PRESS RELEASE

£100,000 OF COMMUNITY GRANTS UP FOR GRABS IN THE RHONDDA

The Maerdy Windfarm Community Fund issued almost £100,000 in 2014 to 53 projects around Maerdy and Treorchy. The new 2015 fund has now launched with the public invited to bid for £107,500 of grants.

Last year successful applications ranged from equipment for a community choir, to the provision of children’s sports training. Richard Hadwin, Director of the Community Fund said: “It is great to see money from windfarm electricity generation helping these projects happen and making a difference to the local community.”

Now in its third year, the community fund is believed to be unique in the UK, with the local residents deciding where the cash is spent in a public vote. Last year almost 1,000 people turned out to vote on their favourite projects. The public vote this year will be held on the 28th and 29th of November 2015; applications are invited now with the closing date being 30th September 2015.

Richard Hadwin added: “The fund is open to practically everyone; you don’t have to be a charity; you can just be an individual with a need, or a group with a great idea. The smaller grant categories were undersubscribed in previous years; so why not have a go!”

Application forms are available from www.maerdywindfund.co.uk and www.treorchywindfund.co.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

• Maerdy Windfarm is an eight turbine windfarm built in 2013 at the top of the Rhondda www.maerdywindfarm.co.uk

• The windfarm is equally funding two community funds: The Maerdy Wind Fund www.maerdywindfund.co.uk and the Treorchy Wind Fund www.treorchywindfund.co.uk (see attached leaflets).

• A unique aspect of the fund is that it is democratic with successful grants being chosen through a public vote once a year. Applications are invited from individuals as well as groups. A minimum of just 10 votes is needed.

• For any further information or examples of projects currently funded please contact Helen Bagwell, Community Fund Manager on 07801 546859 or enquiries@maerdywindfund.co.uk