## **Lairg Community Council**

Mr Melvyn Mckeown Technical Manager REG Windpower

## Strath Tirry Wind Farm - Community Benefit Fund

Dear Melvyn,

I trust you are well and thank you for your for your time in meeting myself and our Community Initiatives on 25th July 2018 in connection with the proposed Strath Tirry development being brought forward and for your letter following this meeting on 7th September 2018. Since then, the Lairg and District Community Initiatives have undertaken public consultations on possible projects for the funds, and upon our feedback, I am now in a position to respond to your letters.

The Lairg Community Council and Lairg and District Community Initiatives were delighted to hear of plans being progressed and development for the proposed 4 turbine wind farm being brought forward into planning in early 2019 and would welcome further updates throughout the planning process.

As discussed during our meeting on 25th July 2018 and outlined in your letter, the Community Benefit of £5,000.00 per MW of installed capacity if the project is consented by The Highland Council. We agree that these payments should benefit the Lairg and District community only. We welcome the figures based on the minimum capacity of the project, that would produce £50,000 minimum per annum, or approximately £1.25 million for the operational life of the wind farm. As Community Council chair, I am delighted to accept your offer and I am happy you agree that should be retained solely within Lairg and District

With regards to how the Community Benefit Fund should be managed, The Lairg Community Council and the Lairg and District Community Initiatives would welcome the funds paid directly to the LDCI to enable us to ring fence the money for specific projects. This methodology will also ensure that the monies are used for the benefit of all members of the community in Lairg and District without precedence being given to one particular area. As you are aware, REG have been party to discussions with LDCI on possible routes for expenditure of the money throughout the community and are in the final stages of consultation on a initiative to create assisted housing within the village for our ageing residents, which is an example of how these payments could be ring fenced for specific projects.

At the point application is submitted, we would be happy to have a further discussion with you as to how the money can be used in detail and look forward to meeting you in due course.

Yours Sincerely,

Andrew Mackay

Chair, Lairg Community Council