



SELAR COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

SGN SELAR OPENCAST COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

What is the Selar Opencast Community Benefit Fund?

- The Community Fund is an extra voluntary benefit offered by Celtic Energy Ltd to the communities living closest to the Opencast operation. The Fund will pay to NPTCBC £50,000 per annum for 4 years, and once 400,000 tonnes of coal has been extracted, 50p per tonne exported from the site paid quarterly. It is estimated that this will contribute a further £300,000 to £400,000 into the Community Fund.
- The Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council supported by the Glynneath Town Council and the Blaengwrach Community Council will administer the Fund each year for the benefit of the Wards of Glynneath and Blaengwrach with half going to each respectively.

How to Apply?

Please read these guidance notes to find out more about the Selar Opencast Community Benefit Grant and the type of projects we are able to fund.

- Check that the project you wish us to fund is eligible by reading the guidance notes provided. If you need clarification please contact the Project Development & Funding Unit (NPTCBC) on 01639 763390.
- Please ensure that all questions in the Application Form are answered and that all supporting documentation that has been asked for is provided. Incomplete submissions may not be considered.
- Please adhere to the Application deadline dates that will be set. The Steering (Assessment) Panel will meet at least once a year. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their bid within two weeks of the Panel date.

About the Grant

The primary intent of the Fund is to support projects that generate a genuine long term community benefit against the following criteria:-

1. Recreation
2. Education
3. Health
4. Environment
5. Culture
6. Local Economy.

Eligible Applicant

All voluntary/community organisations that are constituted with a Bank Account in the name of that Organisation (requiring at least two authorised signatures to access funds). Local charities and not for profit organisations can apply. The Fund will not support projects that should be financed by statutory agencies. Grant will not be awarded to individuals, only constituted groups. Schools will be eligible to apply for projects that are not part of the traditional school day. The Fund will support Applications from the area affected by the opencast operation.

How much can you apply for?

You can apply for funding between £500 and £15,000. Applications for over £15,000 will be accepted under exceptional circumstances and will require the Applicant to provide additional supporting documentation to the Panel for assessment purposes (this will be over and above the information asked for in the conventional Application Form - please contact 01639 763390 for information). The Applicant Organisation must identify 20% match funding in any bid made to the Fund which is in excess of £15,000. Applicants making a Grant request for under £15,000 can receive 100% Grant but bids that identify an element of match funding will be looked upon more favourable in assessment than those without. Monies that are available from any earlier Selar programme or from the Selar Liaison Committee cannot be used to match fund this particular Round of the Selar Fund.

There will be no retrospective funding.

The Applicant should await the outcome of the Steering Panel assessment in writing before any start is made on the project that is to be funded.

What can be funded?

Projects that have a positive impact upon the aforementioned criteria in terms of engagement and wider community benefit. The need for the project should be evidenced. The project should not duplicate existing provision but complement what is happening in the community.

Work that will score well in the assessment of the bid might include new, additional or improved facilities or services. Projects that require funding for repair, replacement or renewal will not be a priority for the Community Fund.

Organisations that apply to the Community Fund must prove that their project is sustainable in the long term and that the project will continue beyond the life of the grant.

Bids that will not be supported in assessment might include those that require funding for:-

- Refreshments, food and drink (and fireworks).
- Day to day running costs (like insurances, repeat facility hire charges, affiliation fees, etc).
- Trips and excursions (unless they are of educational or cultural value and have a demonstrable long lasting benefit to the community).
- Projects that impact upon and affect the sustainability of existing provision perhaps elsewhere.
- Religion and Faith groups and the advancement of any religion (unless for instance the building that is to be improved by the grant has a community benefit).
- Politically biased charities or organisations.
- Projects involving membership only organisations where the general public are unable to use facilities.
- Projects requiring funding for more than two consecutive years.

All project submissions will be assessed on merit. The Assessment Panel's decision is final. Projects that conflict or adversely affect the aim, objectives or policy of Celtic Energy Ltd or any other associated company will be ineligible.

Second and Subsequent Applications to the Fund.

Specific projects that have previously been awarded funding from the Selar Opencast Community Fund will not be able to make a subsequent application for the same project. A second application can be made for a different project that offers different or complementary outcomes. This is dependent upon the Steering (Assessment) Panel receiving the Project Completion Report (PCR) from the earlier Selar Opencast Community Fund Grant. The PCR confirms that the earlier grant aid has been invested as intended and in so doing the project has met the proposed outcomes.

Assessment Criteria

It is envisaged that the Selar Opencast Community Fund for the Ward of Blaengwrach will receive far more applications for grant aid than the Fund can support. It is important that the Applicant makes as strong a case as possible by answering all the questions in the Application Form. Applicants should be aware that project assessments will be based on the following criteria:-

- The project should benefit a wide range of users of all ages and abilities and improve community life.
- The project should make significant improvements to a facility, which should enhance existing activities or enable new ones to take place.
- There is clear evidence of need for the project, no comparable facility exists nearby.
- There is match funding.
- Your project has support from the local community and other organisations.
- Projects are self sustaining once the initial project funding has been invested.
- Value for money.

It is not expected that every assessment criterion will be relevant to all projects, but your Application must be able to demonstrate specific and measurable benefits for the local community.

Declaration

The Applicant is to sign that to the best of knowledge the information contained in the Application is correct and the person signing off the Application is authorised to do so.

A Referee who can vouch for the Project, but yet does not stand to gain a direct benefit from the Grant, must feature in the Application. This person may be contacted for an impartial opinion upon the Project before its assessment by the Panel.

If the information offered in the Application changes the Applicant will inform the Fund immediately.

If Grant aid is awarded it is to be used only for the purposes stipulated in the offer letter. The Fund reserves the right to recover Grant aid that is inappropriately used.

The Applicant will abide by the Terms & Conditions of Grant aid and agree to complete the Project Monitoring Form as requested.

The Grant aid is not to be used for any projects that conflict or adversely affects the aim, objectives or policy of Celtic Energy Ltd or any of its associated Companies.