

Chief Executive

31 JAN 2020

Democratic Services

Scottish  
Borders

C O U N C I L



PEEBLES COMMON GOOD FUND  
APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

<u>Applicant Details</u> Name and Address of Applicant/Organisation:	Lorna McCullough Tweed Wheels, The Bridge School Brae Peebles EH45 8AL
Telephone No:	01721 723123
E-mail address:	Lorna.mccullough@the-bridge.uk.net
Address to which payment should be made:	As above.
<u>Activities</u> Please supply a brief description of the activities of your organisation and the benefits it brings to the local community:	<p><b>Tweed Wheels is our Community Transport initiative in Tweeddale. We have 2 vehicles, a mini bus and a car. We need capital funding to purchase a replacement mini bus as our existing vehicle is coming to the end of its life.</b></p> <p>Tweed Wheels has been providing an accessible community transport service for the people of Tweeddale for over 21 years. The service supports some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community, through age, ill health, frailty or disability - including those with learning disabilities, who are unable to access other modes of transport. The objective of this service has always been to ensure that such people are able to participate and/or continue to participate in the ordinary activities of life and have good access to health and social care.</p> <p>In the 12 month period ending April 2019, our Tweed Wheels mini bus has been used for 4927 passenger trips. Older people have represented over 35% of that, the rest is made up of community youth organisations, groups with learning disabilities and other community groups such as churches and sports clubs.</p> <p>This project will fund the purchase and conversion of an accessible 14 passenger seat vehicle to be based in Peebles and operated by The Bridge. It will have a wheel chair lift, a single front passenger seat, two tip and fold seats and 11 removable passenger seats in rear cabin. With the tip and fold seats up, there is space for one</p>

wheelchair and more by removing some of the seats. Maintaining the passenger capacity of this new vehicle will enable us to continue to carry groups of older people e.g. to local lunch clubs and other well-being activities.

Those who use our vehicles retain their independence by, for example, continuing to do their own shopping, enjoy local entertainment, attend health appointments (including non-emergency hospital and consultant visits) or through involvement in social groups. Assisting people to attend health appointments reduces cancellations thus saving valuable resources and, we believe, helps to reduce the likelihood of hospitalization. Some of those who use the transport service have benefited by gaining access to local sports facilities, lunch clubs or fitness activities, thereby maintaining or improving their physical health. We believe that for many of our users, the retention of these social and emotional connections in their community makes a significant contribution to their mental health and well-being.

Local organisations, such as the Pensioners Association, Riverside House Sheltered Housing, Peebles Nursing Home, Interest Link, Tweeddale Youth Action and Peebles High School depend on Tweed Wheels for transport. In addition rural primary schools depend on it to get children to their swimming lessons at Peebles Swimming Pool.

We also provide the opportunity for people to volunteer as drivers and this has proved to be a very positive experience for those who have done so, most of whom are retired. All our volunteers are PVG checked and MiDAS trained.

Testimonials from our service users are such as;

'Tweed Wheels is a lifeline for me. The drivers cannot do enough to help and nothing is a problem for them. I have been using the community car for about 9 years and it is the one day that I can get out. I use the car to go and get my hair done and to go to the dentist and opticians too. Being able to use the car is one of the reasons that I am able to continue living at home'

'I have been using the community car for about 6 years to collect my pension and medication, and to do my shopping. I wouldn't be able to get out without the car and the help of all of the drivers who are all excellent'.

'We have been using the Tweed Wheels minibus for trips away for several years now and many of these trips would not have been possible without it. Young people in rural communities like Tweeddale often lack the opportunities that their peers in cities and towns with cheaper and more regular public transport connections have,

	and having access to a minibus allows us to offer opportunities and experiences that would not otherwise be possible'.
<u>Assistance Requested</u> Please indicate the sum requested and the purpose for which it will be used:	A total of £10,000 is requested, this will go towards the purchase of a new vehicle in the region of £40,000.
When will the donation be required:	As soon as possible to enable us to order the new vehicle for production and conversion.
If this is a one-off project then please give the following details –  Date (s):  Estimated total cost:  Funds already raised by applicant's own efforts:   Funds raised or expected to be raised from other sources (please state sources):	Total cost is £40,000. Already raised £20,000, awaiting to hear about an application for a further £10,000. This application is therefore for the final £10,000 needed to complete the project.

Other information

If you have other information which you feel is relevant to this application please provide details including details of any previous assistance given:

Whilst this application is for capital costs, it's important to note that all operational costs are met by The Bridge. This includes staff resource, insurance, fuel, repairs and more. We do this by generating income through our Thrift shop in Innerleithen and support from the social car scheme to enable us to offer an affordable service to our passengers. This work will continue.

Declaration

I hereby make application for assistance as set out above and certify that the information I have provided is accurate

Signed:

Position Held: **Area Manager for Tweeddale**

Date:

29/1/2020

**Note: All applications from organisations MUST be accompanied by a copy of the latest audited accounts**

This completed form, accounts and any supporting details should be submitted to Judith Turnbull, Democratic Services Officer, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA for all funds. Telephone 01835 826556