

Whose voice? Which choice?

Tensions and trade-offs in community - led decision making

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**Foundation
Scotland**

Making decisions about £.....

- Hands up if as a professional in your current role or a previous role, you've participated in making place-based funding decisions.
- Hands up if you've facilitated processes to involve residents or community representatives in making funding decisions about where they live.



On your table....

You are members of a fictional community panel that recently awarded some grants to local organisations under the theme of improving community cohesion.

- What mattered most in your decision-making process?
- Where did you have to compromise?
- How do you respond when a local group complains that your decisions are unfair?

**Be prepared to share a headline response on each point
with the wider group.**



About Foundation Scotland

- **Independent Scottish charity** distributed > £200M into communities across Scotland since 1996
- Our **vision** is of confident, thriving, resilient communities across Scotland, resourced to support their needs and aspirations.
- Our **purpose** is to provide that support, to help communities shape their own future.
- Part of a **global network** of 1,800 community foundations
- Award grants and loans in Scotland on behalf of a **wide range of philanthropic, corporate and other clients & donors**

A track record of community-led decision making

- Practice built over **20+ years**
- Enabled through donors and clients keen to **entrust decision making & often fund design too**, to those whose lives are supposed to be impacted by funds
- Includes **650+ Panel members** across Scotland making decisions on fund strategy and spend in their local communities on long term community benefit funds (linked to energy/renewables sector)
- Annual fund values range from £30,000 - £1,500,000

Regenerative Futures Fund



Job Opportunity -
Programme Coordinator

January 2026

21/01/2026

We are recruiting a Programme
Coordinator

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Regenerative Futures Fund



Working In The Open: Doing &
Learning Update - November &
December 2025

January 2026

16/01/2026

Doing & Learning Update #5 -
November & December 2025

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Regenerative
Futures
Fund

The Regenerative Futures Fund Annual Report



July 2024 -
September 2025

December 2025

17/12/2025

Regenerative Futures Fund's First
Annual Report: July 2024 -
September 2025 (Year Zero)

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Putting Clackmannanshire's communities in control

For the first time in Scotland, local people with lived experience of the everyday challenges faced in the community will influence how public and partner funds are spent in Clackmannanshire.



The Eight Commitments



Community led decision making is helped when...

- The process has integrity and evokes pride.
- There is adequate time to build and develop the group as a decision-making team.
- Processes and procedures are clear and unambiguous, and ideally co-developed with the group.
- First steps....

Thank you!

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