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KINTYRE WAY RECEIVES VITAL FUNDING FROM RES

One of Scotland's most scenic walking routes has received vital funding from a renewable energy company.

British renewable energy company RES, who this week submitted a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for Freasdail Wind Farm near Whitehouse, has committed to providing £30,000 of funding to the Kintyre Way.

The funding for the Kintyre Way will be split into £10,000 each year, for the next three years.

Owen Paisley, Kintyre Way Route Manager, said: *"I am very pleased to enter into this sponsorship agreement with RES. The funding provided will go a long way to ensure the future viability of the route so that it can continue to bring benefits to all of Kintyre."*

"Since 2006 it is believed that around 6000 people have walked down the Kintyre Way bringing almost £2.5 million into the Kintyre economy. Unfortunately, none of this financial benefit returns to the Kintyre Way to help with maintenance and development. Without the financial lifeline offered by RES there was every possibility that the route would have to close in 2013. With this funding in place the board can now continue their work in building up the route as a world class walking destination."

Louise Davis, RES Development Project Manager, said: *"We know how valuable this funding will be in helping to sustain the Kintyre Way and to attract further investment. The local benefit the organisation brings to the area in terms of tourism and support for the economy is vital. As a company wishing to develop in the area we want to make sure we are contributing to the future of Kintyre in as many ways as we can. We hope the Kintyre Way continues to attract tourists to the area so they can explore this beautiful part of the country."*

RES has consulted extensively with the local community on its proposal for the 11-turbine Freasdail Wind Farm. The company held public exhibitions, issued a newsletter to 1526 houses and businesses, formed a Community Liaison Group and held meetings with local residents and representatives from the community councils.



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If the wind farm is consented, RES will provide a community benefit fund to support organisations and good causes based in the communities close to the wind farm for the lifetime of its operation. The company is currently talking to the local community about how the funds could be spent.

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Notes to editors:

1. RES is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, North America and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of wind energy development for over 30 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 6.5GW of wind energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone, RES currently has more than 1GW of onshore wind energy either constructed, under construction or consented. This includes nine wind farms in Scotland with a total generating capacity of nearly 200 MW. The RES Group is active in a range of renewable energy technologies including large-scale biomass, solar, wave and tidal and on-site renewable installations. For more information, visit www.res-group.com.
2. RES also has a proposed wind farm at Blary Hill, near Glenbarr and plans to submit a planning application towards the end of the year. For more information about the wind farm proposals visit: www.freasdail-windfarm.co.uk and www.blaryhill-windfarm.co.uk.
3. The planning application and supporting documents will be available to view during normal opening hours at Argyll and Bute Council – Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay Area Office in Ardrishaig and Tarbert Post Office. In addition, the documents will be available to view locally at Whitehouse Village Hall between the hours of 4pm – 8pm, every Tuesday and Thursday for the duration of the 21-day consultation period.

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