



Eastgate Theatre  
Peebles  
EH45 8AD

21 June 2020

Cllr Robin Tatler  
Chairman  
Peebles Common Good Fund

Dear Robin,

**Common Good Fund: £20,000 loan to the Eastgate Theatre**

Since the current lockdown started in March the Eastgate has been able to secure £15,100 of Covid-19 grant support plus **over £25,000 of donations from the local community**. Together with the annual grant from Live Borders which is being paid quarterly in advance, and staff being furloughed, this means that our *current* costs are being covered. However the company's financial situation after the furlough scheme ends, and when no further grants are available, is likely to remain challenging.

In common with almost all theatres, and to a lesser extent cinemas and cafes, the problems we are facing are: firstly, the loss of income during the spring and summer season which would normally have helped sustain the company through the rest of the year; secondly, social distancing guidelines and procedures will restrict the income we can achieve for at least the next 6-9 months; and lastly, we anticipate that it will be several months before audiences will feel completely comfortable to return to events and performances.

As you know we refurbished the auditorium and foyer during 2019. The largest funder of this project is LEADER but approximately £75,000 of their grant to the Eastgate has still not been paid, and we are therefore having to rely on an £80,000 loan facility from Royal Bank of Scotland until the grant funds are received. Scottish Borders Council are aware of this delay and have assured us of their continued support for the Eastgate.

We gratefully acknowledge the support that the Common Good Fund has provided to the Eastgate in the past and for the current £20,000 loan, but given the current extraordinary circumstances, it would be immensely helpful if the Trustees of the Common Good Fund could consider an extension of the repayment date, perhaps for a further 12 months, when hopefully the theatre will be fully operational. The present agreement is for repayment of the full loan in December 2020.

I would be grateful if our request could be presented to the next meeting of the Trustees.

Finally, please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Ron Inglis (Chair of the Eastgate Board)

cc Louise McGeoch

