

# Funds *for the* community

The Sheringham Shoal Wind Farm has brought community benefits beyond those expected as part of general business activity. It is part of the company's ethos to ensure it does not operate in isolation but is an integral and valued member of the local community.

As an early step, in 2010, the organisation established the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund. The aim was to facilitate the implementation of relevant projects and initiatives that will benefit stakeholders, not only in Wells-next-the-Sea and the surrounding villages, but also in the wider North Norfolk region. Not only was there a general expectation that the organisation, as one of the largest employers in the area, would contribute to the sustainability of the wider community, there was a desire from within to be a responsible corporate citizen and an industry leader in terms of local engagement.

Co-ordinated by the Norfolk Community Foundation, the Fund provides grants to charities, community groups, parish and town councils and educational institutions in the North Norfolk area. All applications for financial assistance for community projects or initiatives need to meet one or more of the fund criteria. The criteria were designed to be in keeping with, and relevant to, the nature of the business, namely the sustainable production of green energy.

By the end of October 2020 the Fund had made grant awards of over £880,000 to various local organisations. Groups that feel they have a relevant initiative or concept that needs funding are

### Fund criteria:

- contribute to reducing climate change
- assist the sustainability of North Norfolk communities by stimulating their own ability to solve issues and create opportunities, for example by providing educational or community business facilities
- have a marine environment or marine safety focus
- promote environmental sensitivity, sustainability or the benefits of renewable energy
- contribute to education or employment in the renewable energy industry or related arenas through access to courses and community activities

encouraged to apply. Applications can be made throughout the year by submitting an outline proposal to Norfolk Community Foundation.

Outline proposals are assessed and selected applicants invited to submit a full proposal for consideration by the grant panel. Full applications are normally considered at meetings twice a year – around May and November.

*To find out more about the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, or to submit an outline proposal form, you can visit <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/sheringham-shoal-community-fund> for details* ○



A grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund has supported a 'new home' for Wells Sea Cadets. (Image courtesy of Noel Wheatley MBE).

A wide range of organisations have successfully applied for grants from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund. The case studies overleaf give an insight into some of the numerous projects which have been able to proceed due to contributions from the Fund.

# Case studies

## Case Study: First Norfolk outdoor eco-gym

With the assistance of a grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, Norfolk's first outdoor eco-gym has opened in the Memorial Park in North Walsham.



The outdoor eco-gym developed by North Walsham Play  
Image courtesy of North Walsham Play

With the support of North Walsham Town Council, it has been developed by the charity North Walsham Play (NWP), and is situated adjacent to the Memorial Park children's play area which was also developed by NWP in 2018.

The eco-gym features thirteen pieces of equipment of which four exercise machines enable users to generate electricity to recharge their mobile devices through their pedalling.

Matthew Smith, the founder and a Trustee of North Walsham Play, is delighted with the eco-gym, saying:

*"The exercise machines work just like a UK plug socket, so two to three hours of pedalling or pulling across any of the four items of equipment should be sufficient to fully charge a mobile phone."*

He continued: *"The installation also features battery storage, so any surplus electricity generated by those using the eco-gym will be stored and used to help reduce the cost of the Memorial Park's overall electricity consumption"* ●

## Case Study: Further support for surf life saving in North Norfolk

Following its support for the North Norfolk Surf Life Saving Club (NN SLSC) in 2017, the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund has continued to encourage and support the growth of this life saving sport in North Norfolk, making a grant in 2019 to the then recently formed Mundesley Surf Life Saving Club (Mundesley SLSC).

The grant was used to fund Level 1 and 2 coaching training for a number of the Club's volunteer group leaders, and to purchase some much needed equipment including rescue boards, marker buoys, and beach gazebos for changing.

The impetus for the formation of the club came from Mundesley resident Julie Coleman, a long-time participant at NN SLSC, who said:

*"I am passionate about encouraging young people to use and enjoy the sea and its beaches as a playground, and surf life saving teaches them how to do so in a safe and responsible manner"* ●



The Sea Palling lifeboat shed following renovations

## Case Study: Grant provides new lifeboat shed facilities at Sea Palling

While the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) runs 238 lifeboats stations around the UK, there are also at least 80 independent lifeboat stations, many of which were set up in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in response to an increasing loss of life at sea.

Having originally been operated by the RNLI, the Sea Palling Lifeboat Station on the Norfolk coast became an independent operation in 1972. It is a registered charity which is fully approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, and its volunteer crew, consisting of 20 members of the local community, are on call 24/7, 365 days a year to provide a rapid response search and rescue service.

It costs around £35,000 per annum to maintain this service, all of which has to be raised by the charity's trustees, management team and supporters through donations, sponsorships and grants.

Over the last few years sufficient funds have been raised to acquire two lifeboats, a purpose-designed launch vehicle, and a search and rescue quad bike. During 2018 a £20,000 grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund enabled the lifeboat shed to be renovated and its operations room and training facilities to be extended and improved ●



Members of the Mundesley SLSC with their new equipment  
Image courtesy of Mundesley SLSC

## Contact details and more information:

Sheringham Shoal is owned by Equinor, Equitix and the Green Investment Group through Scira Offshore Energy Ltd. Equinor is the operator for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm. Scira Offshore Energy Ltd is the legal entity.

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