

# REAL HELP FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES



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Latheron Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company (LLCCDC) was set up in June 2006 as a result of work carried out as part of the Scottish Government's "Initiative at the Edge" scheme.

Its aim is to generate a significant and sustainable source of income for the area, helping to combat socio-economic decline and local unemployment issues. Following consultation with local residents, it was

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decided that a community led and owned windfarm represented the most practical solution to addressing these needs.

A technical and financial feasibility study was carried out, and an area of Rumster Forest was identified as suitable for both wind farm development and community ownership.

LLCCDC then approached the North Highland Regeneration Fund for financial assistance with a community buyout of the land.

“The whole process was really smooth and efficient,” said Eric Larnach, company secretary of LLCCDC.

“NHRF was very supportive of our aims and really helped get the project off the ground.”

With the support of NHRF and the local community, the land was purchased in early 2011. Progress is now underway on the construction of the wind farm, with

planning for three 900KW turbines approved in 2012.

The project is expected to create several jobs in the area, and will provide a welcome boost to a region of the county suffering from high unemployment, decline in population and outward migration of young adults.

“We were absolutely delighted to get support from the North Highland Regeneration Fund,” said Mr Larnach.

“This is such an important project for this area of the county and one which will help alleviate a number of local problems.”

NHRF Director David Flear said: “Sustainable economic development is a key tenet of the Fund and we were delighted to support this project, which will bring real benefits to one of our local communities.”



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