

Welcome to our August 2016 Ballynagran Basin Residents newsletter. The Ballynagran Basin is defined as the Small Grant Scheme Area designated by the Ballynagran Landfill Liaison Committee. This area comprises of householders who are most impacted by the Ballynagran Landfill Facility. We would like to take this opportunity to update you all on the projects that we are involved in and on potential ideas/funding.

See below

- **Update on Wind Turbine**
- **New Community Grant 2016**
- **Want to help us make a difference?**



Update on Single Small Community Wind Turbine

As many of you are aware we were granted planning permission by Wicklow County Council for a single wind turbine last year. The application was taken to An Bórd Pleánala on appeal and although the board inspector deemed no technical issues with location, sound, sight, health or environment. Regrettably the permission was denied by a 3 man board on the basis that Wicklow County Council do not currently have a strategy for single wind turbines. The decision is given below.

In the absence of an overall strategy for the development of wind energy in this area designated as 'most favoured' for wind energy in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2010 – 2015, it is considered that the provision of a single wind turbine would represent a haphazard and uncoordinated approach to wind energy development. The proposed development would, therefore, be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

On the basis of this decision a single wind turbine is currently not aligned with the County Wicklow Wind Energy Strategy Plan, however we are still investigating options around this and other potential energy projects to benefit the community. We will keep you informed of future developments.

New Community Grant Scheme 2016

A new community grant scheme is now open for applications. We have had great success in previous years. In particular, in the last round we were able to obtain a grant to assist 5 homeowners nearest to the landfill to significantly improve the energy efficiency of their homes. This included insulation, new boilers, solar panels and wood burners.

Previously we renovated classrooms in Glenealy National School and upgraded walkways. We would be interested in doing this retrofit project again, so if you are a home owner, live in close proximity to the landfill, have a home with a poor BER and are willing to give time to improving your home please get in contact.

Do you have any other ideas for a community scheme?

Any group or individual can put in a proposal. If you have something in mind or are willing to get involved to help the community we may be able to help get your proposal into the liaison group.

Our strategy would be that the project does not have to be energy related but that can improve the quality of life for those living in the Ballynagran Basin.

For example these could be viable projects but not limited to local

- Tourism
- Walkways
- Employment
- Green transport initiative
- Projects to improve access/security for the community and elderly

The community-grant scheme has a maximum cap of €50,000 of which those involved must raise minimum 5% of the amount and volunteer work is also required. This is a great opportunity for us to have maximum impact on our immediate surroundings.

Completed application forms should be returned to the Office of Community, Cultural and Social Development not later than 12 noon on Thursday 27th October, 2016

See rules and application form at

<http://www.wicklow.ie/ballynagran-environmental-community-project-works-grant-scheme-2016>

Want to help us make a difference?

As always, we are seeking new members for the Ballynagran Energy Plus+ group.

Please contact Pat King

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