

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Eildon

Ref. No.: CF2021/EIL/3

Organisation Name: Walks around Stow

Funding Requested: £5,000

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Sub-group of Stow Community Council		
Annual Accounts Balance	£210.42 in non-restricted funds		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
Community Grant Scheme	2018/19	£5,000	To produce a Walks around Stow booklet
Have they applied for Common Good Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project Brief	<p>Walks around Stow are seeking funding to purchase 11 self-closing gates on identified walking pathways around Stow. This is an extension of the Walks around Stow initiative which was started to identify and promote 10 walking pathways around Stow.</p> <p>The gates and installation cost £500 each.</p>

Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY		Spring 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)		£5,500	
Community Fund Request (£)		£5,000	
10% organisation contribution		£500	
Any Other Contribution?			
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?	
Community Fund Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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		
Eildon Action Plan priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop attractions within the countryside to encourage visitors to the area 		

ASSESSMENT	
What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>Stow has relatively few designated core paths or signed accessible walking routes. The local community has for some years been keen to develop a series of signed circular walking routes around the village of Stow which could be easily accessed from the railway station, and offer access opportunities for locals and visitors. A feasibility study coupled with community and landowner consultation has identified initial paths suitable for development and promotion. Gates and fencing are required to allow on-going vehicular access by relevant landowners, but also to discourage or control illegal vehicular access where required. The group must also address farmers' concerns about gates being left open. To satisfy these needs, the feasibility study recommends replacing the majority of field gates using Centrewire York heavy duty 2-in-1 gates with an integral self-closing 1.5m section (diagram below). Where there is no existing gate, or stiles are being replaced, 1.5m 2-way self-closing gates have been specified. Existing gates in relatively poor condition will also be replaced.</p>
What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the	<p>Centrewire metal gates are recommended on the basis of their high quality, durability and because their self-closing gates have proven to be reliably self-closing, and therefore equally suitable for march or road boundaries. The integral H-frame of these gates</p>

project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?	minimises future maintenance requirement. The gates are more robust and longer lasting than wooden gates and stiles. By installing these gates, it supports the safe and considerate use of the identified paths.
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>Walks around Stow are actively working with local farmers and landowners to plan 10 walking routes which will cross over five farms in total. Two routes have been mapped and leaflets published. Another three walks will be published by early 2021. Farmers are identifying where gates should be placed. The group do not know how many gates will be required in total but the placement of the first five gates has been confirmed and placement of the additional six gates will be confirmed as the next three walks are confirmed. The following five walks will be routed over the next two years. Some farmers are double fencing sections of the walks which will help separate the walker from any stock in the field and one farmer has agreed to mow the path within the double fence they are installing so that it remains passable. There has been offers from farmers to help meet the costs of some gates and some have also agreed to put in bridges as well.</p> <p>Walks around Stow are working with Stow Community Trust to produce walking leaflets to coincide with the opening of Stow Station House in Spring 2021. This refurbished facility will encourage visitors to the village and explore the local area. Walks around Stow are in discussion with groups in Galashiels, Heriot and Gorebridge to create a corridor of walks along the Border Railway. There is ongoing discussion with Galashiels to consider hosting a walking festival in Stow in a few years.</p> <p>In addition to the four core members of the group, their work is supported by a local archivist, the local camera club, a botanist, bird watchers and other villagers who are helping provide content for their leaflets.</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	Walks around Stow plan to submit funding applications to EDF Longpark Windfarm and Foundation Scotland for the purchase of additional gates.
How will the impact and success of the project be measured? What happens at the end of the project/activity or when the funding is spent?	Walks around Stow will continue to work with landowners and farmers to monitor use of the pathways and identify any issues with the conduct of those using the pathways and gates.
Quotes received for items of expenditure	Costings received for the Centrewire gates. A farmer is obtaining costs for alternative gates.
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	Yes

SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT

The application meets the criteria of the community fund.

Additional Terms and Conditions:

We would seek the group to particularly report on:

- Estimated number of people who make use of the paths network
- Feedback from walkers, local residents, farmers, landowners etc
- Improvement in accessibility

**Specification for 2-in-1 gate incorporating 1.5m self-closing section, e.g. Centrewire
York 2-in-1 gate (reproduced from Outdoor Access Design Guide)**

