

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Eildon

Ref. No.: CF2021-Eil-04

Organisation Name: Café Recharge

Funding Requested: £14,404

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Community Interest Company (CIC)		
Annual Accounts Balance	Under one year of operation: income & expenditure for first seven months of operation provided, closing balance £13,353.47. Income & expenditure projections for next 12 months and recent bank statement provided.		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much? £10,000 Crowdfunder to pay for start-up costs and equipment £1,000 for website design			
Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project Brief	The main aims and objectives of Cafe Recharge are to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce Food Waste • Reduce Food Poverty • Promote community engagement, integration and partnership working • Become a self-sustaining Community Interest Company

Café Recharge aims to reduce the gap between food poverty and food waste by using unsold food from supermarkets to serve in a Pay What You Can Cafe in Galashiels. The café will run primarily on food donated through schemes such as Neighbourly and Fare Share who redistribute food from supermarkets that would otherwise be thrown away.

The café project was due to start operating in March 2020 based at the Focus Centre in Galashiels. Although they were unable to open to the public due to the constraints of lockdown they were able to use the facilities there to provide over 1,000 home cooked meals and food parcels for those in need at that time.

During this time strong links were developed with other community groups. Café Recharge will continue to work with TD1 Youth Hub to support the provision of meals to young people and is providing food to Rowlands Youth Club breakfast club for pupils at Selkirk High School.

Cafe ReCharge is a surplus food cafe and meals will be offered on a 'Pay What You Can' (PWYC) basis. Although a guide price will be offered initially it is with the understanding that those who can afford more will pay a little extra so that those who are less financially secure can pay a little less. It ensures that the whole community can reap the health and social benefits of eating together in a welcoming, friendly space. By allowing individuals to pay different amounts it will offer people with different incomes somewhere to socialise together reducing inequalities and strengthening communities.

Due to the uncertainty around the reopening of the Focus Centre the group have negotiated a competitive lease on alternative, currently empty, premises in central Galashiels. These premises have a fully fitted catering kitchen, fully accessible toilets, all appliances, a good footfall and the space for the enterprise to grow while still allowing social distancing.

The group would also like to provide a community fridge and shelf to make surplus food available to others for a small donation further reducing the amount of food sent to landfill. To date the group has helped to divert 2,892kg of surplus food from landfill saving 9,256 of CO2 emissions.

Volunteering opportunities will be available in all aspects of the project for people across the community no matter what their age or background. Once more established the group would like to use the Kickstarter scheme or Community Jobs Scotland to be able to offer a young person a paid position within the cafe providing a much needed employment opportunity.

A Project Manager will be employed to oversee the running of the café including staff/volunteer management, menu planning and compliance with relevant regulations. They will engage with the local community to ensure that Café recharge is benefitting those it aims to and develop partnerships with other groups and organisations.

	A grant from the Eildon Community Fund will cover the costs of a Project Manager for 12 months and seven months' rent (other costs are being met by startup funding).	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	01/11/2020	
Total Expenditure (£)	£16,004	
Community Fund Request (£)	£14,404	
10% organisation contribution	£1,600	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
First Port Start It Fund	8,700	Awarded
Corra Wellbeing Fund	2,000	Awarded
Neighbourly Covid Fund	400	Awarded
Focus Centre Committee	500	Awarded
The Bridge	500	Awarded
Scotrail	250	Awarded
Crowdfunding	12,098.52	Raised
First Port Build It Fund (for additional staff and running costs) To pay for additional staff member, additional hours and running costs as project requirements increase.	25,000	Application
Community Fund Outcomes	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	The project meets the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase learning opportunities across a wide range of subjects • Enhance career advice and career opportunities by promoting modern apprenticeships and vocational training • Create safe areas for young people and provide leisure facilities that are accessible and affordable • Strengthen partnership working • Development of town and village centres 	

ASSESSMENT

What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?

During and after lockdown the need for access to at low or no cost has been clearly demonstrated by the number of people accessing food banks. During lockdown Café Recharge produced over 1,000 meals and food parcels. As unemployment rises the number of individuals and families experiencing financial hardship will increase. In the Scottish Borders there were 80% more people on Universal Credit in August compared to March 2020. This increases to 104% when the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance is included.*

An approach has been made by Heriot Watt Student Union regarding the provision of a basic cookery class for students. Heriot Watt University 3rd year Interior Design students are using the cafe as their current design project. It is hoped that this will help with the integration of students into the community via the cafe and provide a space they will have some element of ownership over in a bid to reduce the isolation felt by many students in Galashiels.

Discussions have been taking place regarding working in partnership with Weigh Greener to provide a small refill station within the cafe reducing plastic and unnecessary packaging.

Following a presentation and cookery class, at Stow Primary School, Café Recharge has been approached by other schools to carry out similar sessions.

Before lockdown Café Recharged catered for several functions and was booked by organisations including the Scottish Parliament and National Book Trust.

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*Source: Covid-19 Labour Market Insights, Skills Development Scotland, September 2020

What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?

Café Recharge will provide an outlet for surplus food via a community fridge/shelf available to all at low or no cost depending on ability to pay (this will be left to personal choice). The community fridge will be within the Café premises and accessible to all.

Those not fortunate enough to have an expendable income to afford full priced cafe meet-ups are at a much greater risk of social isolation and poor mental health. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 shows in Galashiels the proportion of the population that is income deprived ranges from 6% to 34% and the proportion that is employment deprived ranges from 3% to 24%.

The ethos of Café Recharge to provide good food on a Pay What You Can basis will mean that a meal out or takeaway is available to all, reducing both food poverty and food waste. In addition to

	<p>increasing people's access to healthy affordable food the project will have a positive impact on physical and mental health and the environment.</p> <p>Volunteering opportunities will be created in all aspects of the project from helping with supermarket collections and food preparation to serving customers and barista training. Benefits arising from volunteering will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learning new skills • enhancing a CV • making new friends • contributing to a fairer society <p>It is anticipated that social isolation will be reduced through opportunities for community integration and pride in the environment will naturally arise from members of the community spending time together whether at events within the cafe, workshops, cookery and skills sharing classes or simply just by visiting a friendly and welcoming space.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Café Recharge successfully raised over £10,000 from the local community through crowd funding to set up the cafe and install appliances. This was supported by 194 individuals and businesses. They raised a further £1,000 to fund the Covid-19 frozen meals scheme which was supported by 54 individuals. Crowd funding money was matched by the Royal Bank of Scotland to the sum of £5,000.</p> <p>Café Recharge's Facebook page has over 1,318 followers and their Instagram account is followed by 237 people.</p> <p>An online survey with local people, received over 150 responses in the first few hours, overwhelmingly positive towards the idea.</p> <p>Feedback regarding the group's activity to date has been positive from both other community groups and service users alike.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>A successful crowdfunding campaign and funding applications have been made to a number of grant programmes for the wider project.</p> <p>Café Recharge intend to submit a further application to First Port Build It Fund to pay for additional staff member, additional hours and running costs as project requirements increase.</p>
<p>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?</p>	<p>The project will be evaluated by,</p> <p>Quantitative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of food waste reduced. • Amount CO2 reduced by not sending food to landfill where it rots and produces methane. • The number of customers using the café's services. <p>Qualitative:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from customers using various methods including suggestions box, reviews on social media, and a message board. • Baseline questionnaires used at the start of a block of activity, such as cookery classes, and repeated at the end will measure progress and thoughts of participants. <p>Based on a forecast of serving 30 covers a day, 5 days a week, café recharge hopes to be self-sufficient by September 2021. The online survey indicated that people were willing to pay between £5 and £7 for a lunchtime meal; these figures have been used in the financial forecast for the next 12 months. Any profits made will be reinvested into the café itself or the community it intends to benefit.</p> <p>Ongoing income will be generated from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and drink sold in the café. • Outside catering. • Meeting space for groups and workshops will be available to rent. • Provision of cookery classes to external organisations. • On-off or themed evening meals. • Afternoon teas.
Quotes received for items of expenditure	n/a
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	n/a

SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT	
<p>The application meets the criteria of the community fund.</p> <p><i>Additional Terms and Conditions:</i></p> <p>Scottish Government coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance must be adhered to with a protocol for safe participation in the programme and use of resources developed, and all participants agreeing to adhere to this protocol.</p> <p><i>We would seek the group to particularly report on:</i></p> <p>Quantitative indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of meals provided at no/low cost. • Number of customers during quarters 1 – 4. • Number of volunteering opportunities created and number of volunteer hours worked per quarter. • Number of children, young people and adults participating in cookery classes. • Sustainability of project. <p>Qualitative indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer/client feedback 	

