

2019/2020 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Eildon

Ref. No.:CF1920-EIL-9

Organisation Name: Macfie Hall Committee Ltd

Funding Requested: £10,000

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Company Limited by Guaranteed		
Annual Accounts Balance	£29,649.00		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much? Reserve funds of £6-8,000 are held by MacFie Hall Committee to maintain upkeep of the hall. Current reserves of £16,658 include £10,000 for this renovation project.			
Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
Fund	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project Brief	The Macfie Hall refurbishment project aims to improve the lives of residents in Heriot by improving the Hall to provide flexible, fit for purpose community facilities that meet modern standards and expectations.
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	The Community Fund award would be used to improve the external terracing for outdoor events.
Total Expenditure (£)	300,000
Community Fund Request (£)	10,000
10% Match-funding	£1,000
Any Other Contribution?	

Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
	100,000	Dun Law Windfarm Trust Confirmed
	100,000	Toddleburn & Carcant Windfarm Fund Confirmed
	10,000	Own funds
	8,000	Community Council Energy Saving Grant Confirmed
	20,000	Robertson Trust Confirmed
	25,000	Garfield Weston Confirmed
	10,000	National Lottery Confirmed
	12,000	Fundraising
Community Fund Outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Communities have more access to better quality local services or activities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to a better quality environment <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more pride in their community <input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality advice and information <input type="checkbox"/> More local groups or services are better supported to recover from financial difficulty	

ASSESSMENT	
What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>The current state of the hall is showing signs of age and disrepair. The group have secured a long term lease from Scottish Borders Council but are responsible for the maintenance and improvements of the building.</p> <p>The project has demonstrated that a refurbished hall will enhance communities' access to a better quality environment. Current activities and groups that access the hall include; ceilidhs and dances, karate, pensioners groups and fitness classes.</p> <p>A local community survey completed in 2018 highlighted the need for further activity to take place in the community, utilizing the Macfie Hall. 188 adults responded to the community survey along with 29 young people. Activities that were highlighted in the consultation that the community would like to see in the hall included; film/theatre nights, social events and environmental projects. The community survey identified that there was a lot of interest in a number of ideas for extra community use.</p> <p>Improvements in the hall will make the space more accessible to a wider demographic of the community.</p>
What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the	A wider range of activities in Hall for all ages and abilities will help to improve and foster positive community relationships.

<p>project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?</p>	<p>Improvements in the hall will increase accessibility of services for people with physical disabilities. It will create reduced sense of isolation for some local residents as the refurbished Hall currently hosts many activities and will attract new more social, cultural and additional events. The current toilets in the building are not at an acceptable level of use and there are no toilet facilities for those with a disability. There are no adequate kitchen facilities for catering purposes and this has made attracting lunch groups to use the hall difficult.</p> <p>The Hall is very cold through the autumn, winter and spring seasons and it takes a long time to get it up to a comfortable temperature, This has been identified as a reason why people do not currently access the hall during these months.</p> <p>The hall acts as a catalyst for activities, relationships and new ideas and is a focal point within the community. Through the community consultation it found that the community felt that public transport was a major issue. Feedback was that the bus service was too infrequent and older people identified poor public transport as a reason for increasing their sense of isolation. In order to reach the most disadvantaged people in the community, there is a desire to offer them a comfortable experience. The ability to offer residents a lunch club would be a priority allowing residents to regularly socialize and reduce their feeling of isolation. The group would also like the opportunity to offer activities which will help keep older residents active, both physically and mentally. Improved outdoor terracing will allow for activities to be held outdoors in better weather, making the most of the scenic setting of the hall and providing a space for those who are not always comfortable attending indoor events.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>A volunteer group has been established as part of the project this has allowed the group to consult with existing users of the hall as well as being able to listen to points of views/opinion from the wider community.</p> <p>There are currently 16 various community groups accessing the hall, covering a large demographic of ages and abilities.</p> <p>It will not be possible for activities to held in the hall whilst improvement works are undertaken but the community agree this temporary restriction will be worthwhile.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>The applicant has secured enough funding to complete the renovations of the hall providing a Community Fund grant is awarded. The group has a sound contingency plan in place in the event that funding is not secured with the development of the outside terrace to take place at a later stage.</p> <p>The group are looking to fundraise a total of £12,000 towards renovations. They appreciate that this is an ambitious target and have appropriate plans in place if they don't successfully raise this amount or if they raise a reduced amount. Funding applications for small grants will be made at a later date to help furnish the inside of the hall.</p>

<p>What happens at the end of the project/activity or when the funding is spent?</p>	<p>The committee will bear responsibility for the halls ongoing maintenance and upkeep. Regular overhead costs are met through income from letting the caretaker's cottage and from hall lets. The group also receive an annual contribution from the Dun Law community benefit fund which is used by the group to cover significant works and improvements. Other services have indicated that they will access the hall once renovations are complete which will increase earnings, alongside existing rentals.</p> <p>A commercial café was in operation last year from summer up until November. The café will continue this year once renovations are complete.</p>
<p>Quotes received for items of expenditure</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

SBC OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The application meets the criteria of the community fund.

Additional Terms and Conditions:

If successful, Macfie Hall Committee Ltd will be requested to evaluate the impact of their project either on conclusion of their project or a year after receipt of their grant funding, whichever comes first. We recommend Macfie Hall consider using the following measures to help them evaluate impact:

- Number of events and activities held in the hall including the number of new activities
- Number of people using the hall including the number of new users if possible
- Feedback on what difference the hall improvements have made to the community
- Future plans for the hall and activities in Heriot
- Use of the SBC logo in promotional materials