

Public Document Pack

Eildon
Area Partnership

Our Scottish Borders
Your community

Meeting

Date: Thursday, 17 November 2022
Time: 6pm
Location: via Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

1.	Welcome and Meeting Protocols
2.	Feedback from meeting of 8th September 2022 (Pages 3 - 10) Copy Minute from Meeting held on 8 September 2022 (Copy attached.) Copy Summary from Climate Change Breakout Discussions held on 8 September 2022 (Copy attached.)
	Section 1: Service & Partner Updates & Consultations
3.	Place Making - Progress Report
4.	Tweedbank Care Village - Gathering Views of the Community
	Section 2: Local Priorities
5.	Cost of Living - Update and discussion including progress from Low and Slow Project in Galashiels
	Section 3: Community Empowerment and Community Funding
6.	Overview of Community Funding SBC Communities & Partnership Team
7.	Eildon Funding Table 2022/23 (Pages 11 - 12) SBC Communities & Partnership Team (Copy attached.)
8.	Neighbourhood Support Fund (Pages 13 - 16) Eildon Assessment Panel to present funding recommendations for the following NSF applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stable Life• Selkirk High School Parent Partnership

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selkirk Regeneration • Earlston Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group • Perfect Harmony • Abbotsford Trust • Heritage & Archaeological Research Practice (HARP) • Café Recharge • Waverley Consort • Selkirk Cricket Club <p>(Copy attached.)</p>
	Section 4: Other
9.	Next Area Partnership: Thursday, 26 January 2023 at 6pm Agenda issued: Thursday, 12 January 2023.
10.	Any Other Business
11.	Meeting Evaluation via Menti

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**Eildon
Area Partnership**



MINUTES of Meeting of the EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP held Via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 8 September 2022 at 6.00 pm

- Present:- Councillors E. Thornton-Nicol (Chairman), C. Cochrane, L. Douglas, J. Linehan, N. Mackinnon, J. PatonDay and F. Sinclair, together with 10 representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils, and members of the public.
- Apologies:- Councillors E. Jardine and D. Parker
- In Attendance:- Community Engagement Officer (E. Coltman), Climate Change Officer (J. Fausset), Sustainability Manager (L. Cox), Youth Engagement Officer (P. Rigby), Democratic Services Officer (D. Hall)

1. WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held remotely via Microsoft teams, which included Elected Members, guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. The Chairman explained that viewers on the live stream would be unable to see or hear the discussions when the attendees went into breakout rooms and encouraged people to join the meeting.

2. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING OF 30 JUNE 2022

The Minute of the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held on 30 June 2022 had been circulated and was noted. The Community Engagement Officer, Mr Erin Coltman, highlighted that the previous meeting had been positive. The Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund project evaluation from the Selkirk Baptist Church was well received, attendees in particular enjoyed their slide presentation. The Low and Slow project had been delivered in Galashiels, and there was a desire to invite the organisers of that event to the Area Partnership to provide their evaluation.

3. PLACE MAKING - PROGRESS REPORT

Mr Coltman highlighted that at the previous meeting of the Area Partnership it was agreed to proceed with a Place Making Working Group for the Eildon Locality. The Working Group was open to any person or group interested in Place Making, and Mr Coltman encouraged people to get in touch with the Communities and Partnership Team if they wished to get involved.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE - LOCAL ACTION

- 4.1 The Chairman welcomed Ms Louise Cox, Sustainability Manager and Ms Jenny Fausset, Climate Change Officer, to the meeting. Ms Cox explained that the key legislation in Scotland which concerned climate change was the Climate Change Act (Scotland) Act 2009. The Act had set emissions targets, which had subsequently been amended with stronger targets and annual and interim targets to reach net zero. A just transition was embedded into the legislation to ensure that the transition would be fair and that the future would be better for everyone. At a Local Government level, there was considerable work ongoing, with the Climate Change Route Map published in September 2021, and a Climate Emergency and Priority Action Plan in March 2022. There were 5 themes and an additional Climate Change Officer, Ms Fausset, had been recruited. All of the Council's activity needed to be addressed, and there was a need to undertake massive changes.

- 4.2 Ms Fausset introduced herself to the meeting and explained that she had joined Scottish Borders Council in June 2022. She stressed that whilst her job exclusively focused on climate change, there were a considerable number of staff across the whole Council involved in responding to climate change. As part of the Climate Change Route Map, a carbon baseline was being established, which would allow the Council to understand where it stood with regard to its emissions. Ms Fausset explained that two questions had been circulated prior to the meeting, namely “Thinking of your local community within Eildon, what projects/initiatives would you like to see thriving?” and “To realise these aspirations, what key tasks do we need to do? Who are the key players to drive these tasks?” Breakout rooms were held, with attendees divided into three groups to hold individual discussions for 35 minutes.
- 4.3 Following the breakout rooms, each group was asked to share the top 2 priorities from their discussions. Those present in room one stated that they had difficulty selecting only two priorities, but suggested that electric car clubs and better public transport as projects they would like to see thriving. Room two stated that projects involving energy generation such as the use of rivers to generate electricity, and food, particularly community orchards and projects which explored food production with young people, were the two areas they would like to see thriving. Room three had held similar conversations regarding local energy generation opportunities, and food access and food waste. Additionally, education and access to the key information needed to allow communities to make informed decisions had been highlighted. The Chairman thanked attendees for their input and suggested that the simple, everyday actions that people did to try and reduce their impact on the environment could be shared in the meeting chat.

5. **OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY FUNDING**

Copies of the Eildon Funding Table 2022/23 had been circulated with the agenda. Mr Coltman advised that the opening balance of the Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) had been £147k, and that the balance remaining prior to the meeting was £113k. If all of the applications considered at the meeting were awarded funding, the remaining balance of the NSF would be £82k. At the point when the agenda was issued, a Fast Track application from Oxtan Community Development Ltd for £948 was outstanding, which had subsequently been approved by Members. Mr Coltman explained to the meeting that a member of the Assessment Panel had resigned at the start of the year, and that he had subsequently contacted interested members of the community, two of whom had completed an application form to join the Panel. Given the level of enthusiasm of the applicants, and the desire to have suitable representation on the Panel, Ms Judith Cleghorn and Mr Ian King were both successful and were formally welcomed as members of the Eildon Assessment Panel.

MEMBER

Councillor Linehan left the meeting during the discussion of the item below.

6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND**

- 6.1 There had been circulated copies of the Eildon Assessment Panel’s recommendations. The Chairman welcomed Ms Jenny Mushlin of the Eildon Assessment Panel to provide an overview of each of the recommendations.
- 6.2 **Live Learn Earn**
The application from Live Learn Earn was for £11,150 to help fund the Selkirk Community Garden Art Project, a cross-generational initiative which aimed to create artistically designed pieces within Selkirk High School Horticultural and Selkirk Community Shed garden areas. A consultant would be commissioned to provide training on metal working skills to the attendees, who would design and produce their own pieces. Marginalised pupils would be selected to take part. The Panel had expressed their opinion that the consultancy fees involved were very high, and were not justifiable given the expected outcomes of the project. The project would have an impact on a relatively small group of pupils at the High School, and would not necessarily benefit the wider community. The

Panel had recommended not to fund the project, and invited the group to submit a new application if the consultancy fees could be reduced and wider community benefit could be evidenced. Mr Aegir MacIver of the group was present at the meeting and explained that the consultancy fees referred to in the Assessment Panel recommendations were in fact for tutoring provided directly to attendees. Mr MacIver stressed that the group had a genuine desire to promote intergenerational collaboration on the project, with work ongoing with Selkirk Shedders. In response to a question regarding other sources of funding, Mr MacIver explained that no other funding had been sought. Regarding research carried out to ascertain demand for the project, and whether the project would duplicate work already carried out at the high school, Mr MacIver outlined that the key aim of the project was to teach young people the practical skills that they were not taught in school, including the use of power tools. In response to a question regarding the formal qualifications which would be attained by those who attended the course, Mr MacIver clarified that a workbook was used through the academic session which recorded what skills were attained and an official SQA-recognised qualification would be gained. Members in attendance expressed that the project had a commendable aim, and that teaching young people real world practical skills was a good project. The lack of wider community benefit was highlighted, in particular due to the high sum of money involved. There was a lack of consensus amongst Elected Members, and a vote was held to decide whether the application for funding was approved or rejected:

VOTE

Councillor Paton Day seconded by Councillor Douglas moved that the application for funding was approved.

Councillor Cochrane, seconded by Councillor Sinclair moved as an amendment that the application for funding was rejected.

As the meeting was conducted by Microsoft Teams members were unable to vote by the normal show of hands and gave a verbal response as to how they wished to vote the result of which was as follows:-

Motion – 3 votes

Amendment – 4 votes

Absent – 1 vote

The amendment was accordingly carried.

The application for funding was consequently rejected. The Chairman expressed hope that the Group would work on their application to address the issues raised, and seek support from the Communities and Partnership Team.

6.3 Channelkirk Primary School Parent Council

The application from the Channelkirk Primary School Parent Council was for £5,616 to address the lack of after-school childcare at Channelkirk Primary School. The funding would be used to provide a free transport service between Channelkirk and Lauder Primary School during term time, which would allow the children to attend Lauder Out-of-School Club. Peter Hogg of Jedburgh would operate the service between their Earlston School runs, which would reduce the cost to £108 per day. The planned project was a pilot. The Panel felt that the project was well researched and would help working parents in a rural area, with benefits to the children. The application was unanimously approved.

6.4 Stable Life

Stable life had applied for £15,000 to deliver a structured programme for at least 100 referred young people, 51% of whom would be based in the Eildon locality. The programme involved equine assisted therapy, riding lessons and psychological based interventions, as well as work placements and volunteering opportunities. The Panel had

recommended to defer the decision on the application to seek additional information, which was unanimously agreed.

6.5 **The Heartland Market**

The application from The Heartland Market was for £13,360 to purchase 20 market stalls to ensure that a monthly market in Galashiels could continue to run. The market operated using rented stalls, which had been deemed to be financially unviable. The Panel stressed that if the stalls were owned by the group, then the Community Interest Company (CIC) would be able to provide access to the stalls to charities and groups based in Galashiels. The CIC would build a website to manage bookings, and would promote the stalls as a community asset. The Assessment Panel expressed that the market had been popular in Galashiels and had recommended to approve the application. There had been confusion regarding funding which had been awarded to the group from a separate organisation for the purchase of stalls. Mr Coltman explained that The Heartland Market had experienced difficulties securing stalls on a consistent basis from their supplier. They had approached Galashiels Community Council and Energise Galashiels Trust (EGT) for assistance, and it had been agreed that EGT would purchase and own the stalls, on the condition that the Heartland Market would purchase the stalls prior to the end of the current financial year. Mr Coltman stressed that the approach was within the criteria of the Neighbourhood Support Fund, and that EGT would be acting as a supplier. Members expressed their concern that the market took place on the same day as the market in Selkirk. In response to a question regarding the necessity of developing a booking system, Mr Coltman explained that the funding applied for did not relate to the booking system, and would be used solely to purchase market stalls. The application for funding was unanimously approved in full.

7. **PROJECT EVALUATION - UPDATE/PRESENTATION**

7.1 With reference to paragraph 5.2 of the Minute of the meeting held on 11 November 2021, where The Abbotsford Trust had been awarded £15,000 from the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund, the Chair welcomed Ms Sandra McKenzie to provide an evaluation. There had been circulated copies of a final report by the Abbotsford Trust with the agenda. Ms McKenzie expressed thanks to the Area Partnership for the grant, and explained that the project had allowed the Trust to run a pilot project with adults living with mental health conditions. The project had been led the Heritage Engagement Officer at the Trust, and had involved group activities at Abbotsford House in 7-week blocks. The groups focussed on different work areas each week and allowed participants to experience a range of activities such as practical working in the gardens and estate, and undertaking front of house roles. The Trust had partnered with the Local Area Co-ordination (LAC) Mental Health Team at Scottish Borders Council to ensure that participants and those managing the project were able to gain as much positive benefits as possible. The Trust had hoped to engage with up to 20 individuals, however due to the need to provide a greater degree of support to participants, 11 adults in the Eildon Area had taken part over the duration of the project. Ms McKenzie explained that the feedback from participants had been extremely positive, with 9 of the 11 attendees providing feedback. 5 of the participants had expressed their hopes that they could take part in future initiatives, and the report outlined that the desired outcomes identified prior to the project commencing had been achieved to a high degree. In response to a question regarding the initial scoping of the project with regards to mental health considerations, Ms McKenzie acknowledged that her team had no formal mental health training, and highlighted the excellent assistance provided by the LAC team as key to the success of the project.

7.2 Ms McKenzie explained that there had been an £1,800 underspend related to travel costs for participants. Participants had mostly travelled to Abbotsford via private vehicle, with one small claim submitted. Additional underspend from the project related to the inability to source materials due to Covid-19 related supply chain issues. The total amount of money underspent on the project was £3,436. Members thanked Ms McKenzie for her presentation, highlighted that it was unusual for a project to have funds remaining

following a project, and unanimously agreed that The Abbotsford Trust could retain the unspent £3,436 to meet a proportion of salary costs. Mr Coltman explained that he required confirmation of the underspend via email, and how it would be deployed.

8. **NEXT AREA PARTNERSHIP - THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6PM**

The Chairman explained that the meeting on the above date would be carried out via Microsoft Teams, but plans were being made to hold a face-to-face meeting in the spring.

9. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Donald McPhillimy of Greener Melrose requested that a summary of the proposed Borders Greenway was included in the Minute, which was agreed. The proposed Borders Greenway would run from Galashiels to the Coast at Eyemouth via Tweedbank Station, Melrose, Earlston, Gordon, Greenlaw, Duns, Chirnside and Reston Station. The Greenway would allow people to safely walk, cycle, wheel and ride between those communities, with benefits for health, the environment, and the wider economy. The route had been surveyed by Greener Melrose and members of various community groups. Scottish Borders Council, using funding from South of Scotland Enterprise had commissioned a feasibility study, which had reported favourably. A Community Collaboration Group (CCG) had been formed from a number of groups, and was supported by a steering group. The CCG welcomed all of the 16 Community Councils along the route to endorse and contribute to the project.

10. **MEETING EVALUATION VIA MENTI**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 17 November 2022. Suggestions for agenda items, in particular the next theme, could be sent to the Communities and Partnerships team.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm

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Thinking of your local community within Eildon, what projects/initiatives would you like to see thriving?

Education

- Encourage everyone to watch the documentary the secret science of sewage - for answers to many of the climate crisis issues:
<http://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=The%20Secret%20Science%20of%20Sewage>
- Tap into potential of using sewage infrastructure (energy):
<http://www.documentarymania.com/player.php?title=The%20Secret%20Science%20of%20Sewage>
- Encourage everyone to watch the documentary above which has lots of answers to many of the climate crisis issues
- Efficient ways of keeping communities informed about reuse services....and access to information about how to change behaviours
- Hold community workshops on home energy advice.
- Education - kids understand how to grow veg and fruit before leaving school
- Better promotion of Warmer Homes Scotland initiative
- Promote circular economy. Orgs like General Store and Just Cycle.

Food / Growing

- Get kids growing
- Community Orchards - use Council land
- Local food growing, garden sharing, community food projects - access to land.
- Learn about food and how to cook seasonal produce, reduce waste.
- Reducing food waste.
- Food waste and reducing for business and homes
- Encouraging Reuse services and organisations coupled with ways of empowering members of the community to change behaviours

Transport

- Electric car club
- E-bike club
- Safe cycle pathways (use old railway lines)
- Loops of Electric buses (tourism, local communities etc)
- Functioning public transport that covers the Borders and links up from DRT to bus to train
- Public car charger/s in the village.
- Affordable public transport
- Borders Greenway- active travel route from Galashiels to Eyemouth using the old Berwickshire Railway (see Greener Melrose)
- Borders Greenway

Energy

- Encouragement and support for community energy projects so communities can be stakeholders in their local energy supply
- Rivers to generate power across the Borders e.g. Gala Water
- Providing local renewal energy generation accessible to the local community.
- Local power generation based on village halls.
- All social housing have a more robust solar panels that feed in to the house not the grid, reducing costs
- Local energy production
- Bulk purchase of renewables/insulation etc to reduce installation costs.
- Increased solar arrays (e.g. on Common Good land) SBC could assess land for this potential
<https://www.smartflowersolar.co.uk/>

Other

- All communities to have an indoor community space that can be used to support projects about resilience, change in behaviours etc....information about funding for new projects etc.

To realise these aspiration, what key tasks do we need to do? Who are the key players to drive these tasks?

- A collaborative of scientists, community minded people, all working on the ideas to develop the solutions to local climate change challenges
- Attitude change from organisations
- Every resident of the Borders is a key player
- Engage young people through schools.
- Education programme
- Intergenerational learning - passing on skills like food growing, cooking, mending clothes, digital skills.
- Conversations, communication, being inclusive and talk to all. People are brimming with ideas.
- Shared funding for posts Council and Community
- Council can support networking of community orgs.
- Share out windfarm money more widely and fairly. Use it to set up problem solving citizen groups.
- Need buy-in from people, telling folk what to do has limited impact
- Develop an action plan
- Understanding the barriers for those on low incomes
- Understand more about climate specific funding
- Make climate more of a focus within Neighbourhood Support Fund
- Windfarm development and the wider spread of community benefit monies
- Shared learning - no need to reinvent the wheel
- Community energy plan - contact SPEN/utility supplier to consider community ownership to build funds.
- Wind tulip and solar sunflower
- Transition Streets to support each other (Greener Melrose ref)
- Local Energy Generation rivers – appraisal would need to be carried out
- Local Food Growing - Community Orchard (schools linked to education) & Allotments, Forest Gardens
- Forest Garden - being developed in Galashiels, already one in Drygrange
- Communication is vital - need to share with all including those that are not currently engaged (Community climate action Hub in Scottish Borders - potential to fund 4 staff members)
- Would need support from key experts - tap into local expertise (e.g. the in Bloom groups to also grow herbs etc)
- Continuation of projects that are successful

Eildon Funding 2022/23

17 November 2022

Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) 2022/23	
	£
Opening balance as of 01/04/2022	£ 147,038.24
Plus Local Festival Grant Underspend 2021/22	£ 890.00
Total available	£ 147,928.24
Less:	
NSF applications awarded since 01/04/2022	£ 53,979.87
NSF applications that are assessed and await decision	£ 87,427.92
Sub-total	£ 141,407.79
Funds remaining if assessed applications are successful	£ 6,520.45
NSF applications still to be assessed	£ -
Potential Overall Position	£ 6,520.45

Other sources of grant funding - Eildon			
Grant Type	Available	Awarded	Remaining
Local Festival Grants	£ 28,400.00	£ 15,350.00	£ 13,050.00
Annual Support Grants (Community Councils)	£ 10,525.00	£ 7,465.00	£ 3,060.00
SBC Small Schemes	£ 96,400.00	£ 29,278.00	£ 67,122.00
Common Good (Galashiels)	£ 500.00	£ -	£ 500.00
Common Good (Lauder)	£ 10,500.00	£ 2,795.00	£ 7,705.00
Common Good (Selkirk)	£ 20,650.00	£ 2,500.00	£ 18,150.00
William Hill Trust	£ 5,700.00	£ 2,540.00	£ 3,160.00
SBC Enhancement Trust	£ 3,047.22	£ -	£ 3,047.22
SBC Welfare Trust	£ 9,501.52	£ 2,438.90	£ 7,062.62
	£ 185,223.74	£ 62,366.90	£ 122,856.84

Summary of applications						
No.	Date	Fund	Organisation Name	Amount	Project	Status
1	05/04/2022	N'Hood Support	Lauderdale Scout Group	£ 1,500.00	Composting toilet	Awarded
2	08/04/2022	N'Hood Support	Selkirk Guiding	£ 115.27	100 year celebratory event	Awarded
3	13/04/2022	N'Hood Support	Go Wild Scotland	£ 14,790.60	Salary costs - Digital Trail Rollout	Awarded
4	29/04/2022	N'Hood Support	Works+	£ 3,500.00	Salary costs	Awarded
5	16/05/2022	N'Hood Support	Newstead Village Community Trust	£ 390.00	Admin & newsletter costs	Awarded
6	06/05/2022	N'Hood Support	Gala Rugby	£ 12,500.00	Maroon'd event costs	Awarded
8	02/06/2022	N'Hood Support	The Lavender Touch	£ 1,260.00	Treatment room	Awarded
9	28/07/2022	N'Hood Support	Channellkirk PS Parent Council	£ 5,616.00	Transport to Lauder Out-of-School Club	Awarded
10	01/08/2022	N'Hood Support	Stable Life	£ 12,500.00	Salary costs	Assessed
11	10/08/2022	N'Hood Support	Oxton Community Development Ltd	£ 948.00	Oxton shop development project	Awarded
12	16/08/2022	N'Hood Support	The Heartland Market	£ 13,360.00	Galashiels market stalls	Awarded
13	03/09/2022	N'Hood Support	Selkirk High School Parent Partnership	£ 13,903.92	Purchase mountain bikes and equipment	Assessed
14	21/09/2022	N'Hood Support	Bowden Village Committee	£ 1,474.00	Brunton Fountain restoration	Assessed
15	28/09/2022	N'Hood Support	Selkirk Regeneration	£ 1,777.00	100 Years of Fishy Skulduggery book printing	Assessed
16	06/10/2022	N'Hood Support	Earlston Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group	£ 8,100.00	Continued support of Bumps, Babies & Toddler Group	Assessed
17	16/10/2022	N'Hood Support	Perfect Harmony	£ 3,000.00	Additional concerts in care homes	Assessed
18	19/10/2022	N'Hood Support	Abbotsford Trust	£ 10,000.00	Thrive project	Assessed
19	19/10/2022	N'Hood Support	Melrose Scout Group	£ 1,000.00	Canoeing on the River Tweed	Assessed
20	20/10/2022	N'Hood Support	Heritage & Archaeological Research Practice	£ 5,000.00	Sports heritage in Galashiels	Assessed
21	20/10/2022	N'Hood Support	Cafe Recharge	£ 15,000.00	Kitchen lead employee salary	Assessed
22	20/10/2022	N'Hood Support	Waverley Consort	£ 4,645.00	Classical music event in Melrose	Assessed
23	21/10/2022	N'Hood Support	Selkirk Cricket Club	£ 11,028.00	Mower	Assessed
Total				£ 141,407.79		

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Eildon Assessment Panel Recommendations – 17 November 2022

Neighbourhood Support Fund 2022/23

1) Stable Life

£15,000.00

Stable Life will deliver a structured programme for at least 100 referred young people (51% from the Eildon Area) which will include Equine Assisted Therapy/Learning, riding lessons and psychosocial based interventions. They will also offer transitional work placements for young people who would normally struggle in traditional work situations and volunteering opportunities for children they have supported as well as the wider community. The application is towards project workers' salaries.

Panel thoughts:

- Other localities have funded this project
- Supportive of the work that the organisation does
- Aware that the organisation is facing current financial challenges
- The panel would like the group to move towards a more sustainable funding model.

Recommend to part-fund this project £12,500 and the panel would encourage the group to access funding from other sources in future years.

2) Selkirk High School Parent Partnership

£13,903.92

Selkirk High School Parent Partnership aims to establish a well-resourced school bike club to remove barriers to entry and facilitate access to opportunities in mountain biking for the young people of Selkirk and surrounding areas. The club's activities will include guided off-road riding, skills coaching, bike maintenance and trail building. Funding will be used to purchase bikes and trail building tools.

Panel thoughts:

- Aware that young people have been impacted by COVID-19 and activities such as this will be positive for those young people that participate
- The activity will not only provide bikes but tutoring which would allow young people to be safe when cycling and also build on their confidence.
- The group sits separately from the school and is open to all
- The panel would encourage the group to be conscious of non-cyclists and use cycle routes considerately.

Recommend to fully fund this project £13,903.92.

3) Selkirk Regeneration

£1,777.00

Selkirk Regeneration are applying for funds to print an already written book detailing the battle to recover the Fishing rights for Selkirk that were stolen by the Crown Estate predecessors in 1912. The book will be sold and any funds gained will be credited to Selkirk Regeneration. The group are looking to print 100 'perfect bound copies'.

Panel thoughts:

- The panel are interested in the history that will be told within the book
- It is unclear as to the wider community interest in the book
- The need and demand hasn't been clearly evidenced in the application
- There may be more suitable funding options for this application

Recommend not to fund

4) Earlston Bumps, Babies and Toddlers Group

£8,100

The group aim to provide support and friendship to all parents attending and to encourage the wider family (grandparents, dads, aunties and uncles) to come along. The group provide weekly talks and input from local professionals that will benefit the group such as Health Visitors, Nursery nurse. There are currently 12 active members with the aim of increasing this number to 20.

Panel thoughts:

- Supportive of the project and the work that it will do bringing families together to learn from each other
- The financial expenditure didn't marry up successfully with the application
- The panel isn't supportive of some of the expenditure highlighted in the application, such as trips.
- The panel would encourage the group to look at more sustainable and locally sourced toys

Recommend not to fund

5) Perfect Harmony

£3,000

Perfect Harmony currently deliver four concerts per year in each of the 40 care facilities through the Scottish Borders. This funding would allow for additional concerts to be delivered.

Panel thoughts:

- Providing entertainment older people in care facilities is positive
- The Neighbourhood Support Fund is designed with the benefit of all community members in mind
- Some members of the panel have experience these sessions and were able to provide positive feedback about the concerts
- Aware that the application to Eildon is part of a larger application to other localities in the Scottish Borders and as such, if funding applications are unsuccessful in those localities, the Panel recommend that the £3,000 is ring-fenced for care facilities within the Eildon area.

Recommend to fully fund this project £3,000

6) Abbotsford Trust

£14,964.89

The project will inform, empower and support adults with mental health needs referred by SBC's LAC Mental Health Team using Abbotsford's natural and built heritage as a focus for meaningful wellbeing and employability-focused activity as a route into volunteering and/or work within the heritage sector. Participants will improve their physical and mental health, and develop their life skills through engagement with areas such as the estate, front of house, digital marketing, visitor interpretation etc.

Panel thoughts:

- The panel are supportive of the project and the work that The Abbotsford Trust have done as part of the successful BBBB Recovery Fund grant.
- The project will support individuals gain new skills, provide volunteering and employment opportunities and improve the physical and mental health of participants.
- The panel are aware of their responsibility to manage the Neighbourhood Support Fund and feel that part-funding is appropriate in this instance and hope that The Abbotsford Trust can still deliver this project in a slightly reduced capacity.

Recommend to part-fund this project £10,000

7) Heritage & Archaeological Research Practice (HARP)

£7,787.27

The Sports Heritage in Galashiels project will focus on sports heritage and provide health walks in Galashiels. The project will provide opportunities for volunteers and members of the local public to engage with their local heritage and learn new skills. The project will identify and highlight the history of sport in Galashiels and volunteers will learn how to research the history and heritage of the local area online, with skills training provided in archaeological survey and recording.

Panel thoughts:

- Cultural heritage plays an important role in Galashiels
- The project has developed after discussions with HARP and various partners in the local area
- This will be a targeted project. The panel were slightly unsure of the wider community interest and will pay particular attention to the project evaluation and interest from the local community.

Recommend to part-fund this project £5,000.

8) Café Recharge

£15,000.00

Café ReCharge are seeking to employ someone in the kitchen to take the lead in preparing and serving the food in the cafe during the week and run the kitchen at the weekend. They would also manage a small team of staff and volunteers as necessary to run the kitchen. This will then allow Café Recharge to run community supper evenings and family brunches to extend their services.

Panel thoughts:

- Aware of the good work that Café Recharge has done up until now
- Supportive of the idea of a surplus food café and the positive impact this has on the climate
- Provides a positive service to those struggling financially
- Aware that the group has applied previously to the BBBB and Community Fund

Recommend to fully fund this project £15,000.

With the aim that this will allow the group to become sustainable. The panel would encourage the group to access funding from other sources in future years.

9) Waverley Consort

£4,645.00

Waverley Consort is a group of singers and instrumentalists that put on classical concerts. The group want to deliver a classical music event in Melrose, on Easter weekend 2023, performing Bach's great St Matthew Passion on Good Friday. The vision is an inclusive community event, with no ticket charge, presenting a high quality devotional concert, telling the Easter story and bringing together audience and performers for live music.

Panel thoughts:

- It will provide a memorable community event, free of charge
- Supports local amateur musicians
- Boosts local cultural life in the Borders after COVID-19

Recommend to fully fund this project £4,645.

10) Selkirk Cricket Club
£11,028.00

Selkirk Cricket Club's three, old grass-cutting machines are no longer fit for purpose. The club has identified a new machine, the Dennis FT510, which would do the job of all current mowers, saving both time and money.

Panel thoughts:

- Recreational area is a well-used facility for cricket and for wider community activity
- New mower would assist with the Selkirk Cricket Club's 150th Anniversary Ground Improvement Project
- Have received letters of support from a number of other local clubs and community groups
- Removes the need for three mowers.

Recommend to fully fund this project £11,028
