

From: John Cannell [<mailto:john@bordersscrapstore.org.uk>]
Sent: 17 February 2014 14:44
To: Isles, Anne
Subject: Borders Scrapstore

Dear Anne,

Referring to your letter to us dated 6th September 2012 regarding financial assistance from Selkirk Common Good Fund (scan attached) I thought it was an appropriate time to update you on our current position.

With a £4,000 grant from SBC Community Grants Scheme and £1,000 from a Service Level Agreement with Technical Services, Scrapstore has managed to survive until now. For the financial year to 31st March 2014 we have also been supported by a continuing Revenue Grant Support of £7,140 from East Lothian Council, £2,000 from The Hugh Fraser Foundation, £2,000 from Foundation Scotland Express Grants, and £10,000 from Santander Enterprise Development Awards.

Except for part of the Santander grant, all that support ends on 31st March this year. £5,000 of the Santander grant is ring-fenced towards the cost of a new van, so is not available to help with core costs.

One of our two small vans had to be scrapped last summer, and the other is now 12 years old, so we are trying to raise the funds for, eventually, two new vans. The vehicles are a one-off cost and we would expect to get at least ten years use from a van. One van is kitted out as a mini-Scrapstore that visits schools, nurseries and other settings, the other was used for collecting materials and general business travel.

We have applied to East Lothian Council again, for costs related to our work in that local authority area, including for this year only asking for £5,000 towards the new vehicle. After discussion with Linda Cornwall, who intimated that the Community Grants Scheme would not be available for core funding, we intend applying to that fund for a portion of our new van costs. Ideally, and if all the applications are successful, that would give us £15,000 for a new van (£5,000 from Santander, £5,000 from SBC Community Grants and £5,000 from East Lothian Community Services).

While that would help our transport situation, it leaves us with no core funding from SBC for the first time in well over ten years. We have contacted SBC Estates, asking for a rent reduction (currently £10,500 pa including unrecoverable VAT) and await their response. Another empty building owned by SBC would simply be another drain on scarce resources and benefits no one.

Given Scrapstores' continuing contribution towards reducing waste, enhancing community cohesion, supplying schools, early years settings, youth clubs, SBC Arts Service, Libraries, craft groups and more with low cost, low-carbon salvaged materials for creative reuse, we would like to think that even in these straitened times, (and we're under no illusions about SBC's financial position) the council could

offer Scrapstore some longer term core assistance to give us some small measure of security rather than us scratching around to survive month by month.

While we fully appreciate that we are no one's top priority, our three part time staff, eight trustees and ten volunteer helpers have created a vibrant, inspirational resource that is clearly a valued asset for over 300 memberships (about half groups and half individuals) in Scottish Borders area alone. But we are not just sitting around with our hands outstretched. Since 2006, we have increased our trading income from £12,000 to a forecast £40,000 this year. However, the steady reduction in council support coupled with equally steady increases in our costs (though staff have not had even a cost of living increase since 2006) means that we still need some continuing support in order to function as a viable organisation.

Your letter notes that you would try to see if there are any other ways to fund assistance to Borders Scrapstore. We would greatly appreciate any help that may be available, and emphasise that any funding is directly used to benefit the communities in which we operate.

We look forward to hearing from you

With best wishes

John Cannell
Manager, Borders Scrapstore

Selkirk Store and main office: Unit 4 Shepherd's Mill, Dunsdale Road, Selkirk TD7 5NY tel. 01750 725961. Scrap Store at Selkirk open Tuesdays 10am - 4pm, Wednesdays 10am - 4pm, Thursdays 2pm - 5.30pm.

Musselburgh: Borders Scrap Store, The Fisherrow Centre, South Street, Musselburgh EH21 6AT, tel 0131 665 8232. Scrap Store at Fisherrow open Mondays 1.30pm - 4.30pm, Wednesdays 9.30am - 4pm, and Fridays 12 to 4pm.