MAES GWYN WIND FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR APPLICANTS

What is the Maes Gwyn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund?

* The Community Fund is an extra voluntary benefit offered by

'Pennant Ltd' to the communities living closest to the Wind Farm. The Fund (index linked in line with inflation from Year 4) will be paid annually throughout the operational life of the Wind Farm.

* The Onllwyn Community Council supported by the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council will administer the Wind Farm Fund each year for the benefit of the Ward of Onllwyn.

How to Apply?

Read the Guidance

* Please read these guidance notes to find out more about the Maes Gwyn 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 email onllwyncommunitycouncil@gmail.com.
* 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 wind turbines.

How much can you apply for?

You can apply for funding between E500 and El 5,000.Applications for over El 5,000 will be accepted under exceptional circumstances and will require the Applicant to provide additional supporting documentation to the Panel for assessment purposes (please contact 01639 700814 for information). The Applicant Organisation must identify a significant element of match funding in its Application to the Maes Gwyn

Community Fund Steering Panel. The Community Fund will not support 100% of the total project costs for schemes over €5,000.

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 'Pennant 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 Maes Gwyn 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 Maes Gwyn 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 Maes Gwyn Community Fund for the Ward of Onllwyn 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 award of Grant, must feature in the Application Form. This person may be contacted for an impartial opinion upon the Project before its assessment.

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 'Pennant Ltd' or any of its associated Companies.