



Sutherland Partnership Community Project Development Scheme

1. Who Can Apply and What For?

This scheme aims to ensure that Communities who have a local development proposal can access expert development advice and assistance where necessary to help them take local projects on from the planning to the funding and implementation stages.

This scheme will be open to formally constituted voluntary groups whose membership is open to the whole community, and who are based in either North West and Central Sutherland or East Sutherland and Edderton Highland Council Wards. Assistance is discretionary and each application will be considered on its own merits.

The funding is intended to provide project development help through the employment of a community development consultant or similar by community organisations. The scheme aims to help groups to progress projects or to access specialist expertise which is not available within the group. It should therefore enable groups to progress a project which is a local priority. It will do this by allocating funding to the group to procure expertise to work for the group, generally for a short period of time.

The Community Project Development Scheme is unable to assist with ongoing general fundraising or simple development work. Applications will only be considered where the group have clearly identified what project they wish to undertake, who it would be aimed at and what benefits could be expected. Assistance is not intended to support the everyday activities of the group or to carry out simple work for which group members have the required skills.

The maximum grant is £2,000 which includes a contribution from the community group of 5%. This contribution must be in cash and not in kind.

Any constituted community group is eligible to apply for a grant. The group may only make one application per project. We cannot approve assistance to projects that have already started.

2. The Application Process

In order to apply for assistance you must complete an application form. This is available in electronic form or hard copy from: William Sutherland, Sutherland Partnership Manager, New Buildings, Main Street, Lairg, IV27 4DB. Tel: (01549) 402646 or by e-mail: williamsutherland@sutherlandpartnership.fsnet.co.uk

Return of the form in soft copy is preferred, supported by a hard copy of the signature page sent by post.

The form includes the information Sutherland Partnership will need in order to assess your application for assistance. Please fill out the form as completely as possible to avoid delays. The form must be signed by an officer bearer of the group, preferably the Chair. You can, if you wish, arrange for an appointment to run through the form with the Sutherland Partnership Manager prior to submission. The description of the work for which assistance is required must be clear and quantified as this will effectively form the brief for the work for which assistance will be given.

Once the Sutherland Partnership Manager has received the form he will contact you for any additional information or clarification needed and make a decision regarding the level of assistance that can be granted.

Where assistance is refused you will be told of the reasons in writing. Where assistance is agreed the Sutherland Partnership Manager will send you an "Offer of Grant" letter which includes the legal terms and conditions of our assistance. You will then be required to formally accept the grant before it is issued by returning one copy of this letter. The offer letter must be signed by the Chair or Vice Chair of the group.

In all cases the applicant will be required to submit a report at the end of the assisted work outlining what work was done and the outcomes (e.g. funding applied for to x number of sources, project assessed as viable/not viable etc).

OUR NEXT TRAINING OPPORTUNITY! Have you booked your place?

Local Funders Event

Monday, 27th September 2010

9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Brora Community Centre

Johnstone Place, Brora

The Programme will include presentation from:-

*Highland Council Ward Discretionary Budgets
Phil Tomalin & Andy MacKay*

*Highland Leader 2007 – 2013 Programme
Fiona Cameron*

*Scottish Natural Heritage / SRDP
Ian Mitchell*

*Community Energy Scotland
Jon Priddy / Melanie MacRae*

*Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Limited
Phil Tomalin, HC*

*Achany Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund
Joan Bishop*

*Kilbraur Windfarm Community Benefit Trust
Campbell Port*



CONTACT christine@vges.org.uk TO BOOK A PLACE

IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
ESW 'GO AND SEE' FUND	2
O4O COMMUNITY EVENT FOR OVER 55's IN HIGHLAND	2
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES	2
EQUALITY ACT 2010	3
SURF AWARDS	3
VG-ES OFFICE SERVICES	4



ESW 'GO & SEE' FUND – DEADLINE 30th SEPTEMBER

The **ESW Go & See Fund** is a travel fund for community, voluntary and environmental groups with an interest in woodland management or woodland-related developments within East Sutherland and around the Kyle of Sutherland.

If you or your group would like to meet with a woodland project elsewhere in Scotland to share ideas and experiences, this fund is available now. Throughout the summer, woodland groups will be running events across the country so why not go and see how other folk are using their woodland resource. To find out more about possible destinations, visit <http://www.communitywoods.org/map> or <http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/rural-development/projects> both of which list many inspiring community-led projects throughout Scotland. The fund can also be used in reverse and cover the costs of hosting a visit to your group by a representative from a project elsewhere in Scotland.

Applications can be made at any time and are invited for trips to take place before 30th September 2010

To download an application form visit www.highlandbirchwoods.co.uk. For more information or to request an application form, call 01463 811653 or e-mail julie.paton@highlandbirchwoods.co.uk

The East Sutherland Woodlands initiative is being led by Scottish Natural Heritage, Forestry Commission Scotland, The Highland Council, Sutherland Partnership and Sutherland Estates.

The 'Go & See' Fund is supported by Scottish Natural Heritage and Highland LEADER.



For Over 55s in Highland O4O Community Event

Tuesday 26th October 2010, 10.30 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.
National Hotel, Dingwall

Exhibition:

Information about products, services and funds which help maintain health, wellbeing, safety and independence. Specialist advice from experts from the public sector and from charities. Information about informal activities using volunteers.

Taster Sessions:

11.00 a.m.	Tele-health (there's more than helpcall)
11.45 a.m.	Integrated Memory Stimulation (ways to help memory)
1.00 p.m.	Top tips for preventing falls & maintaining balance
1.45 p.m.	Dorothy Dobson Fitness
2.15 p.m.	Laughter for wellbeing

Advice Surgeries (throughout the day):

Benefits and Income Maximisation; Voluntary Organisations; Social Enterprise

Vouchers will be given on the day for tea & coffee. Lunch will be provided for people who register for workshops. Registration on the day. Prizes and 'Freebies'! Come for the whole day or just drop in for a few minutes! Join in the taster sessions or just look around. All welcome.

For further information ☎ 01463 225894 (please leave your name and number if no reply). Or: e-mail o4o@uhi.ac.uk

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN VOLUNTARY SECTOR



Our Voluntary Groups Training Programme is part funded by the Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme and the East Sutherland & Edderton Ward Discretionary Budget.

Food Safety Training for Voluntary Groups

Monday, 4th October 2010

9.45 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Brora Community Centre, Brora

Social Enterprise Business Planning

Monday, 15th November 2010

9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Lairg Community Centre, Main Street, Lairg.

Following this session there will be an Introduction to Writing Tenders training on the 29th November to be held in the Lairg Community Centre.

Basic First Aid – one day emergency first aid training

Wednesday 24th November 2010

9.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Venue to be confirmed

If you are interested in any of these sessions please contact Christine Ross:-

E-Mail: christine@vges.org.uk or ☎ 01408 633001



WOMEN @ WORK PROJECT

Laughter is the Best Medicine – Linda Odd

Date: Friday 8th October 2010.

Time: 12 noon – 2.00 p.m.

Venue: Bonar Bridge Community Hall, Bonar Bridge

Mind Mapping – Kate Boyd

Date: Monday 8th November 2010.

Time: 12 noon – 2.00 p.m.

Venue: Fountain Road Church Hall, Golspie

Stress the Good News – Lynda Benham

Date: Monday 6th December 2010.

Time: 12 noon – 2.00 p.m.

Venue: Fountain Road Church Hall, Golspie

If you are interested in any of these courses please contact:-

Christine on ☎ 01408 633001 or

Email:- christine@vges.org.uk



Equality Act 2010

Discrimination legislation has played an important role in helping to make Britain a more equal society. However, the legislation was complex and, despite the progress that has been made, inequality and discrimination persist and progress on some issues has been stubbornly slow. [The Equality Act 2010](#) provides a new cross-cutting legislative framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all; to update, simplify and strengthen the previous legislation; and to deliver a simple, modern and accessible framework of discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society.

Latest News

The Government announced on 3 July that the first wave of implementation of the Equality Act will take place on 1 October 2010 (['Government Equalities Office simplifies legislation for business'](#)).

Provisions coming into force on 1 October 2010 will include:

- The basic framework of protection against direct and indirect discrimination, harassment and victimisation in services and public functions; premises; work; education; associations, and transport.
- Changing the definition of gender reassignment, by removing the requirement for medical supervision.
- Levelling up protection for people discriminated against because they are perceived to have, or are associated with someone who has, a protected characteristic, so providing new protection for people like carers.
- Clearer protection for breastfeeding mothers;
- Applying the European definition of indirect discrimination to all protected characteristics.
- Extending protection from indirect discrimination to disability.
- Introducing a new concept of "discrimination arising from disability", to replace protection under previous legislation lost as a result of a legal judgment.
- Making it more difficult for disabled people to be unfairly screened out when applying for jobs, by restricting the circumstances in which employers can ask job applicants questions about disability or health.
- Allowing hypothetical comparators for direct gender pay discrimination.
- Introducing new powers for employment tribunals to make recommendations which benefit the wider workforce.

The webpage [Equality Act 2010: What do I need to know?](#) contains summary guides to the Act explaining how the changes to the law affect different people and organisations and providing practical examples. It also contains quick start guides to help people understand the key measures being commenced in October.

For further information visit the website at:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/equality_act_2010.aspx

See also the Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland website for non-statutory guidance, especially guidance no. 3 under Guidance for Service Providers. This explains what equality law means for your voluntary and community sector organisation. The guidance can be accessed via their website www.equalityhumanrights.com/ea2010.



The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration is now in its 12th year. The prestigious annual awards process recognises and promotes best practice in regeneration in Scotland.

The SURF Awards is supported by the Scottish Government's Scottish Centre for Regeneration (SCR), and independently judged by a panel of representatives drawn from relevant national organisations and community groups.

If you are aware of a project or initiative that you believe deserves particular recognition, please consider nominating it for a 2010 SURF Award in one of four categories:

- People
- Place
- Partnership
- Health & Employment Partnership

The key dates for the applications process are:

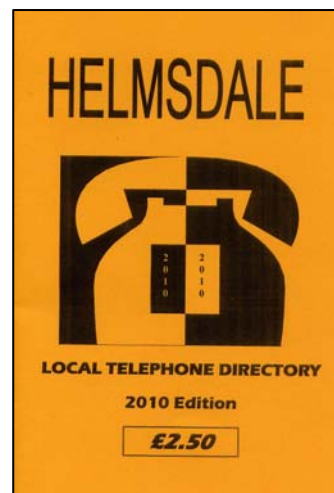
- **Monday 20th September 2010: Closing date for applications**
- Thursday 2nd December 2010: SURF Award certificates are presented at a celebratory dinner ceremony in Glasgow by Alex Neil MSP, Minister for Housing and Communities

How to apply

Further information on the entry criteria and the application process for the 2010 SURF Awards is available for download from www.scotregen.co.uk.

If you have any problems accessing the files, please contact:

Contact: Derek Rankine, Events and Communications Officer. **Tel:** 0141 585 6879. **Fax:** 0141 445 2024 or **Email:** derek@scotregen.co.uk



NEW!
2010 Edition
of the
Helmsdale
Local Telephone
Directory

Get Yours Now!
Available from
Helmsdale Post Office
or at VG-ES, Golspie

Advice and information on:-

- *Sources of Funding*
- *Grant-Aid*
- *Constitutions*
- *Charitable Status*
- *Training Courses*

**Office Services at Reduced Rates for Members Include:**

- Use of our MEETING ROOM with OHP, SLIDE PROJECTOR, POWERPOINT PROJECTOR, LAPTOP COMPUTER & SCREEN, TV/VIDEO FACILITIES. To book the room or to borrow equipment, please phone Liz for details at VG-ES ☎ 01408 633001.
- Use of our SMALL SOCIETIES LOTTERY LICENCE for 'printed ticket' raffles.
- STATIONERY FOR SALE at reduced rates: e.g. envelopes, copier paper and card (white and coloured), Plus an ordering service – stationery, sundries & office equipment.
- Use of PAPER SHREDDER – discreet disposal of unwanted documents.
- DIGITAL PHOTOCOPIER Copies in Black & Colour Improved quality reproduction, enlargement, reduction and overlay facilities. Double sided document feeder, and collating facility which sorts multi-page documents.
- TYPING and computer printing in a variety of styles plus graphics for posters, leaflets, letter heads, etc.
- RING-BINDING of booklets using either wire or plastic combs or slide binders.
- Use of FLIP CHART AND STAND.
- Use of FAX MACHINE – 05601 146813
- Loan of notice boards for temporary displays.
- Use of ADVERTISING space in the Northern Times for fund-raising activities and notify MFR What's On.
- Funderfinder - Software for Grant Seekers, helps voluntary groups to identify which Charitable Trusts might fund their work - used in conjunction with the Directory of Grant Making Trusts on CD-ROM. Results can be e-mailed to you with funders' web links.
- A4 Colour Flat Bed Scanner. We can now scan documents into our computer of both text and graphics.

- Laminator - We can laminate documents for you such as, posters, identity cards or important papers you wish to protect.
- Cold Laminator for photographs, banners and delicate originals.
- Digital Camera.
- Laptop, digital projector and screen for hire. Please contact VGES for details of terms and conditions for use.
- DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND – VG-ES is registered with the Central Body in Scotland (CRBS) to sign Disclosure applications for potential staff and volunteers who will be working with children or vulnerable adults.
- INDEPENDENT EXAMINATIONS for Receipts and Payments Accounts for organisations with charitable status. The charity must be a trust or unincorporated association established or registered in Scotland and meets the eligibility criteria. There will be a small fee for this service and an engagement contract to sign. For further information contact Christine at VG-ES.
- Events Calendar – advertise your forthcoming event on the VG-ES website www.vges.org.uk
E-Mail info to christine@vges.org.uk
- E-bulletins. Contact us if you would like to be added to our e-mail list for more news between our newsletters.

For further details phone us on 01408 633001 or call in at the VG-ES Office, Alba, Main Street, Golspie.

**NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE
from 1 October 2010**

From 1 October 2010 the National Minimum Wage will increase as follows.

Workers aged 16-17	£3.64 per hour
Workers aged 18-20	£4.92 per hour
Workers aged 21 and over	£5.93 per hour

The next issue of this Newsletter will be
December 2010.

Please send information to be included by the end of
November 2010 to:

VG-ES, Alba, Main Street, Golspie, KW10 6TG.

Tel: 01408 633001 Fax: 05601 146813

Or email your information to: contact@vges.org.uk