that a variation of it will reopen in the next year.

The scheme, supported by the CSGN Development Fund 2013, aims to encourage anyone with an interest in orchards – including communities, schools, public agencies and landowners - to plant and manage orchards, use them for learning or celebrations, or use the fruit more productively.

The CSGN Orchard Grant Scheme is open to all groups and individuals in the CSGN area, as long as they can demonstrate wider community involvement in the design, creation and management of the project, and can provide evidence of landowner approval.

Grants of between £100 and £500 are available for designing and creating new orchards, managing traditional or other existing orchards, enhancing orchard biodiversity, and developing orchards as a learning ground.

5 Children's play and picnic area improvements.

This is a particularly difficult area to fund and there are two approaches to attracting grants:

- Include it in an overall park upgrade application to the National Lottery or other major funder
- Trawl local and national charities such as the Ernest Cook Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn or others (refer to the Charitable Trust section)

Under current grant funding programmes it is difficult to see many prospects for grants specifically aimed at improving picnic areas. Perhaps this could be an opportunity for sponsorship or private business support.

6 Paths, access and some signage

The Paths for All (Scotland) fund offers small grants, up to £1,500, and the current round has a March 2014 deadline, although this will probably reopen for next year. The sum is too small to do anything meaningful at Laigh Hills, but could possibly be applied for under the "quick win" principle. The funds could be used to cover costs of equipment, literature, organising events etc. to deal with new paths and could be a useful starter for a new organisation to help get local residents involved. It may possible provide enough for signage or a significant starting point.

Cycling Scotland have also run a fund called the cycle friendly and sustainable communities fund. Although the latest round is closed, they hope to reopen soon. This may possibly give some funds towards cycle pathways. Grants tend to be small but at the very least Cycle Scotland should be contacted and a relationship established to help understand any future potential cycle path awards.

Further info: <http://www.cyclingscotland.org/our-projects/award-schemes/cycle-friendly-community-project>

Contact should also be made with Sustrans who administer the Community Links Programme. This fund supports the creation of cycling infrastructure and may help fund cycle paths within the park.

7 A new toilet & park shelter

This is potentially the most difficult single item to get funding for. In short, not many funders want to provide grants for toilets! But it should be a useful item to be included in an overall park upgrade. For example, Heritage Lottery grant provided to Rouken Glen Park in East Renfrewshire this year included funds to upgrade toilets as part of a pavilion improvement.

8 Proposed pedestrian railway bridge over the main line railway

It is unlikely that there will be a specific fund for financing bridges over railway lines. It is recommended that a dialogue is started with Network Rail. Although Network Rail work to a business plan (2014-19) which is approved by the regulator and has little room for discretionary spend, it may be useful to start a dialogue such that a pedestrian bridge might be considered in a future business plan. This would be a long term approach and could possibly mean that a bridge would not be funded until after 2019, which could tie in with a possible proposed electrification programme. The key issue will be to make sure the opportunity is not missed.

The alternative is to include a pedestrian bridge in an overall park enhancement programme as part of a major application. At this stage the costs v benefits are not clear, but initial thoughts are that the benefits might appear small compared to the likely costs.

9 Viewpoints and educational interpretation signage.

There are funds for interpretation and signage, but they are limited in scale and scope and not too many funds are open at present. Scottish Natural Heritage have some small funds which may possibly be suitable although most are currently closed. Their key outcome priorities are:

Outcome 1 - more people experiencing, enjoying and valuing nature and landscapes

Outcome 2 - improve the quality and management of Scotland's nature and landscapes

Outcome 3 - nature and landscapes making an increased contribution to the Scottish economy

Outcome 4 - better places in which to live, work and visit are created

And any applications would have to demonstrate that it clearly meets one or more of these priorities.

10 BMX/Pump track.

There is one obvious fund for supporting a BMX type track, but time is tight. Two rounds remain with closing dates of 1st July 2014 and 1st February 2015.

The Legacy 2014 Active Places Fund supports the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions to encourage more people to be active and take part in sport. Physical activity can help people become healthier and fitter. The Fund will do this by providing funding for capital projects which create or improve places in local communities where people can go to get active. Grants of between £10,000 and £100,000 are available for a very wide range of community-led projects such as new bike or skate parks, outdoor adventure facilities, walking routes, or new projects within school estates. (For projects that require funding of less than £10,000 please apply to Awards for All.) In total, £10 million is available until 2015.

Further info:

http://www.sportscotland.org.uk/sportscotland/Documents/facilities/ActivePlaces/Active_Places_Guidelines.pdf

Projects will need to demonstrate that they will make a difference in terms of impact on physical activity or sports participation. This might be through creating new facilities, upgrading or improving the accessibility of existing ones, or reducing barriers to activity.

11 Removal of non-native invasive species.

There is one fund which may help. This is through the Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP) and is available to rural land managers within limited geographically targeted areas and is for only for specific species listed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP/RuralPriorities/Options/Controlofinvasivenon-nati>

To qualify for funding for invasive non-native plant control, applicants must be located within the specific targeted areas where the plant species has been identified as a particular threat by SNH, SEPA or the FCS. In these areas applications will only be considered if they are part of a collaborative project or plan. The application must either complement an existing plan/project or be part of a new co-ordinated plan/project within an area, catchment-wide or other self-contained area/habitat.

Outside of the SRDP, it is very difficult to attract funding specifically for removing non-native invasive species and a sum should be allowed for and included in an overall park restoration application. However, contact should be made with the River Forth Fisheries Trust who have secured some funds to treat invasive species in riparian environments.

12 Local nature reserve

This could be the focus of a major application to a National Lottery Fund or major charitable foundation. Together with the difficult to fund aspects such as the toilet block, an overall park

masterplan application could be prepared. As these would ask for substantial funds it is inevitable that they will require significant up front work, will be competitive with many unsuccessful applications and may be a slow time consuming process.

The options fall into two categories; National Lottery and Charitable Trusts

National Lottery Funding

The National lottery Funds include:

Community Spaces Scotland

This fund supports communities to become more involved in, and to take responsibility for, their local environment, communal spaces and places.

Minimum award: £10000

Maximum award: £250000

This fund is only available in certain postcode areas: while the postcode of the park is not clear it is known that the nearby FK15 area is not eligible.

Heritage Lottery Fund

This fund has several strands. The most obvious sounding is the parks for people strand, although it should be noted that this is for existing parks not new parks. In order to be successful we would have to demonstrate that at least part of the area is a current park and that this is not a new creation. This fund also requires partnership working especially with the local authority. If successful, this fund can provide up to a maximum of £5m, such that it should be considered a priority.

The Landscape Partnerships fund is similarly large.

Rethinking Parks

This is a new programme to find and support parks innovators to develop, implement and spread new approaches to sustaining and making the most of UK public parks.

Over the next two years the fund will back a small number of parks innovators to test and scale new business models to enable public parks to thrive in the 21st century.

As this is UK wide and likely to be very competitive, the opportunity might be limited.

Our Environment Our Future

This fund aims to invest £30 million in around 25-35 projects across the UK, each of which will support young people (aged 11-24) to improve their local environment. The projects will all be selected and supported by a lead organisation (or partnership of organisations) that will:

- link the projects together as a single coherent portfolio (having worked with us to select them)
- help the projects to scale-up or replicate successful approaches
- Facilitate sharing of best practice and learning between them (and share this more widely).

This is possibly not an ideal fund and will be hugely competitive as its UK wide.

The Scottish Land Fund

This is targeted at rural communities and Dunblane might qualify as it meets the criteria of having a population of less than 10,000. However, eligibility should be checked with the Big Lottery before progressing an application. The fund is aimed at helping communities purchase land and may provide some initial running costs. This may not be the immediate priority for Laigh Hills.

The People's Millions

The deadline for this fund is 16th May 2014, and community groups can apply for up to £50,000. The overall winners are selected by ITV audiences so project ideas will need to capture the public imagination.

Invest in Ideas

This is a useful fund as it may release up to £10,000 to assess the feasibility of an idea. Applying for this at an early stage can help appoint specialists to refine costs or project ideas which can then be subject to a larger Lottery application.

Investing in Communities

This is a major Big Lottery fund with four strands; Growing Community Assets is probably the most appropriate strand for this project. This fund normally seeks to help communities who wish to own the assets, which may include land, and then for the community to become more sustainable through improving their economic, environmental and social future through the ownership and development of the local assets.

Charitable Foundations

There are well over 1000 charitable foundations that might award grants towards a project of this type and it would not be practical to list them all here. In almost all cases, the applicant must have charitable status. The aim should be to select perhaps 5-6 likely funds which clearly state in their guidance that they would support the development of a park. Some possible funds worth targeting include:

- The Ashden Trust – UK wide, grants of usually around £10,000 are made towards sustainable regeneration, environment and community arts and sustainable energy.
- The Balcombe Trust – UK wide, approximately four grants offered per year totalling around £100,000 towards environmental projects

- Ernest Cook Trust – around £500,000 per year to give to environmental projects across the UK. Focus on young people and the environment and rural conservation
- The Peter De Haan Trust – looks to fund large scale projects that make a difference at a regional scale, and which increase understanding of nature and wildlife.
- Esmee Fairbairn Foundation – one of the larger and better known trusts which makes around £4million per year available to environmental projects across the UK. One of their strands supports biodiversity and conservation action.
- The Freshfield Foundation – supports work which helps to mitigate climate change and broader environmental work. Usually provides grants in the range £5,000 - £80,000.
- The Gannochy Trust – although this fund favours projects in Perthshire it does sometimes give grants to other areas of Scotland. One priority is care for the natural and man-made environment.
- J Paul Getty Jnr Trust – does not support sport or leisure, but will support gardens, historic landscapes and wilderness projects.
- The Robertson Trust – may help sports projects, health or community arts.
- The Waterloo Foundation – particularly interested in supporting woodland projects that can help mitigate man made climate change.
- Garfield Weston – provide around £1million per year to environmental projects

The above is simply a flavour of the types of charitable trusts available. An application should be made only if the body applying has charitable status. It is also worth gaining detailed information from each fund's website, speaking to the fund administrators by telephone and then developing a strategy based on applying to a small number of funds where the telephone response suggested that the Laigh Hills Park idea fitted exactly with the charity's aims and aspirations.

Climate Challenge Fund

This is a Scottish fund which offers grants to community groups which demonstrate that their project will provide a demonstrable and measurable reduction in CO2 emissions, while providing a lasting low carbon legacy. Examples would be projects which establish food growing or reduce food miles (e.g. allotments); projects to conserve energy (energy efficiency education and practical implementation measures) and projects which reduce private car transport (cycling, public transport as a lasting regular alternative to current car miles). At first glance Laigh Hills Park doesn't appear to meet the right criteria, but thought could be given to developing a project within the park which has CO2 reduction as a primary goal. This could be educational, but unfortunately would not cover investment in renewable energy schemes.