

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Tweeddale

Ref. No.: CF2021 – TW - 5

Organisation Name: Peebles Railway Heritage

Funding Requested: £4,500

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure		Un-constituted group. Peebles Railway heritage are a PCT project under the day to day management of a special interest group.	
Annual Accounts Balance		Peebles Community Trust to provide	
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Are they applying for Common Good Funding at the moment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project Brief	Peebles Railway Heritage wish to appoint Rachel Hunter from Heritage Consultancy based in Peebles to act as a consultant for the group. In appointing a consultant this will support the group to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a workshop with members of the Peebles Railway Heritage Group to define the scope of the development of

Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY		the railway building, including looking at how the project fits the criteria of the National Lottery Heritage Fund.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and submit to the National Lottery Heritage Fund an Expression of Interest form to start the full funding application process. • Prepare surveys for use online and plan a programme of consultation to take place from within the weighbridge office during the summer of 2020. This will produce evidence of demand and interest that can be used to support funding applications. • Bring together a small team of consultants with the joint expertise to prepare the necessary documentation for a full funding application, including architect's drawings (if required), interpretation plan and exhibition design, project plan and costs. 	
Total Expenditure (£)		£5,000	
Community Fund Request (£)		£4,500	
10% Match-funding		£500	
Any Other Contribution?			
Other Funding Sources		Amount (£)	At what stage?
Community Fund Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality local services or activities <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to a better quality environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more pride in their community <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality advice and information <input type="checkbox"/> More local groups or services are better supported to recover from financial Difficulty		

ASSESSMENT

What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?

Peebles Community Trust (PCT) acquired a 25 year lease from Scottish Borders Council on the 1st March 2019. PCT have subsequently allowed the Peebles Railway Heritage group to make use of the building as a specialized project. PCT will be responsible for the administration of the project, as well as the insurance cover of the building. The Peebles Railway Heritage group will feed all information and progress into the PCT board.

Any actions that the Railway Heritage group may require to be made will need to be approved by the building lease holder, which is PCT.

The Peebles Railway Heritage building is part of a project group that was formed in 2018 to acquire and then subsequently develop the former railway goods and weighbridge office in the East Station car park in Peebles.

The aim of this project group was to save the deteriorating building and then consider how to return it into community use. The Peebles Community Trust have since secured a 25 year lease on the building from owners Scottish Borders Council. The next stage in the process is to apply for National Heritage Lottery funding. This funding application will allow them to develop these plans further.

The current project group comprises of six PCT members selected for their backgrounds and skill sets and have an interest in railway heritage. The group are representative of the whole membership which number around 1300.

The group have not yet sought any specific feedback from their members on the use of the railway building.

Old photos of railway infrastructure in the town regularly appear on local social media platforms and always generate comments both from people who remember the age, and from others who are too young to remember it but are fascinated to learn of its existence. The group received positive news articles in the Peebleshire news and also on the Heritage Railway website.

The building is a central location and it being an obvious railway building, the group are keen to build on the enthusiasm that has been generated so far.

What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?

The group have received pro bono advice from an industry professional regarding making an application for major funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Positive feedback from this meeting has led the group to seek funding to employ a consultant who will help them through the Heritage lottery funding process.

This funding application will allow the group to apply to other funders for larger sums of money.

If the group are successful with additional larger capital funding the aim will be to offer a facility that will explain and inform visitors, of the significance of the development of the railway in Peebles. There is also potential for a tourist information point being situated in this space.

	<p>Also in the planning stages is a proposal to develop a railway history outreach programme</p> <p>Public meeting and exhibition space are also at a premium in Peebles and redeveloping the building in such a way that it could have an occasional use will give the project a commercial future as well as a cultural one</p>
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>While Peebles Community Trust have a membership list of over 1,000 individuals it isn't clear how many of those have an interest in the Railway Heritage Building.</p> <p>No consultation has taken place prior to this funding application being submitted.</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	<p>This application can be regarded as 'start up' funding, from which other funding, including contributions from within the Community, will develop</p> <p>The group have been in contact with Tweed Valley BID regarding their plans for the building.</p> <p>The group, if successful with this application, aim to employ a consultant that will support them to apply to National Heritage Lottery funding. This can take up to 6 to 12 month period for the project to be finalized.</p>
What happens at the end of the project/activity or when the funding is spent?	<p>The group may be successful in securing National Lottery Heritage funding.</p> <p>Once capital funding has been secured to progress the refurbishment of the building the long term plans will focus on developing an income stream to ensure the longevity of the project. They aim to provide an income based on renting the building out for occasional room hire and pop up galleries and events. Peebles Community Trust would run the building, they are an organization that is Company limited by Guarantee and have also recently become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).</p> <p>The group have started early discussions with South of Scotland Enterprise Agency.</p>
Quotes received for items of expenditure	<p>Currently only one quote received</p> <p>The consultancy who provided pro bono advice for the group previously have submitted a quote.</p>
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The group have negotiated and acquired a 25 year lease on the building. SBC made building wind and water tight prior to lease being agreed.</p>

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SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT

Requirements still to be met in order to fulfil the criteria of the Community Fund:

- *3 quotes are required as per Community Fund Application Guidance*
- *The group have not yet sought any specific feedback from their members on the use of the railway building to determine membership support for this project*
- *It is unclear as to what wider community support or interest there is in this project*
- *The group would be required to cover any shortfalls should the costs be higher than quoted*

If funding were approved - we would seek the group to particularly report on:

- Number of people who benefitted from the project including volunteers, visitors, participants.
- Number of people consulted with in the community
- Improvement in venue accessibility
- Has the project become sustainable
- Improved tourist offer