

To Trustees of Peebles Common Good

Dear Trustees

**Developing the Eastgate/ Peebles Common Good Support
Request for early meeting to update Trustees and confirm/review implementation of support.**

You will recall that, last autumn, at your November meeting, I outlined how plans to improve and develop the Eastgate were to be progressed via a development Grant from the BIG lottery.

In seeking to put in place our forward funding strategy, I requested and obtained from Trustees an agreement in principle to allow us to apply for grants from funders who administer the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund, but whose regulations required a Third Party Contribution (of 10%) to "unlock" the grants if and when they were awarded.

This Common Good support was, and is, absolutely crucial in leveraging the landfill grants, possibly totalling as much as £110k, and, as it turns out, in helping to match a further £150k secured from Scottish Borders Leader, on condition that full match funding is in place, and formally pledged, by August 30th.

The situation is challenging and is complicated by vital issues of timing and wording which place particular conditions on particular funding offers.

I have attached a short briefing paper which gives a flavour of the funding situation, but which does not go into the technicalities of putting the funding package together in terms of timing and conditions relating to individual offers which, crucially, all need to be in alignment if the first phase of the development is to go ahead.

I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet with Trustees to update you more fully on the latest position and to secure your permission to review and implement, as appropriate, the "in principle" offers of support which were agreed in November.

Unfortunately the next scheduled meeting of the Peebles Common Good Trustees is not until 29th August, which is impossibly close to the match funding deadline to secure the Leader Grant.

Although, of course, I am happy to brief Trustees individually, at times and venues convenient to each in turn, I would be very grateful indeed if you felt able to set up an ad hoc meeting of the group where decisions might be made and authorisations for confirmatory documents might be authorised to satisfy grant conditions.

I sincerely apologise for the timing of this request, but I hope you will understand that support from the Common Good Fund at this crucial time gives us an opportunity to take advantage of substantial time-limited offers of funding which, if match-funding conditions are met, can enable us to move forward with our plans to upgrade the auditorium as phase one of our wider plan to improve facilities at the Eastgate, for the benefit of our customers and our community.

With renewed thanks for your earlier consideration and support
Kindest regards

Ian Jenkins
Vice Chair, Eastgate Theatre