



# AGM REPORT

## CAITHNESS & NORTH SUTHERLAND FUND



Year 6 Interim Report  
October 2017



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## CNSFund Overview

The Caithness & North Sutherland Fund was established by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, DSRL and Dounreay Stakeholder Group to distribute funding to community organisations for projects that will increase the attractiveness of Caithness & North Sutherland as a place to live, work and invest with particular emphasis on achieving environment, social, culture and infrastructure improvements.

A £4M funding package is being provided by the NDA as a planning condition of D3100, the low-level waste facility built near Dounreay. The NDA provided £1m at the start of construction in 2011 and £300,000 in 2014 and each year until 2023. The funding is distributed in line with the NDA’s socio economic policy and funding applications are assessed quarterly by the Caithness & North Sutherland Fund Community Benefit Package Committee.

Responsibility for the day-to-day management and funding decision-making of the CNSFund rests with the Board. The Board comprises of four individuals appointed to represent the local community as a result of an open application process and three Highland Councillors from Caithness & North Sutherland nominated by the Highland Council.

The CNSF CBP Committee (which is established by the Board) has responsibility only for considering and approving the distribution of grants. The members of the CBP Committee comprise of the Board and the Observers nominated by DSRL and the NDA. The role of the Observers is to gain an overview of governance and financial management and to ensure that funding decisions are in accordance with the NDA’s socio economic policy.

The CNSFund employs an administrative assistant and fund coordinator to administer the Fund and to coordinate the funding applications it receives as well as manage the Fund’s day to day operations.

**The Board**

Comprising (i) up to three individuals nominated by the Council; and (ii) four individuals elected by Members.

**The CNSF CBP Committee**

Comprising (i) the Board; and (ii) the Observers.



## Chairperson's Report

This year we find ourselves at a significant milestone for the Caithness and North Sutherland Fund as 2017 is now half way through the Fund's lifetime plan. At this noteworthy stage, the Fund has committed a total of £1,673,669 towards one hundred and thirty community projects with a total value estimated to be in excess of £7M. This is a substantial amount of inward investment for this area and we continue to be heartened that, as a result of the good level of interest and community development activity across the area, we have been able to maintain our spend at a level that is on target with the Fund's lifetime plan.

Since our last AGM, the Fund has held four assessment meetings and has considered twenty four applications awarding a total of £170,869 to fifteen worthy community projects.

We have continued to see a reasonable level of enquiries and applications coming forward however this year has seen a decrease in comparison to the previous two years which were particularly high. We have promoted the Fund at a number of community events and funding fayres throughout the year and continue to encourage enterprising applicants to come forward with their plans.

Our Coordinator also attended the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's Stakeholder Summit in Cumbria along with other local stakeholders to highlight our achievements and investment of the NDA funding we receive. At the summit, the Caithness & North Sutherland representatives presented a joined up approach towards ensuring a sustainable future for the Dounreay travel to work area and a lot of interest was shown towards the wide range of successful socio-economic initiatives being delivered throughout our area.

In addition to the quarterly assessment meetings, the Board held its annual review meeting in February and found our criteria and application processes to be working well in order to meet the Fund's aims and objectives. The recorded feedback from applicants was also reviewed and continues to be extremely positive.

The Board also reviewed the current administrative workload which had increased over the years and felt it was inevitable that the level of capacity would increase over the Fund's lifetime plan. In March this year, we advertised for a part-time administrative assistant and we were delighted to welcome Lynn McIntosh as our new administrative assistant.

Following the local elections In June, the Highland Council appointed Cllr Nicola Sinclair and Cllr Donnie Mackay as CNSF Council Directors. The Fund's Nominations Committee also carried out an open recruitment process in September to fill the scheduled appointed director board vacancies. Graeme McDonald and Gillian Coghill were the successful candidates to be nominated as appointed directors at our 2017 AGM.

Finding myself at this half way point in the Fund's projected lifetime plan, looking back at the hard work that went in to setting up the Fund and the commitment given by all concerned, it is very pleasing to see the impressive range of inspiring community projects that the Fund has been able to support. I am sure as I retire as the last of the original Board members, the Board will continue to ensure best investment over the remainder of the programme. **I would like to again take this opportunity to encourage community groups to continue coming forward with exciting proposals that deliver an essential contribution to the sustainable future of Caithness & North Sutherland.** This will assist the Board in its efforts to ensure that the Fund continues to be invested well.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Board members and advisors, past and present, for all the support and wise counsel they have given me. Also to our Coordinator David Shearer who, as the face of the Fund in the community, has been such an excellent ambassador for us. Lastly and perhaps most importantly to me personally, thank you to the friends I have made and for the knowledge I have gained while being part of this programme.

Frances Gunn  
October 2017

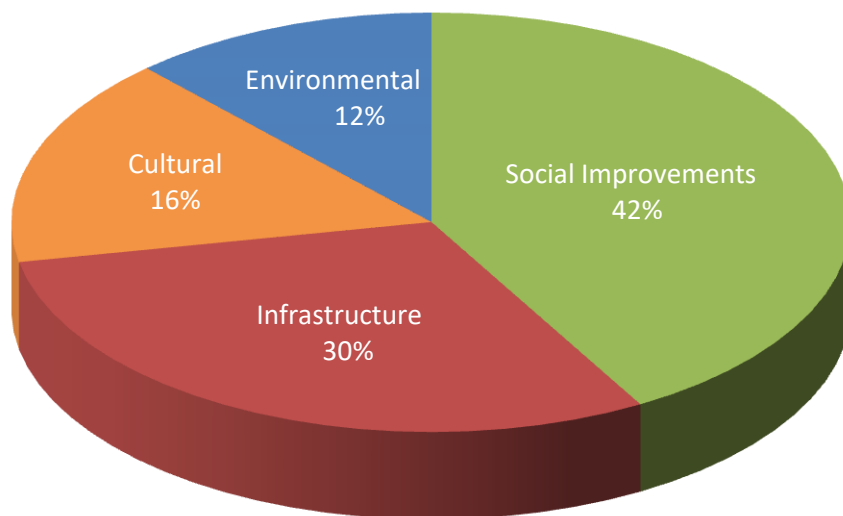
## 2017 Statistic Report



Our funding is distributed in line with the NDA’s socio economic policy and must benefit people living in the Dounreay travel to work area. Funding applications are assessed quarterly by the Caithness & North Sutherland Fund Community Benefit Package Committee. To date, the Committee has held twenty three assessment meetings and have assessed a total of 157 funding applications.

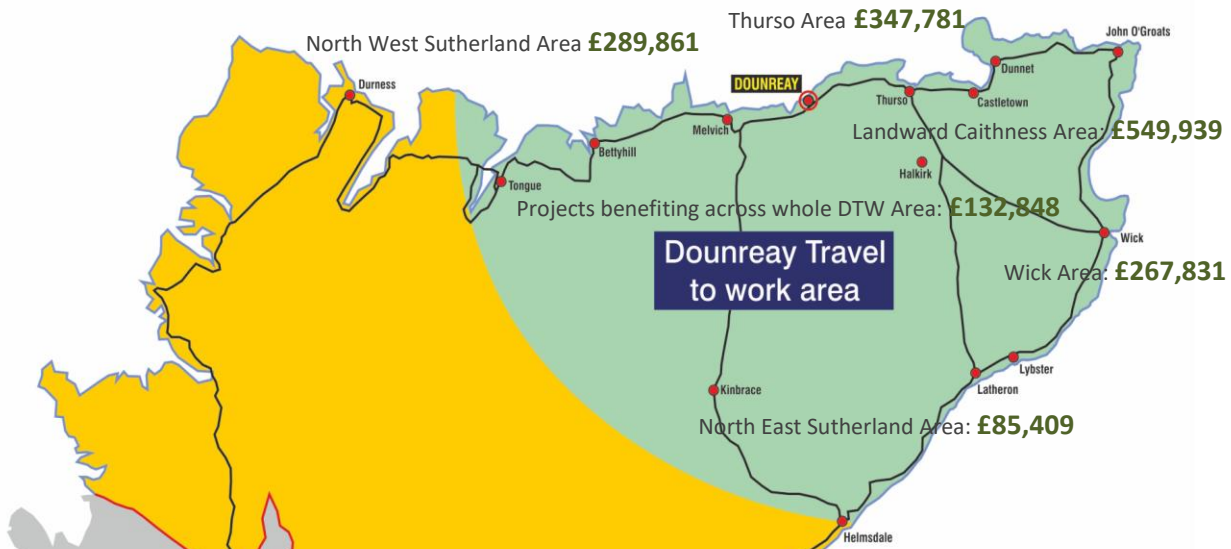


**2017** marks an important milestone for the CNSFund as this sees us reach half way through the Fund's lifetime plan. At this significant stage, the Fund has committed a total of **£1,673,669** towards one hundred and thirty community projects with a total value estimated to be in excess of **£7 million**. These wide ranging community projects deliver a major improvement impact throughout the Dounreay travel to work area under one or more of our improvement themes.



## Geographic Allocation

The CNSFund has committed funding support to a wide range of community improvement projects throughout the Dounreay travel to work area. The map below shows the Fund's catchment area as well as a breakdown of the geographic allocation of the funding approved by the Community Benefit Package Committee.



## Project Investment Value

The **130** improvement projects being supported by the CNSFund is projected to attract almost **£5m** in partnership funding. Community groups are also contributing an in-kind value of around **£500k** toward these projects. This gives a total estimated project value of **£7m**. A geographic breakdown of this is shown in the table below.

Geographic Area	CNSF Awarded	Leverage Funds	In Kind Value	Project Cost
North West Sutherland	289,861	723,276	32,566	1,045,703
Thurso	347,781	1,216,318	108,816	1,672,907
Wick	267,831	541,184	130,814	925,647
Landward Caithness	549,939	1,389,199	113,709	2,052,847
North East Sutherland	85,409	692,909	102,422	880,740
Projects benefiting across whole DTWA	132,848	339,357	26,089	498,294
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,673,669</b>	<b>£4,902,242</b>	<b>£514,415</b>	<b>£7,076,137</b>



## Castletown Heritage Society

### ‘A Window on the Hidden Bronze Age Landscape of Caithness’

Castletown Heritage Society is a community led organisation who manages the Castlehill Heritage Centre as an educational resource for visitors, local students, school children and the wider community. The society is a very active group and has established itself as a substantial community organisation with a strong local following. They deliver a wide ranging programme of interpretive exhibitions and interactive workshops promoting interest and understanding of the history, heritage, vernacular skills and environment of Castletown and the parish of Olig. In 2008 they also launched a new community-owned archaeological research facility within the Castlehill Heritage Centre which records around 2,500 visitors annually.

A recent Airborne Laser Scanning Survey (LiDAR) of the Caithness Landscape had revealed extensive and previously unrecorded traces of prehistoric settlement and agriculture in the Caithness landscape. The traces which included numerous possible hut circles, the remains of prehistoric roundhouses, were characteristic of the Bronze Age. The Society sought permission to make use of the survey and put together a programme of archaeological activity that would engage the local community in researching, interpreting and recording archaeological information on this newly revealed and previously unknown aspect of the Caithness landscape.

The project placed significant emphasis on encouraging community participation by individuals not normally involved in heritage-based activities, by providing a wide range of different approaches to investigating and interpreting the historical landscape.

***“I had never done this before and have a re-awakened interest in archaeology, in particular Caithness archaeology.”***

The project included the delivery of a Summer School of classroom based workshops and various practical field work activity. A range of participative workshops were also delivered including a specific Young Person’s Bronze Age Experience Workshop involving local school pupils. Public lectures were also held and an exhibition has been installed at Castlehill Heritage Centre as a permanent display of the project outcomes. The exhibition also includes a digital resource featuring the prehistoric landscape of Caithness and the LiDAR data. A final archaeological report by the appointed AOC Archaeology Group was also produced presenting the results and conclusions of the excavations and survey carried out at Skail, North East of Baillie Hill, which demonstrates the occupation and agricultural activity in both the earlier and middle Bronze Age.



Castletown Heritage Society project management team



## Thrumster Primary Parent Council

### ‘Thrumster Primary Outdoor Pavilion Project’

Thrumster Primary Parent Council is a voluntary body which promotes the partnership between the school, its pupils and parents to develop and engage in activities which support the welfare and education of the children. The parent council also raise money on behalf of its pupils and have funded a number of improvements and activities such as establishing a low level timber trail and tarmac resurfacing with children’s games markings.

In 2014, the Scottish Community Development Centre was commissioned to explore options for future community developments within the Tannach area. The work highlighted the local primary school as being the heart of the community. A need to improve facilities for young people within the village was considered one of the priorities for the area. A purpose built outdoor pavilion that would serve both the school and wider community was an idea initially put forward by the pupils. At an open day the whole community was encouraged to be involved in the design of the facility ensuring wider community needs were taken into account.

Groundworks began in November 2015 and the log pavilion was erected on site in January. An opening ceremony was then held in May to formally declare the facility opened and the event was well supported by the whole community.

As well as being used by the school pupils to enhance their extra-curricular education experience, the new pavilion is also being used by the local playgroup and village hall during its many outdoor activities such as the local Gala which takes place within the school grounds. The innovative facility is also being well used for other community and charity events and a Christmas Fayre with Santa is also being planned.

***“The new outdoor pavilion has enhanced the appearance of the school field and the sign of investment and improvement in amenities within our community gives a positive appearance to all who pass.”***



*Thrumster Primary Outdoor Pavilion*



*Opening Ceremony*

## Dunbeath & District Centre

### ‘Kitchen Equipment Upgrade Project’

Dunbeath & District Centre provides a vital role in helping the 50 + age group to continue to live in their own homes within the community, enhancing their quality of life through social contact and participative activities. It also acts as an emergency centre during extended road closures as it is ideally situated close to the A9 and has been used on numerous occasions. The management committee, along with staff and their twenty three loyal volunteers, strive to build community capacity and encourage the whole community to come along and get involved.

The community health and wellbeing facility has continued to develop over the years and now has over one hundred and thirty registered users. The Centre provides a two course hot meal with tea/coffee and home-baking. They also offer a laundry service, showering facilities, hairdressing service, photo copying, internet access, book CD, DVD and magazine swap.

The Centre is open five days per week and encourages intergenerational contact through activities appealing to mixed age groups. There are excursions, weekly outings and invited guest speakers as well as a wide range of participative activities are also provided which include craft group, yoga and tripudio sessions, board games, computer classes, readers group, whist drive and patchwork/quilting classes and a Christmas party and Christmas week at the Centre.

The Centre produces around eighty five hot, home cooked meals each week along with home-baking, teas and coffees. The outdated kitchen equipment was in real need of improvement. Funding was granted to buy new industrial standard kitchen appliances of dishwasher, fridge and gas cooker. The project was successfully completed in June 2015.

***“The new equipment brings our kitchen equipment up to date, delivering a legacy project that ensures we have a functioning kitchen for many years to come.”***



*Dunbeath & District Centre*



*Inter-generational cooking at the Centre*

## Dunnet Forestry Trust

### ‘Woodchipper & Container Project’

Dunnet Forestry Trust, a voluntary community woodland group that manages Dunnet Forest, the most northerly community woodland on the British mainland. Their vision is for Dunnet Forest to be a forest managed by the community with rich and varied wildlife and a place in which to learn about, respect and enjoy the natural environment.

The forest averages over 100 visitors per day recording over 55,000 visitors annually. The Trust proactively manages the 104 hectare forest and involves the community through its numerous activities. The Trust employs part-time foresters and has membership of over 500 local people. It is very well supported by an active pool of volunteers and holds a wide range of innovative forest activities and family events involving a range of local groups. The Trust has also won numerous Scotland’s Finest Woods Awards.

A continuous programme of forest maintenance and pathways is undertaken by the Trust’s foresters and many volunteers. Ongoing clearing and management of greenery and small branches is essential to ensure that the forest remains tidy and safe to allow for tree planting, further improvements as well as ensuring a safe freedom of movement for its visitors.

The large accumulation of brash was impeding freedom of movement within the forest, affecting wildlife habitat and becoming increasing time consuming to manage.

The Trust sought funds to buy a woodchipper and storage container to manage the forest brash and pathway maintenance. The new equipment was successfully installed and the paths and wildlife habitat have been greatly improved.

***“We are now able to manage the community woodland more efficiently ensuring the forest continues to be a safe environment to be enjoyed by all as a major recreational resource.”***



*Volunteers clearing forest after recent storms*



*Forest area cleared and planted*



*Dunnet forest woodland shelter*



## Friends of Newton Hill Woodland Group

### ‘Derelict Croft House to Community Shelter Conversion Project’

The Friends of Newton Hill Woodland are a voluntary community group established in 2002. Their aims are to promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment at Newton Hill Community Woodland for the benefit of the local community, the wider Caithness and Sutherland community and visiting tourists.

The woodland group was originally formed to carry out this role at the Newton Hill previous Highland Council site which was closed in 2008. Acting on experiences and enquiries relating to the lack of these types of facilities at the previous site, the group consulted with the community to test the level of interest. Within the local area they received numerous letters from organisations wishing to use such a facility including the support of the Landward and Wick Councillors and Tannach & District Community Council. Acting on that level of support, they enlisted the services of a Chartered Architect, drew up plans, obtained planning permission and building warrant for the conversion of the derelict croft house leased from Forestry Commission Scotland into a community cottage shelter facility.

The new community facility was officially opened in June 2015 by the Lord Lieutenant of Caithness, Miss Anne Dunnet. The derelict croft house has been sympathetically restored by a local firm using traditional materials and methods. The original slated roof has been repaired, the walls have been picked and pointed with lime mortar, wood panelling has replaced plasterboard, a flagstone floor has been installed and a wood burning stove fitted. A wood panelled porch has replaced the old breeze-block extension.

The Friends researched local sources with regard to the cottage heritage and materials have also been gathered illustrating its past as a working croft.

The cottage has already provided a suitable venue for a variety of community events thus enhancing biodiversity, education, conservation, fitness and health making the community a better place to live and work.

***“This project has enabled much greater use to be made of the woodland through providing shelter, toilet and kitchen facilities to cottage users and especially to visiting schools, youth and disadvantaged groups.”***



*Newton Hill Woodland  
Community Cottage Shelter*



*Newton Hill Woodland  
Community Cottage Shelter*

## Castletown Community Project

### ‘Castletown Community Play Park Project’

Castletown Community Project is a community group established in 2012 to address the issue of play deprivation in the village of Castletown. The local community had highlighted the need to improve a number of derelict sites within the village and the poor condition of the village play park was felt to be a priority.

The group proceeded to undertake an impressive drive of activity that included extensive community consultation, research and planning in order to get the new play park project underway. Following a consultation process involving the local school and wider community, a range of modern innovative play equipment to suit all ages was selected. Being well supported by their community, they began a wide range of fundraising activities as well as successfully securing funding from a number of funding bodies in order to meet their target.

The new play park was completed in February 2015 and has provided a long term improvement for the village.

The new play equipment & surfacing was installed to provide a safe, fun and stimulating environment for young folk and an area families can all enjoy together. The park includes new benches for families to sit at, picnic paths that are accessible for prams and wheelchairs as well as modern play equipment to benefit a wide range of age groups.

*“The success of the park has been phenomenal! We are so glad to have taken this on and couldn't have done it without the support of local funding opportunities.”*

***“The play park project has given us a real feeling of our community coming together. The area is being enjoyed by so many different age groups. It is a joy to see the park so busy with locals and visitors to the village.”***



Castletown Play Park



Castletown Play Park

## Rush.dance

### ‘Rush.dance Studio Project’

Rush.dance are a not-for-profit voluntary organisation providing dance classes, workshops, demonstrations, competitions and dance fitness projects for children. Rush.dance also has a team of kids that travel throughout the country attending major competitions representing Caithness. They provide a fun, friendly environment for children to come along and learn dance with a focus on getting children involved in an activity that increases fitness levels and confidence as well as improving co-ordination and co-operation with others.

Since starting in 2010, Rush.dance experienced an increasing demand for its classes and practice sessions and hiring numerous halls to deliver classes was becoming more restrictive. Getting their own premises was felt to be the best solution to enable the group to provide more sessions and allow the dance group to continue developing. After identifying suitable premises in Thurso, funding was sought to refurbish the building into a fit for purpose dance studio.

Rush.dance new “the Edge dance studio” was officially opened in June 2015. The building has been transformed from an empty warehouse into a modern dance studio. The main studio area has 98m<sup>2</sup> of dance flooring, a full wall of mirrors, and is fully air conditioned. The building also has a reception area, waiting area for parents, changing room, toilets and disabled access.

Since the new studio has opened, Rush.dance has been able to not only increase the number of classes they can offer but have also introduced classes in other styles of dance. The dance group are no longer restricted to when they can practise and are now able to train in one of the very best dance facilities available in the North of Scotland.

*“Having this studio now means that our kids can have the best place to practice whenever they want!”*

***“We are delighted with the interest we’ve had in the studio since completing the project. Membership has doubled and we’ve also introduced various other styles of dance classes so now there is something to suit every child.”***



*The Edge Dance Studio Opening Ceremony*



*The Edge Dance Studio*



## Farr Primary Parent Council

### ‘Outdoor Multi-Use Sports Area Project’

Farr Primary Parent Council is an experienced voluntary parent body that has successfully delivered a number of community projects for its community and was appointed as the appropriate group to help turn a derelict area of land into an outdoor multi use sports area for both the schools and community to use.

Both Farr High School and Primary School Pupil Councils and the wider community had highlighted the need to improve the outdoor facilities available in the area. A partnership approach involving other local bodies including Tongue and Farr Sports Association worked together on how best to deliver the outdoor multi use area that would benefit both schools and the wider community. The redevelopment of the derelict tennis courts situated on Farr High campus in Bettyhill was identified as the appropriate site that would deliver the maximum community benefit.

The new facility was completed in September 2015 and the all-weather outdoor sports area now provides both the schools and wider community with access to a range of outdoor sports activities. Outwith school times and across holiday periods, Tongue and Farr Sports Association also manages the facility for the wider community to use.

Bettyhill's new MUGA facility is a fantastic asset for the village and is used by other local sports clubs for regular training and coaching sessions. It is also used daily by the schools and for after school activities.

The multi-use facility has removable nets and posts to enable a wide range of sports to be played on it such as tennis, basketball, hockey, 5-a-side football and shinty. Local children also use it outwith school hours and with the inclusion of floodlighting they are able to continue play through the evenings.

***“We are delighted to see our new MUGA finally come to fruition and all the hard work has certainly paid off. It is an absolute joy to see everyone getting so much enjoyment from it.”***



Outdoor Multi-Use Sports Area

## Transport for Tongue Ltd

### ‘T4T 15 seater disabled access vehicle Project’

Transport for Tongue (T4T) was originally formed in 2009 funded through a project called “Older People for Older People” which was an EU Northern Periphery Programme with T4T operating under Melness & Tongue Community Development Trust.

In 2012, T4T became incorporated as a company limited by guarantee as a social enterprise existing for the benefit of the parish of Tongue serving the three villages; Tongue, Melness & Skerray.

T4T was formed as a result of numerous consultations conducted in the community which identified a significant lack of transport provision as its priority need. To address this, the community transport body sought funding assistance to purchase a new 15 seater minibus with disabled access to provide registered routes under a section 22 transport permit.

This project has significantly improved the local transport infrastructure of this rural community by providing community transport to link the three villages of the parish of Tongue to each other and to the nearest town, rail link and city. The group are now well established and continue to develop its transport infrastructure services for its community.

***“This project has enabled us to improve people’s access to local amenities, health and other public services as well as promoting social inclusion.”***



*Transport for Tongue New Minibus*



*Transport for Tongue New Minibus*

## Caithness Rugby Football Club

### ‘Four Change Room Rugby & Associated Facilities Project’

Caithness Rugby Football Club (CRFC) was first established in 1962 supporting the promotion of and participation in rugby union for micro, mini, midi, U18 and senior teams throughout the county of Caithness. CRFC had a pre-fabricated basic two changing room facility at the Millbank Playing fields in Thurso which was gifted to the club in 1962 by the UKAEA. The facility was very basic, had undergone a great deal of repairs and was coming to an end of its useful life.

The sports club had for many years identified the need for replacement facilities. The club undertook a substantial programme of fundraising events and sought funding assistance towards building a new four changing room rugby pavilion with associated facilities to replace its old pre-fabricated hut.

The new sports pavilion was officially opened in May 2014. The new facility is also being well used by other sports groups in the area such as athletics, football, dancing and kickboxing. In addition, a number of non-sporting organisations are also making regular use of the main clubroom for meetings and events.

***“The pavilion is a significant milestone in the club’s development plan and this project has provided us with a modern fit for purpose facility making it a very attractive club for both existing residents of Caithness and North Sutherland and for new people moving to the area.”***



Caithness Rugby Football Club Sports Pavilion



Caithness Rugby Football Club Sports Pavilion

## Watten Improvements Group

### ‘Watten Play Area Refurbishment Project’

Watten Improvements Group (WIG) was formed in 2012 to improve recreational facilities and activities to enhance the quality of life for residents in the Watten and district area. The community had highlighted that the old play park was felt to be an eyesore and was making the village seem unattractive from the main road.

The group sought funding assistance towards refurbishing the village play park with a range of stimulating play equipment including a tunnel slide, cable ride, sunken trampoline, basket swing and a play unit in the style of a boat for the younger children. The whole area was also to be covered with a safety surface to enable the play area to be enjoyed all year round. WIG engaged with its community throughout the design process and the community undertook an impressive fundraising programme holding numerous events to achieve their funding target.

The play park was completed in January 2014 and the new play area has provided the village of Watten with better recreational facilities for children and families, increasing the attractiveness of the area as a place to live work and invest in.

***“The play area is improving the lives of the local community and is promoting healthy living. It is bringing people together and has made our small local community stronger for the future. It has also been attracting families out to visit our village benefitting all services in our community.”***



Watten Play Park



Watten Play Park



## Wick Coastal Rowing Club

### ‘Wick Coastal Rowing Club Project’

The Wick Coastal Rowing Club (WCRC) was set up in August 2012. Coastal Rowing Clubs are part of a Scotland wide initiative of the Scottish Fisheries Museum, Anstruther, to re-introduce inter-community rowing. The aim of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Initiative is to provide a relatively inexpensive entry to the sport by using purpose designed Skiff rowing boats which can be built by the communities who will be rowing the boats rather than buying completed boats from professional boat builders.

The nearest clubs to Caithness are Helmsdale, Ullapool, Achiltibuie Ardersier and Avoch. The clubs regularly hold practices, regattas and rowing meets all around the Scottish coast and hundreds of new participants have enjoyed the teamwork required to build and race the Skiffs. As well as meeting new friends, participants meet and learn about other communities and establish strong links that are mutually beneficial.

The community club sought funding assistance towards the club’s start-up costs and for the construction of three Skiff rowing boats to enable the club to organise rowing tuition and races for teams. The Skiffs comprise a plywood kit that is built into a 22 ft long boat taking around 1200 hrs of voluntary labour.

The club’s volunteers successfully built two skiffs “Spirit O’ Wick” and "Pulteney Lass” and have participated in a range of community events, galas and competitions. The club aims to act as a catalyst to spread the sport of coastal rowing to other harbours across northern Scotland with a vision to see a fleet of skiffs providing sport and entertainment for local communities eager to maintain and strengthen their maritime heritage.

***“The building of the skiffs has attracted a wide range of volunteers of all ages and brought together folk who would never have met ordinarily. Similarly, rowing the skiffs has generated interest from all ages and abilities – it is an ideal way of becoming and keeping fit and friendships are being formed across the whole community.”***



John O'Groats Harbour Day



Loch Broom, Ullapool

## Timespan - Helmsdale Heritage and Arts Society

### ‘Translocation Excavation Project’

Timespan has developed from a small local heritage centre to an award-winning museum in the village of Helmsdale. Timespan is a four star visitor attraction and is the only independent contemporary art gallery in Sutherland. Timespan sought funding assistance towards a community excavation project to unearth information about a traumatic period in the community’s history.

The Translocation Excavation was a community-led excavation of a longhouse at Caen in the Strath of Kildonan and was part of a programme of events marking the Bicentenary of the Kildonan Clearances 1813-2013.

The excavation programme also included a wide variety of community activities including research field trips, training and workshops as well an events programme with local schools. A significant number of artefacts were discovered through the community excavation, many of which were broken in unusual ways suggesting that the tenants of the longhouse had left in a hurry.

A virtual digital reconstruction of the longhouse developed by St Andrews University was also produced and is now on display at the Timespan museum ensuring a long term legacy of the project. The project also attracted substantial press and media coverage and Timespan received international recognition at numerous conferences and were awarded a 2014 Creative Scotland Creative Place Award.

***“This was a memorable event – as much for its novelty as for its potential to unearth history and the local community were positively engaged with developments at every stage of the project.”***



*Volunteers excavating at the longhouse site*



*School children visiting the excavation site*



## Projects Approved by the CNSF CBP Committee

The table below shows the projects that have been awarded funding in each of the Dounreay travel to work area communities. The table also details which of the Funds improvement themes (Environmental (E), Social (S), Cultural (C), Infrastructure (I)) each project is delivering for their area as well as the projected total funding leverage and value of each awarded project.

Projects weighted to Benefitting Whole DTW Area		Project Cost	Leverage Funds	In Kind Value	CNSF Awarded	Improvement Themes			
Organisation	Project					E	S	C	I
Caithness Citizens Advice Bureau	Volunteer Recruitment, Training Support Project	24,785.00	13,341.00	0.00	11,444.00		✓		
Melvich Gaelic Choir	Pan Celtic International Festival	80,500.00	75,500.00	0.00	5,000.00			✓	
Caithness Big Band	Bring The Band Outside Project	6,904.00	4,766.00	0.00	2,138.00		✓	✓	✓
Elise Lyall School of Highland Dance	Scotdance 2013 Canada Project	21,600.00	19,600.00	0.00	2,000.00		✓	✓	
Advocacy Highland	Caithness Advocate Project	23,582.37	6,241.52	200.00	17,140.85		✓		✓
Caithness Agricultural Society	New Portable Toilets & Sheep Gates Project	10,694.40	5,347.20	0.00	5,347.20	✓	✓	✓	✓
No Limits Caithness	No Limits Project	66,824.04	56,824.04	0.00	10,000.00		✓		
HomeAid Caithness & Sutherland	Homeaid Delivery Van Project	21,015.84	14,010.56	0.00	7,005.28	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tanya Horne Dancers Committee	Tracksuits & Dance Equipment Project	8,376.50	4,188.25	0.00	4,188.25		✓	✓	
Caithness Canine Club	Agility Equipment Project	3,524.00	2,000.00	0.00	1,524.00		✓		✓
Science 03	Caithness International Science Festival	35,600.00	16,000.00	14,600.00	5,000.00	✓	✓	✓	
Caithness Voluntary Group	Caithness Rural Transport Community Minibus	41,148.00	26,148.00	0.00	15,000.00		✓		✓
Highlife Highland - Activer Schools	Extra-Curricular Physical Activities for All	21,544.17	6,093.68	855.60	14,594.89		✓		
The Conservation Volunteers Scotland	Working for Caithness Project	95,990.00	75,990.00	0.00	20,000.00	✓	✓		
Caithness Broch Project	The Caithness Broch Festival 2017	32,989.30	12,556.30	10,433.00	10,000.00			✓	
Home-Start Caithness	IT Upgrade Project	3,216.00	750.00	0.00	2,466.00		✓		✓
<b>Totals</b>		<b>498,293.62</b>	<b>339,356.55</b>	<b>26,088.60</b>	<b>132,848.47</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>
North West Sutherland Area		Project Cost	Leverage Funds	In Kind Value	CNSF Awarded	Improvement Themes			
Organisation	Project					E	S	C	I
Bettyhill Village Hall	Bettyhill Village Hall Performance Improvements	13,055.00	6,738.00	1,825.00	4,492.00		✓	✓	
Transport for Tongue	T for T 16 seater disabled access vehicle Project	58,378.00	30,000.00	8,320.00	20,058.00		✓		✓
Mackay Country Community Trust Limited	MCCT- Establishing a Social Enterprise Project	52,181.00	21,444.00	3,081.00	27,656.00		✓	✓	✓
Tongue & Farr Sports Ass	Clear Water Project	62,002.00	37,202.00	0.00	24,800.00	✓	✓	✓	✓
North Coast Community Transport Ass	Replacement Minibus Project	13,270.00	7,270.00	0.00	6,000.00		✓		✓
Strathnaver Museum	Museum Development Project	50,146.67	24,000.00	3,500.00	22,646.67		✓	✓	
Farr Edge 2000	Children & Youth Club Project	25,800.00	4,300.00	8,000.00	13,500.00		✓		
House of Gaelic - Melness	Rob Donn - Songs Still Sung Project	18,702.00	11,412.00	2,290.00	5,000.00		✓	✓	
HC Farr High School Fund	Outdoor Multi-use Sports Area Project	84,000.00	74,000.00	0.00	10,000.00		✓		✓
North Coast Connection	Kyle Centre Development Project	354,920.00	324,920.00	0.00	30,000.00	✓	✓		
Transport for Tongue Ltd	T4T North Highland College UHI Link Project	21,188.50	6,753.00	0.00	14,435.50		✓		✓
House of Gaelic - Melness	Dr'ine - The Songs of Rob Donn Project	20,300.00	12,600.00	1,200.00	6,500.00		✓	✓	
North Sutherland Outdoor Bowling Club	Outdoor Bowling Green Feasibility Project	11,594.00	5,000.00	0.00	6,594.00		✓		✓
Tongue Village Hall Committee	Hall Energy Saving Project	16,100.00	9,072.00	0.00	7,028.00		✓	✓	✓
CVS North	CVS North Project Development Consultant	54,430.00	28,847.90	0.00	25,582.10		✓		✓
Melness & Tongue Community Development Trust	Tongue & Area Walking Network Booklet	5,470.00	550.00	620.00	4,300.00		✓		✓
Strathnaver Museum	Volunteer Management Project	29,310.00	16,120.50	0.00	13,189.50		✓	✓	
Mackay Country Community Trust	Robb Donn Trail Project	76,585.00	63,950.00	1,350.00	11,285.00			✓	✓
Forsinard Fly Fishers Club	Anglers Afloat Project	13,413.58	7,500.58	0.00	5,913.00				✓
Farr Edge 2000	Sustaining & Developing Farr Edge 2000	58,200.00	30,846.00	0.00	27,354.00		✓		
Assynt Field Club	Tongue Parish Wildlife Audit Project	6,656.90	750.00	2,380.00	3,526.90	✓			
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,045,702.65</b>	<b>723,275.98</b>	<b>32,566.00</b>	<b>289,860.67</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>
Thurso Area		Project Cost	Leverage Funds	In Kind Value	CNSF Awarded	Improvement Themes			
Organisation	Project					E	S	C	I
Caithness Biodiversity group	Therapeutic Garden Project	32,742.00	5,995.00	19,712.00	7,035.00	✓	✓		
2nd Thurso Scouts	Thurso-Brilon 40th Anniversary Joint Summer Prog	16,710.00	11,065.00	2,800.00	2,845.00		✓	✓	
Caithness Horizons	Joint Museum Information Management System Project	6,797.00	1,797.00	0.00	5,000.00			✓	✓
Thurso Heritage Society	Thurso History Interactive	19,660.00	4,500.00	7,160.00	8,000.00			✓	✓
Ormlie Community Ass	Young & New Mothers Support Group	73,127.88	51,189.52	0.00	21,938.36		✓		
Caithness Rugby Football Club	Four Change Room Rugby & Associated Facilities Project	383,180.00	327,180.00	26,000.00	30,000.00		✓	✓	✓
Reay Golf Club	Replacement of Essential Golf Equipment Project	25,784.00	18,180.00	2,104.00	5,500.00	✓	✓		✓
Pentland Canoe Club	Paddlesport Coach & Leader Development Programme	77,356.37	26,181.81	21,246.38	29,928.18	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thurso high School Mountain Bike Riders	Start-Up THS Mountain Bike Riders	23,136.00	17,878.00	0.00	5,258.00	✓	✓	✓	✓
Thurso Players	Mill Theatre Roof Project	98,500.00	78,500.00	0.00	20,000.00		✓	✓	✓
1st Thurso Boys' Brigade	1st Thurso Boys Brigade Hall Refurbishment Project	69,471.76	42,971.76	7,500.00	19,000.00		✓	✓	✓
Caithness Horizons	Year of Ancient Ancestors Festival 2014	30,390.50	20,390.50	0.00	10,000.00		✓	✓	
Pentland Firth Yacht Club	Training of Sailing Instructors Project	6,883.28	3,960.00	1,633.28	1,290.00		✓		✓
Rush.dance	Rush.dance Studio Project	27,718.88	13,000.00	160.00	14,558.88		✓	✓	✓
Caithness Artistic Gymnastic Club	Leotards and Tracksuits Project	5,244.10	1,286.67	0.00	3,957.43		✓		
The Scottish Surfing Federation	Scottish National Surfing Championships 2015	7,809.97	2,500.00	0.00	5,309.97			✓	✓
Bumblebee Conservation Trust	Thurso: Gateway to the Great Yellow	131,380.00	102,592.00	14,500.00	14,288.00	✓			
Thurso Town Improvements Assoc	Thurso Christmas Lights Display	29,610.00	22,207.50	0.00	7,402.50		✓		✓
Reay Recreational Regeneration	Reay Recreational Regeneration Project	116,621.00	80,621.00	6,000.00	30,000.00		✓		✓
Thurso High School Parent Council	Thurso High School Community Minibus	22,554.36	14,600.00	0.00	7,954.36		✓		✓
Ormlie Community Association	Enhancing Employability Project	103,414.56	80,108.00	0.00	23,306.56		✓		
Thurso Squash, Tennis & Racketball Club	Renovation of Thurso Millbank Tennis Courts	159,031.04	129,039.04	0.00	30,000.00		✓		✓
Caithness Horizons	Caithness Viking Festival 2016	18,858.84	13,650.00	0.00	5,208.84		✓	✓	
Thurso Golf Club	Tractor Unit & Attachments Project	30,125.00	20,125.00	0.00	10,000.00		✓		✓
Reay Golf Course	Golf Course Purchase Project	156,800.00	126,800.00	0.00	30,000.00		✓		✓
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,672,906.54</b>	<b>1,216,317.80</b>	<b>108,815.66</b>	<b>347,781.08</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>

Wick Area		Project	Project Cost	Leverage Funds	In Kind Value	CNSF Awarded	Improvement Themes			
Organisation	E						S	C	I	
Caithness Harbourfest Committee		The Wick Diamond Jubilee Harbourfest	58,100.00	33,100.00	5,000.00	20,000.00		✓	✓	✓
The Wick Society		Stairlift & Wheelchair Project	6,836.00	1,500.00	560.00	4,776.00		✓	✓	✓
Wick Coastal Rowing Club		Wick Coastal Rowing Club Project	42,915.00	13,855.00	21,060.00	8,000.00		✓	✓	✓
Wick High School Parent Council		WHS Belize 2013 Project	28,271.44	26,271.44	0.00	2,000.00	✓	✓	✓	
Friends of Newton Hill Woodland		Derelict Crothouse to Community Shelter Conversion	48,000.00	31,500.00	0.00	16,500.00		✓	✓	
Pulteneytown Peoples Project		Contracts & HR Manager Post Project	49,428.00	19,880.00	9,548.00	20,000.00		✓	✓	
Wick High School Parent Council		Wick Duke of Edinburgh Awards Programme	31,056.00	9,150.00	12,256.00	9,650.00	✓	✓		
The Laurandy Centre Ltd		Laurandy Centre Refurbishment Project	23,328.16	15,328.16	0.00	8,000.00	✓	✓		✓
The Wick Society-Boat Section		Navigational & Safety Equipment Upgrade	4,372.40	920.70	689.60	2,762.10		✓	✓	✓
Caithness KLIKS		Caithness KLIKS Project	176,112.00	139,280.00	30,000.00	21,013.47		✓		
Wick Gala Committee		Wick Riverside Play Park Project	120,000.00	90,000.00	0.00	30,000.00		✓	✓	✓
Caithness Voluntary Group		Telecom & IT Refurbishment Project	9,237.03	1,900.00	0.00	7,337.03		✓		✓
Wick Squash Club		Wick Squash Club Exterior Refurbishment Project	29,664.00	15,664.00	0.00	14,000.00		✓		✓
St Fergus Bowling Club		Bowling Green Regrading & Maintenance	20,314.20	7,422.00	500.00	12,392.20	✓	✓		✓
Wick Old Stagers Rifle Club		Facility Improvement Feasibility Project	9,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	6,000.00		✓		✓
Wick Youth Club		WYC Afterschool Scene & Holiday Hangout Project	115,600.00	39,000.00	51,200.00	25,400.00		✓		
Wick Players		Club Rooms Roof Refurbishment Project	25,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	15,000.00		✓		✓
Staxigoe Play Park		Staxigoe Play Park Project	100,000.00	70,000.00	0.00	30,000.00		✓	✓	✓
1st Wick Scout Group		Scout Hall Facilities Upgrade Project	28,413.00	13,413.00	0.00	15,000.00		✓		✓
<b>Totals</b>			<b>925,647.23</b>	<b>541,184.30</b>	<b>130,813.60</b>	<b>267,830.80</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>
Landward Caithness Area		Project	Project Cost	Leverage Funds	In Kind Value	CNSF Awarded	Improvement Themes			
Organisation	E						S	C	I	
Dunnet Forestry Trust		Dunnet Forest Woodland Shelter	26,588.00	7,390.00	4,950.00	14,248.00	✓	✓	✓	✓
LLCCDC		South East Caithness 2012 Development	42,850.00	6,000.00	7,000.00	29,850.00	✓	✓		✓
Keiss Family Community Project		Keiss Family Community Park Project	66,866.00	36,526.00	5,340.00	25,000.00		✓	✓	✓
Lybster Primary School Parent Council		Illuminating the past	9,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	7,500.00		✓	✓	
North Lands Creative Glass		North Lands Creative Glass Studio Assistant	24,500.00	15,000.00	0.00	9,500.00		✓	✓	
St Johns Loch Improvement Ass		Anglers Lodge Project	23,950.00	10,000.00	1,700.00	12,250.00	✓	✓		✓
Dunbeath Centre		Heating System Upgrade Project	8,586.50	2,811.50	775.00	5,000.00	✓	✓		✓
Britannia Hall Committee		Essential Building Refurbishment Project	20,306.00	10,153.00	0.00	10,153.00				✓
Home-Start Caithness		Home-Start Parents Group Project	10,126.59	4,820.09	486.40	4,820.10		✓		✓
Bower Community Centre		Bower Community Centre Energy Efficiency Improvement	48,180.00	20,000.00	3,000.00	25,180.00	✓	✓		✓
Reiss Killimster & Sibster Hall Committee		Reiss Hall Refurbishment Project	58,440.06	29,220.06	0.00	29,220.00		✓		✓
Berriedale Portland Hall Committee		BPH Refurbishment Project	380,277.00	333,845.00	16,432.00	30,000.00	✓	✓		✓
Watten Improvements Group		Watten Play Area Refurbishment Project	109,999.00	89,999.00	0.00	20,000.00		✓		✓
Lyth Arts Centre		Lyth Residencies Development Project	168,600.00	138,600.00	0.00	30,000.00		✓	✓	
The Castletown Community Project		The Castletown Community Project	152,180.00	125,180.00	0.00	27,000.00		✓	✓	
Lybster Outdoor Bowling Club		Lybster Outdoor Bowling Hall Refurbishment	10,232.68	4,232.68	1,500.00	4,500.00		✓		✓
Yarrow Heritage Trust		South Yarrows South Laser Survey Project	8,487.00	800.00	4,000.00	3,687.00	✓	✓		✓
South Lybster Residents Group		South Lybster Play Area Project	47,040.00	37,040.00	0.00	10,000.00		✓		✓
Ploughing Championships (Scotland) Ltd		51st Scottish Ploughing Championships	40,750.00	39,050.00	0.00	1,700.00		✓	✓	
Northern Nashville CCM Festival		NNCCM Festival 2014	117,400.00	97,600.00	8,800.00	11,000.00		✓		
Plantlife		Munsary Peatlands-Improving Visitor Experience	26,171.00	16,761.50	0.00	9,409.50	✓			✓
Scottish ornithologists Club-Caithness Branch		Birds of Caithness-Breeding & Wintering Atlas	22,122.00	7,700.00	0.00	14,422.00	✓			
Castletown Heritage Society		Window in the Hidden Landscape of Caithness	81,700.00	52,500.00	9,200.00	20,000.00	✓	✓	✓	
Thrumster Primary Parent Council		Thrumster Primary Outdoor Pavilion/Classroom	34,000.00	24,500.00	1,000.00	8,500.00		✓		✓
Yarrows Heritage Trust		Iron Age Swartigill Project	13,603.00	1,500.00	6,860.00	5,243.00	✓	✓	✓	
LLC Community Development Company		Lybster Tool Shed Project	74,000.00	42,700.00	8,000.00	23,300.00	✓	✓		✓
Halkirk Village Council		Ross Institute Refurbishment Project	51,060.00	31,060.00	0.00	20,000.00		✓		✓
Dunnet Forestry Trust		Woodchipper & Container Project	12,592.40	2,500.00	242.40	9,850.00	✓	✓		✓
Murkle Community Association		Murkle Hall Upgrade Project	16,195.20	8,195.20	0.00	8,000.00		✓		✓
Dunbeath & District Centre		Upgrade of Kitchen Equipment Project	6,038.59	1,549.59	308.00	4,181.00		✓	✓	✓
Lybster Golf Club		Fairway Mower Replacement Project	18,600.00	10,300.00	0.00	8,300.00		✓		✓
North Lands Creative Glass		North Lands Creative Community Project	35,150.29	14,103.64	6,943.02	14,103.63		✓	✓	
Lybster Outdoor Bowling Club		Outdoor Bowling Green Upgrade Project	15,000.00	7,650.00	0.00	7,350.00		✓		✓
Latheron Agricultural Society		Latheron Show Improvements Project	7,600.00	4,100.00	0.00	3,500.00		✓		✓
Berriedale & Dunbeath Community Council		Dunbrae to Dunbeath Broch Path Construction Project	4,500.00	345.60	3,117.60	1,036.80		✓	✓	
Latheronwheel & Latheron Improvement Group		Latheronwheel Play Area Refurbishment Project	63,474.00	38,067.00	5,600.00	19,807.00		✓		✓
Laidhay Preservation Trust		Laidhay Museum Car Park Refurbishment Project	23,760.00	8,760.00	0.00	15,000.00			✓	✓
Brough Bay Association		Harbour Development Programme Stage 1 Scoping	8,763.00	4,194.00	375.00	4,194.00		✓		✓
Clan Gunn Heritage Trust		Clan Gunn Heritage Centre Refurbishment Project	20,166.00	10,166.00	0.00	10,000.00			✓	✓
Friends of the John O' Groats Trail		The John O' Groats Trail Project	73,144.00	36,730.00	17,580.00	18,834.00	✓			✓
Britannia Hall Committee		Britannia Hall Car Park Upgrade Project	12,900.00	8,600.00		4,300.00		✓		✓
Thrumster Primary Parent Council		Thrumster Multi-Use Games Area Project	57,949.00	47,949.00	0.00	10,000.00		✓	✓	✓
<b>Totals</b>			<b>2,052,847.31</b>	<b>1,389,198.86</b>	<b>113,709.42</b>	<b>549,939.03</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>31</b>
North East Sutherland Area		Project	Project Cost	Leverage Funds	In Kind Value	CNSF Awarded	Improvement Themes			
Organisation	E						S	C	I	
Helmsdale & District Community Ass		Helmsdale Community Housing Project	676,827.00	578,983.00	68,000.00	29,844.00		✓		✓
Helmsdale Community Golf Club		Greens Replacement Project	13,499.57	5,000.00	1,621.92	6,877.65	✓	✓	✓	✓
Timespan - Heritage and Arts Society		Translocation Excavation Project	33,340.00	18,440.00	4,900.00	10,000.00	✓	✓	✓	✓
Timespan Helmsdale Heritage & Arts Society		Paradigm North Project	111,641.00	74,441.00	17,200.00	20,000.00	✓	✓	✓	
Bunillidh Rowing Club		Helmsdale Rowing Regatta Project	3,510.00	1,100.00	700.00	1,710.00		✓		
Bunillidh Rowing Club		St Ayles Skiff World Championships 2016	6,372.00	4,395.00	0.00	1,977.00		✓		✓
Timespan		A Museum for the North Project	35,550.00	10,550.00	10,000.00	15,000.00		✓	✓	✓
<b>Totals</b>			<b>880,739.57</b>	<b>692,909.00</b>	<b>102,421.92</b>	<b>85,408.65</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Total of all awarded projects		Project Cost	Leverage Funds	In Kind Value	CNSF Awarded	E	S	C	I	
		<b>7,076,136.92</b>	<b>4,902,242.49</b>	<b>514,415.20</b>	<b>1,673,668.70</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>84</b>	



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