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Eildon
Area Partnership

Our Scottish Borders
Your community

Meeting

Date: Thursday, 28 March 2024
Time: 2 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber, Council HQ, Newtown St. Boswells and via Microsoft Teams

AGENDA

1.	Welcome
2.	Apologies for Absence
3.	Minutes (Pages 3 - 8) Consider Minutes of meetings held on 25 January and 21 March 2024. (Copies attached.)
4.	Neighbourhood Support Fund 2023/24 (Pages 9 - 10) 6.1 Lauderdale Initiative – NSF Underspend 6.2 Bowden Village Committee 6.3 Criteria 6.4 Panel membership
5.	Eildon Funding Table 2023/24 - Final Position (Pages 11 - 12)
6.	Any Other Business

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**Eildon
Area Partnership**



MINUTE of Meeting of the EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP held Via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillors E. Thornton-Nicol (Chair), C. Cochrane, E. Jardine, J. Paton Day, F. Sinclair and H. Steel together with 5 representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils, and members of the public.

Apologies:- Councillors L. Douglas, J. Linehan, N. Mackinnon, and D. Parker.

In Attendance:- Community Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Community Engagement Officer (E. Coltman), Democratic Services Team Leader.

1. **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held via Microsoft Teams.

2. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

There had been circulated copies of an additional information document with the agenda.

3. **FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION FROM MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2023**

The Minute of the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held on 17 November 2023 had been circulated and was noted.

3. **EILDON DAY SERVICES UPDATE**

The Chair welcomed Elke Fabry, Project Manager with Scottish Borders Council to the meeting to provide an update on Day Services in Eildon. Ms Fabry explained that a project had been undertaken in conjunction with the Integrated Joint Board to examine how Day Services were delivered in the Eildon Locality, with a view to provide alternative, community based, services rather than the traditional day centre model. A number of day centres had been decommissioned following a review in 2019, one of which was the Teviot Day Centre, the closure of which had subsequently been declared unlawful. A needs assessment had been undertaken by the IJB in early 2022 which had received 245 responses. 28% of those responses were from the Eildon Locality. A task force, involving the NHS, third sector partners, SBC, and unpaid carer representatives, had been set up to drive progress. A survey had gone live on 2 October 2023, with the closing day extended due to the low volume of responses received. Ms Fabry explained that the focus of that exercise was to reach individuals and groups that were hard to reach. The pyramid of need was presented, and it was highlighted that in day centres once an individual had personal care needs such as assistance with medication, they were not typically able to continue to attend the service. Some other groups were active in the region for people with dementia, however, once personal care was required it was usually not possible for people to continue to attend those services. Further engagement, research and information gathering exercises were underway, with drop-in sessions planned to understand the issues faced by service users across the Locality. Ms Fabry highlighted that within Eildon there were a number of services available in Galashiels, and that it would be important that future service provision did not become too focused on that town alone. The Chair highlighted that the geographic spread of Eildon was considerable, and that being too Galashiels focused was problematic. It was suggested that Ms Fabry consider contacting various groups such as the Alzheimer's Borders and St John's Dementia Group in Selkirk for insight into the issues faced by people across Eildon. The importance of ensuring that effective transport links were in place was highlighted.

Anyone could provide their views through the consultation which was hosted at [Daytime opportunities for older adults with advanced care needs based in Eildon -2024 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#).

4. **SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT (SYP) UPDATE**

The Community Engagement Officer, Mr Erin Coltman, provided a summary of the recent Scottish Youth Parliament elections. The elections had been planned for November 2023, however, due to technical difficulties with the voting platform, had taken place in December. The candidates had been recruited in May 2023, and had undergone training and subsequently undertaken campaigning. Scottish Borders Council's Youth Engagement Officer, Ms Pam Rigby, had reported that the candidates had been patient and resilient throughout the process. The Scottish Youth Parliament was a non-political platform focused on legal and social justice issues. Three new Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) had been elected to represent their peers at a national level. Mr Coltman introduced Alex, one of the newly elected MSYPs to the meeting. Alex explained that she had campaigned on three issues that tended to be overlooked in the Scottish Borders, transport, youthwork, and health and wellbeing. Effective public transport was particularly important to young people given the rural nature of the region. Alex highlighted that youth work had the potential to provide many benefits, particularly related to the mental health of young people. Regarding health and wellbeing, Alex stressed that more should be available to people of all backgrounds. Attendees thanked Alex for attending the meeting, expressed their congratulations on being elected, and suggested that more needed to be done to ensure that the voices of young people were heard at Council meetings. Members encouraged Alex to get in touch with any of the Elected Members if she had an issue to raise.

5. **EDINBURGH NAPIER UNIVERSITY – SCOTTISH BORDERS INTERVIEWS**

The Community Co-ordinator, Mr Kenny Harrow, highlighted that Heriot Watt University were undertaking a survey on speed limits across the Scottish Borders. The conversations would take approximately 40 minutes and were focused on the 20mph speed limit introduced across the region. Mr Harrow encouraged any interested party to reach out and undertake the survey.

6. **SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL BUDGET 2023/24**

It was highlighted that a consultation on Scottish Borders Council's 2023/24 budget was live. The budget was due to be set at a meeting of full Council on 29 February 2024. Attendees were encouraged to complete the survey. It was highlighted that some attendees could find the format of the survey problematic, and that it was difficult to suggest how a problem could be addressed without knowing its full extent. Members highlighted that the survey went beyond seeking ideas for savings and asked the residents of the region to provide their feedback on what was most important to them. A further consultation was also ongoing to determine the priorities of young people.

7. **EILDON FUNDING TABLE 2023/24**

There had been circulated copies of the Eildon Funding Table for 2023/24.

8. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND 2023/24**

8.1 There had been circulated copies of the recommendations of the Eildon Assessment Panel with the agenda. Mr Coltman provided a summary of the three applications.

8.2 **Recovery Coaching Scotland**

The application from Recovery Coaching Scotland was for £4,255 to create a breakfast club as a pilot project. The club would support individuals and families affected by substance abuse, social isolation, poor mental health, and poverty in the Eildon Locality. The Group was already providing weekday support, however there was no support available at weekends. The Assessment Panel had recommended to approve the project in full. Mr Rod Anderson of the Group was present to answer questions. In response to a question regarding links between Street Soccer and LiveBorders, Mr Anderson explained

that discussions had been held and it was hoped that 2 coaches could be supported to acquire the appropriate qualifications and lead sessions in the area. The Chair clarified that whilst Recovery Coaching Scotland was a national charity, Borders in Recovery was entirely based in the Scottish Borders. It was unanimously agreed to approve the application in full.

8.3 **Melrose Imagination Library**

Mr Coltman explained that Melrose Imagination Library was a brand new, local organisation, keen to utilise the Dolly Parton's "Dollywood Foundation" Imagination Library which gifted a book to every child in a designated area (Melrose and District), every month from birth until their fifth birthday. Funding was sought from the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund to cover the first year of expenses, namely the purchases of books, with funding in future years to come from local fundraising events and other funders. Gabrielle Deehan of the Group was present and responded to questions. Regarding the financial sustainability of the project, Ms Deehan explained that the project was based on a five-year pilot with decreasing reliance on grants. It was led by local parents, and it was hoped that local fundraising efforts would ensure that the project remained viable. It was confirmed that the group was in communication with Borders Community Action. The application for funding was unanimously approved.

8.4 **Borders Chamber Choir**

The application from Borders Chambers Choir was for £4,820 to help Borders Chamber deliver a performance of Bach's St. John Passion on Easter Saturday, 30 March 2024 in Melrose Parish Church. The performance would bring together 55 performers alongside the Borders Chamber Orchestra. The application to the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund was primarily for solo performers, travel costs and marketing/publicity. Mr Coltman clarified that the Borders Chambers Choir was a new organisation which had been created following the success of the previously held Waverly concert. Members discussed the application and expressed concerns regarding the legacy element of the project and the wider benefit to the people of Eildon. Councillor Jardine, seconded by Councillor Sinclair, proposed that the application be refused. The motion was unanimously approved and the application for funding was rejected.

9. **NEXT AREA PARTNERSHIP**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Area Partnership be held via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting concluded at 7.45 p.m.

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MINUTE of Meeting of the EILDON AREA
PARTNERSHIP held Via Microsoft Teams on
Thursday, 21 March 2024 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillors E. Thornton-Nicol (Chair), N. Mackinnon, F. Sinclair, and H. Steel together with 6 representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils, and members of the public.

Apologies:- Councillors C. Cochrane, E. Jardine, J. Paton Day L. Douglas, J. Linehan, and D. Parker.

In Attendance:- Community Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Community Engagement Officer (E. Coltman), Democratic Services Team Leader.

1. **QUORUM**

The Chair explained that the meeting was not quorate and could not proceed. A meeting would be convened on Thursday, 28 March 2024 to consider the Neighbourhood Support Fund applications and criteria. An additional meeting would be held in late April.

The meeting concluded at 6.10 p.m.

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Lauderdale Initiative

Underspend of £1,785

Lauderdale Initiative was awarded £10,000 at the Eildon Area Partnership in September 2023 for the purchase and installation of Christmas lights on Lauder High Street.

The group has an underspend of £1,785, because of key installation works to lampposts being carried out directly by BEAR Scotland (who are responsible for the street lighting on the A68 trunk road) rather than by the expected contractor Lightways Ltd. BEAR Scotland carried out the work for no charge.

Lauderdale Initiative would like to purchase two motifs to replace existing motifs that were damaged in adverse weather, at a cost of £900 plus approximately £345 in installation fees. They would also like to replace the LED tree topper at a cost of £540.

Panel thoughts

- The panel is pleased to read that there were significant savings made to the original cost estimates thanks to the in-kind work carried out by BEAR.
- The panel is very aware that £10,000 is the maximum amount that an organisation can be awarded by the Eildon Area Partnership, and with an opening balance of approximately £86,000, the award represented a significant proportion of the overall amount available. Where there is underspend, the panel is keen to prioritise new applicants as opposed to existing applicants.
- In this instance, it is the end of the financial year and any funds that are returned to SBC cannot be carried over into the new financial year.

The panel recommends that £970.69 is returned to the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund to enable the full support of the application from Bowden Village Committee.

The panel recommends that the remaining balance of £814.31 be retained by Lauderdale Initiative to purchase further lights, aligning with the original aims and objectives of their initial application.

Bowden Village Committee

£5,000.00

The Neighbourhood Support Fund supported a full conservation assessment of the Brunton Fountain and a costed budget for restoration. The final phase of the project is to use strong conservation practice to reinstate and make sound the foundations of the Fountain and re-erect a cleaned and re-inscribed fountain with the original fixtures and fittings. The Committee have taken expert advice from qualified architects and quantity surveyors, and will work with a local specialist stonemason to ensure a sympathetic and cost effective restoration. We hope to install an interpretation panel and plan a series of community events.

We have received a full report from Ian Jamieson, Conservation Architect recommending a stabilisation of the foundations and a new stone plinth, this supported the development of a costed budget from Ian Hogg, Quantity Surveyor and the stonemason. Both these outputs now enable the Committee to complete the full restoration, interpretation and recording of the project.

The aims of the project

1. To restore the Brunton Fountain and ensure its long-term future by stabilisation of the foundations and redressing stonework
2. Record the restoration/conservation process, and archive it in the Hawick Heritage Hub
3. Collect and collate the history of the Thomas Brunton and publish in a booklet
4. Increase public awareness of the importance of the link between Bowden's development and access to water: this will include a visit by pupils from the local school to focus on some aspect of "water", climate change etc.
5. Seek Category C listing for the restored Brunton Fountain
6. To arrange for the Brunton family grave in Bowden Kirkyard to be cleaned

Total project cost: £11,646.00.

In-kind contributions total: £1,350

Total restoration cost: £10,296

Panel thoughts

- The panel had a lengthy discussion about this application, as the applicant has previously received funding from the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund in 2022/23 for the conservation reports. The funding for the restoration stage of the project was supposed to come from external sources.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund was explored at the end of 2023 but the committee were informed that it was unlikely to receive funding as it did not meet all four of the fund's main aims. The panel appreciates that other sources have been explored and notes that the committee has secured £1,000 from the Brunton Trust, £600 from its own funds, and has an Fallago Rigg Environment Fund application of £3,696 pending.
- With this award from the Neighbourhood Support Fund, it will strengthen the application to the Fallago Rigg Environment Fund as it significantly increases the match funding, which will hopefully allow the complete restoration of the fountain to be completed.
- The panel understands the importance of such a focal point/ feature in a village and is keen to ensure that the committee is in a position to return it to its original condition.

The panel recommends to fund this project in full, to the value of £5,000.00. It is also recommended that payment is withheld until confirmation of an award from the Fallago Rigg Environment Fund or that the deficit has been covered from another funding source.

Eildon Funding 2023/24

21 March 2024

Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) 2023/24	
	£
Opening balance as of 01/04/2023	£ 86,073.00
Total available	£ 86,073.00
Less:	
NSF applications awarded since 01/04/2023	£ 82,043.69
NSF applications that are assessed and await decision	£ 5,000.00
Sub-total	£ 87,043.69
Funds remaining if assessed applications are successful	-£ 970.69
NSF applications still to be assessed	£ -
Potential Overall Position	-£ 970.69

Other sources of grant funding - Eildon			
Grant Type	Available	Awarded	Remaining
Local Festival Grants	£ 28,400.00	£ 25,100.00	£ 3,300.00
Annual Support Grants (Community Councils)	£ 10,525.00	£ 10,525.00	£ -
Common Good (Galashiels)	£ 500.00	£ 590.00	-£ 90.00
Common Good (Lauder)	£ 5,900.00	£ 3,000.00	£ 2,900.00
Common Good (Selkirk)	£ 18,150.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 16,650.00
William Hill Trust	£ 12,090.00	£ 1,720.00	£ 10,370.00
SBC Enhancement Trust	£ 3,686.11	£ 2,142.85	£ 1,543.26
SBC Welfare Trust	£ 11,810.12	£ 10,618.61	£ 1,191.51
	£ 91,061.23	£ 55,196.46	£ 35,864.77

Summary of NSF applications						
No.	Date	Fund	Organisation Name	Amount	Project	Status
1	08/04/2023	NSF	Gala Cricket Club	£ 1,200.00	New mower	Awarded
2	03/05/2023	NSF	Selkirk Hill Management Group	£ 749.00	New mower	Awarded
3	11/05/2023	NSF	Hike and Bike Hub	£ 6,150.00	Rent costs	Awarded
4	13/05/2023	NSF	Go Wild Scotland	£ 9,992.78	Salary costs	Awarded
5	26/05/2023	NSF	Lauder Larder	£ 5,407.82	Food provision expansion	Awarded
6	30/05/2023	NSF	Trustees of Bowden Common	£ 934.55	Equipment for Common maintenance	Awarded
9	02/08/2023	NSF	Interest Link Borders	£ 10,000.00	Learning disabilities befriending project	Awarded
10	03/08/2023	NSF	Lauderdale Community & Leisure Centre	£ 7,985.54	One-off emergency support	Awarded
11	04/08/2023	NSF	Lauderdale Initiative	£ 10,000.00	Christmas lights 2023	Awarded
12	06/08/2023	NSF	TD1 Youth Hub	£ 9,360.00	TD1 Active	Awarded
13	10/09/2023	NSF	Lilliesleaf Community Development Ltd	£ 697.00	Leaf Green Growing Area	Awarded
14	28/09/2023	NSF	Melrose FC	£ 10,000.00	Changing room upgrade	Awarded
15	26/10/2023	NSF	Scottsh Country Dancing	£ 828.00	Dance festival 2024	Awarded
16	27/11/2023	NSF	Recovery Coaching Scotland	£ 4,255.00	Breakfast Club - Borders in Recovery	Awarded
17	10/12/2023	NSF	Melrose Imagination Library	£ 2,204.00	Imagination library	Awarded
18	08/01/2024	NSF	Bannerfield Horticultural and Allotment Assoc.	£ 1,480.00	Water borehole and irrigation system	Awarded
19	29/02/2024	NSF	Stow Community Trust	£ 800.00	IT and Repair/Reuse sessions	Awarded
20	01/03/2024	NSF	Bowden Village Committee	£ 5,000.00	Brunton Fountain restoration	Assessed
Total				£ 87,043.69		

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