
**Please find attached the paper in respect of Item 4 on
the agenda for the above meeting**

4.	Build Back a Better Borders Fund (Pages 3 - 8) Consider application from Innerleithen, Traquair & Walkerburn Parish Church of Scotland. (Assessment attached.)	
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Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund - Assessment Form

For the purpose of assessment, projects have been ranked high, medium or low to reflect how strongly the application meets the criteria of the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund.

High – a strong demonstration of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

Medium – provides acceptable examples of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

Low – lacks detail of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

1. Applicant Details:

Organisation name	Innerleithen Traquair & Walkerburn Parish Church of Scotland					
Organisation structure	Charity					
Application reference	BBBB-TW-01 ITW Parish Church					
Theme of application	Sport	Arts & Culture	Environment	Community Capacity	Community resilience	Intergenerational activity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project start date	Sept 2021	Project end date			28 th Feb 22	

2. Organisation's finances:

End of year balance	£103,880
Current bank balance	£36,021
Total cash/Unrestricted reserves available & purpose	£35,741 The church have a General Fund of £35,741 held by Church of Scotland HQ in Edinburgh, they are required to maintain the fund at least at this level to ensure compliance with this Policy. The churches income in 2020 and 2021 has been impacted due to the closure of the church in March 2020 and the subsequent cancellation of organisations renting the church premises
Total restricted /committed funds & purpose	£68,139 The charity Trustees have a Reserves Policy to hold reserves in the General Fund of approximately 6 months expenditure

	The Church has also been proactive in investing in new technology to provide online services to the wider congregation in the Parish while the congregation have been unable to access a building. Whilst the cost of some of this can be recovered through restricted funds, there will be costs incurred from general funds too as we continue to invest and reach out to the community.”
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Project:

Outline of what the group plan to do to help people recover from the pandemic. Projects will be ranked higher if the application strongly demonstrates that they are meeting an identified need in the community. (e.g. area of deprivation, protected characteristics, tackling wellbeing and isolation, tackling climate change)		
High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comment:</p> <p>The Church wish to run weekly arts and crafts classes, predominately for older residents in Walkerburn and Cardrona with a total of 40 classes over 6 months. The classes would offer a mixture of arts and crafts opportunities with each session finishing with refreshments and an opportunity for everyone to socialise in a safe space. The classes would last for 120 mins in total with 90 mins for crafting and 30 mins tidying up and refreshments.</p> <p>The classes would be delivered in both Cardrona and Walkerburn Village Hall.</p> <p>The Church would like to support their local community by employing a local, experienced community arts practitioner to teach the classes and locating the clubs in community venues. They would also be involving volunteers in helping to run the clubs.</p> <p>The project will be aimed at vulnerable people living in the villages of Walkerburn, Traquair and Cardrona who have been isolated by poverty, age, mental and physical health. The church have estimated that they would engage with 30 people from each village over the course of the project.</p> <p>The Church have been approached by residents in both Cardrona and Walkerburn about a possible craft club. The Church have also been proactive within the community and have engaged with Walkerburn Covid Volunteer Support Team, Walkerburn Trefoil Guild, Walkerburn Pensioners Association, Walkerburn Bowls club and Walkerburn Development Trust to gauge interest. It was found that the idea of the project was positive and there is currently a waiting list to join the group once it is established. Information can also be publicised in the local Walkerburn newsletter. Walkerburn is an area of deprivation and it has been identified as to having the most need for running a group due to lack of current activities.</p>		

Advice was sought from Red Button Arts who have been running classes in Peebles and Innerleithen for the last 5 years and have built up a positive relationships within these communities. These classes are currently fully subscribed. Feedback from senior citizen participants in these classes have shown that they felt that they belong to a strong friendship group, feel more positive when they are in contact with the crafting groups. The Church wish to offer similar opportunities within Walkerburn, Cardrona and Traquair.

Evidence of individuals, groups or communities likely to benefit from the new initiative and how they have been affected by the pandemic:

High

Medium

Low

Comment:

Walkerburn and Cardrona are both small and isolated rural villages with poor or limited access to public transport. There are also fewer activities available for residents to participate in.

These classes will be predominately targeted to older residents. There is a concern that elderly people who have been living alone for the last year will find it hard to re-enter the community. They will experience loss of social confidence and loss of physical strength. Walkerburn Pensioners Association have indicated that they are worried that many of their members may not come out of their homes again.

The group wish to deliver the project within a Village Hall as a location in Walkerburn. The church have been in discussion with the Food Hugs project and they are hopeful that they group can provide these craft sessions on the same day as Food Hugs aim to restart their pensioners lunch club That would mean the lunch could be followed by craft activities in the afternoon.

There is also the potential for this to be part of an established Wednesday 'Senior Citizens day' with an exercise activity before lunch then craft activity afterwards. Organisations within Walkerburn and Innerleithen are keen to work together to offer the best possible programme for older adults in these communities.

It's part of our overall approach that we would like to continue to be doing this in partnership with others and this seems like an ideal way to contribute in Walkerburn. ITW Church working with Food Hugs and Red Button Arts seems like a good combination.

In providing free crafts club the church will be providing an activity that is accessible and affordable for everyone in the community.

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Expected <u>impact</u> of the new initiative and how will it help those most in need recover from the pandemic		
High <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comment:</p> <p>There is a concern within the community that elderly people who have been living alone for the last year may find it hard to re-enter the community and participate in community activity.</p> <p>The Church will be providing an activity that is free to access and also accessible as it will be in their community. The church will offer support to participants in terms of buddying to help encourage individuals to attend. The activity will be new for the residents in the community to participate in and will hopefully improve physical health and mental health.</p> <p>It will allow individuals to learn new skills in a safe environment along with others in the community. The group will aim to foster a positive environment and create a social space where residents feel comfortable to talk and share stories.</p> <p>The clubs would also support the wider community by hiring local community hall spaces, employing a local crafts teacher, encouraging local volunteering & buying cakes from the local cafes to support their businesses</p>		

Project Expenditure:

Total Project Cost	£6,260
10% organisation contribution	£626
Request to BBBB	£5,634

Item of expenditure	Cost
Venue hire £12 x 80 hrs + refreshments £10 x 40 (one venue in Cardrona; Village hall & one venue in Walkerburn, village hall)	£1,360
Arts Practitioner - 3 hrs prep, 2 hrs class x 40	£2,400
Crafts Reusable Tools: scissors, pallets, brushes, gloves, hand sanitisers	£300
Crafts Materials(40 x £50) assorted	£2,000
Travel allowance 45p p/m for round trips - 17 miles (Walkerburn) & 6 miles(Cardrona	£200

Match/other funding sought:

Funder	Funding Requested	Status
	£	
	£	
	£	

Grants received from Scottish Borders Council or any other funder within the last three years

Date	Project Title	Amount
		£

SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT	the application meets the criteria of the BBBB fund
Comments	The application scores high as it is looking to engage with those vulnerable in smaller and more rural communities. It will support and encourage community members to participate in community activity in a safe and supportive environment.
Additional terms and conditions required	the applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance Staffing costs must meet the living wage

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