

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Berwickshire

Ref. No.: CF2021-BER-4

Organisation Name: Cockburnspath Community Enterprise

Funding Requested: £15,000

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Community Benefit Society		
Annual Accounts Balance	£9,535.37 (September bank statement) (Penmanshiel monies as mentioned below)		
<p>Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?</p> <p>Cockburnspath Community Enterprise is a new company and has submitted income and expenditure estimates for the first 12 months of operation.</p> <p>£10,000 is ring-fenced to allow the temporary site of the shop to be put back to original / made good when permanent site obtained.</p>			
<p>Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
<p>Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project brief	<p>The Cockburnspath community shop project arose following the death of the Village Store's owner. A number of community engagement meetings highlighted both the desire and need for a shop in the village; the previous shop was within the envelop of a private dwelling and is not available to serve as a shop going forward. A volunteer community focused team was established to take the project forward through a Community Benefit Society.</p> <p>The main aims of the Cockburnspath Community Enterprise Limited is to:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase local access to shopping facilities within walking distance of the rural community • Build and maintain social cohesion, and reduce loneliness and isolation • Enable ongoing community resilience • Facilitate reduction in carbon footprint and make the community more environmentally friendly (less travel for shopping, less plastic, more locally produced goods). <p>Planning permission has been granted to site a modular building in the Village Hall car park for three years. Funding to purchase and erect the building has been secured.</p> <p>Long-term, Cockburnspath Community Enterprise Limited has a vision for the Community Shop to not only provide provisions to the village and neighbouring areas, but also to become a hub. A hub with a post office and café facility. In addition, this Community Enterprise is to offer opportunity for the Community Shop to be a 'shop window' for locally sourced artisan products/food items and crafts and artists. This will assist in increasing the profile of local business partners, draw a wider customer bases, have themed days, exhibitions and provide a start and end point for walkers and tourists of the Southern Upland Way.</p> <p>The shop will serve Cockburnspath and the surrounding communities, a population of approximately 1,100. The Grantshouse community will also benefit as they are also without a village shop.</p> <p>A significant amount of funding is already in place and a grant from Berwickshire Community Fund will contribute to the Manager's salary (year one) and the purchase of key grocery stock.</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	01/01/2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£141,548	
Community Fund Request (£)	£15,000	
10% organisation contribution	£9,500	
Any Other Contribution?	Community share offer	
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
Aikengall Windfarm	£70,000	Secured
Drone Hill Community Fund	£10,000	Secured
Awards for All	£9,944	Secured

Aikengall Windfarm (Be Green)	£2,500	Secured
Kinegar Windfarm	£5,000	Secured
Penmanshiel	£9,950	Secured (as mentioned above - seedfunding)
Community Shares Scotland	£1,492	Secured
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	
Berwickshire Action Plan priorities	<p>The project meets the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in and create community facilities and spaces • Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise) • Focus on rural isolation and social inclusion and the impacts on mental health on people living across the locality • Work with local communities on regenerating and reimagining their local places (town centres, village halls, play areas etc.) 	

ASSESSMENT	
<p>What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Community engagement meetings to discuss the idea of a community run shop have been attended by over 200 people.</p> <p>The emerging Cockburnspath Community Action Plan identifies the need of a Community Shop as a result of there being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant population of people, including senior citizens, within the village who have no access to cars or the internet. • Increase levels of social isolation due to rurality, Covid-19 and the vulnerable population. • Clear evidence that a village without a shop will see houses potentially losing their value on the housing market. • A more challenging housing market as people may not want to move into the area that does not have a shop. • An increased risk that Cockburnspath Primary School not being viable in the near future without additional families moving into the area or retaining the existing pupil numbers. • A larger ratio of carbon emissions and the impact on climate as residents will have to travel further for provisions. • A local shop on their doorstep, rather than make an unnecessary 16-mile return trip. • Poor public transport infrastructure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher levels of wellness due to residents being more likely to walk, cycle or park in The Square as the shop is within easy reach for both Cockburnspath and Cove. • Sustainability of existing local artisan businesses that now have a ‘shop window’. • Local employment following furlough, redundancy, decline of the hospitality and tourism sectors following Covid-19. • Increased wellness, confidence and sense of purpose as local residents can retrain and gain a skill set in the retail industry. • Retention of tenants / residents in affordable houses which creates a thriving community with employment and business opportunities. • An everyday social meeting point to those within the village who live on their own. • Increase resilience and community spirit.
<p>What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?</p>	<p>The community owned and run shop in Cockburnspath will help to reduce loneliness and social isolation by creating a natural hub in the village. There will be a positive impact on CO₂ emissions by removing the need for people to make the 16 mile return trip to Dunbar for groceries.</p> <p>Local artisan businesses will have an outlet for their products.</p> <p>The professional development of the volunteers will equip them with skills in; customer service, Covid regulations, environmental health, manual handling, stock control, financial management and community participation. Thereby, increase their confidence, purpose and contribution to the community. It is planned that the shop will initially be open 8am – 6pm Monday – Saturday (with early closing one day to be decided) and 10am – 2pm on a Sunday. Staffing will be provided by two part time managers (full time equivalent) and several volunteers from the local community. The number of paid staff will be increased when/if budgets allow, potentially looking at an apprenticeship.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Over 200 people were engaged with through a number of engagement events to understand the local appetite for a community shop.</p> <p>In September 2020 an information session was held at the village hall car park. 130 people from the local community completed a survey. Of these 90% said they wanted a community shop within walking distance of the village centre, 78% supported the proposal for a village shop and 83% said that they would shop ‘the same’ or ‘more’ at the proposed shop than they did the previous shop.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure</p>	<p>Funding for the various aspects of the project has been secured from a number of funders.</p>

<p>other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>Cockburnspath Community Enterprise Limited will be launching a Share Offer for all residents, partners and interested parties to purchase shares of £10. Those who purchase the shares will be the membership which will be predominantly from the Parish of Dunglass, TD13 postcode. 78% of respondents to the September survey said that they would buy shares in the shop.</p> <p>As a CBS, the share capital (target of £25,000) is the organisation's unrestricted contribution from the membership which will be injected into the project to support and maintain it. The share offer was be launched in November, and these funds will come in over time – necessitating the funding request to Community Fund to enable the shop to start operating and generating an income.</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 Management Committee have calculated a turnover at 66% of the previous village shop's turn over. This is to take into account for the diversity of shopping habits following the closure of the village shop, Covid-19 regulations and Lockdown. It is expected that the shop will become sustainable following the first year of trading.</p> <p>Success will be measured through a number of qualitative and quantitative indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profit making on goods • Achieving the share offer target of 25k • Feedback on social media • Increased local traders using the Community Shop as their 'shop window' to promote and sell goods • Recruitment and retention of volunteers • Volunteers securing employment (where appropriate) <p>It may be possible extend current permissions and keep the shop in the Village Hall carpark, if this is not possible the building can easily be dismantled and erected on a new site.</p>
<p>Quotes received for items of expenditure</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?</p>	<p>Yes</p>

SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT

The application does not currently meet the criteria of the Community Fund as evidence of permission to use the land has not been seen. It is expected that this will be provided prior to the Area Partnership meeting on 3 December.

Additional Terms and Conditions:

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.

We would seek the group to particularly report on:

- Profit level/achievement of sustainability after first year of trading
- Number of volunteers number of volunteer hours worked and during the year
- Feedback from customers (local community and tourists), wider community and local artisan businesses
- Estimated timescales for expanding the services available
- Steps being taken to identify longer term site for the shop.