

## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: *Berwickshire*

Ref. No.: *CF2021-BER-3*

Organisation Name: *Duns Playfest*

Funding Requested: *£4,000*

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Constituted		
Annual Accounts Balance	£22,713.55		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much? £16,700 was received in grant funding for the 2020 PlayFest festival but permission has been given for it to be carried forward to 2021.			
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	<p>A grant from Berwickshire Community Fund will enable DunsPlayFest to secure companies and individuals from outwith the Borders to perform as well. It will also be used to ensure that performances made available online are presented to a professional standard.</p> <p>DunsPlayFest (1st-8th May 2021) will be a week-long community festival celebrating new dramatic writing. The idea for the festival grew organically from a realisation that Duns Players (which focuses on classics and new writing) had three new plays that they wanted to stage and a week booked at the Volunteer Hall in which to stage them. Other events, like community workshops, began to be included and the week-long festival was born.</p>

	<p>Staged for the first time in 2019 the 2021 festival aims to repeat that success but to be bigger and better.</p> <p>DunsPlayFest is based around twice-daily performances of brand-new drama but also incorporates workshops, readings and community events focused on school-children, old people and people with special needs.</p> <p>There will be over 30 events in all, including comedy, live music, community events, workshops, and activities to inspire and delight all ages. Audience numbers will only be capped by the size of the main venue, the Volunteer Hall Duns, which the largest hall in Berwickshire with space for social distancing. Plans are being put in place to run the festival on-line if there is a total lockdown situation in place. If social distancing is required shows with small casts will be able to go ahead with well-spaced audiences and make use of outdoor venues throughout the town.</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	01/05/2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£32,986	
Community Fund Request (£)	£4,000	
10% organisation contribution	£400 + £1,200 from savings	
Any Other Contribution?	£25,740	
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
Awards for All	£7,500	Agreed
Blackhill Community Wind Farm	£4,800	Agreed
Lammermuir Community Fund	£2,500	Agreed
Dr David Summers Charitable Trust	£1,900	Agreed
Preston & Abbey Community Trust	£2,040	Agreed
Simpson McCreath Trust	£1,000	Agreed
Marchmont Makers Foundation	£1,000	Agreed
A Heart for Duns	£5,000	Agreed in kind contribution
Community Fund Outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality local services or activities <input 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	The project meets the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and make the most of existing tourism opportunities</li> </ul>

**ASSESSMENT**

What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>The 2019 Festival attracted more than 30 events and around 900 people from in and around the area participated. Local retailers and accommodation providers responded positively to the festival and the increased buzz it brought to the town which the hope that the festival would return bigger and better.</p> <p>Professional companies have heard about the Festival and are keen to be involved.</p> <p>The DunsPlayFest Facebook page has 216 followers.</p>
What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?	<p>The local economy will be boosted by people coming to Duns throughout the week to take participate in the Festival from both sides of the stage curtain.</p> <p>Duns and the surrounding area will benefit because of the interest and excitement it will generate with performers and audiences coming from all over, constant media attention (they were featured regularly in the press during 2019 and featured on ITV's "Borderlife" programme). The sense that Duns is becoming an important destination in the exciting world of Scottish drama highlights that Duns, and wider Berwickshire, are vibrant tourist destination.</p> <p>Both schools in Duns are involved which will give children and young people an insight into live theatre. Their involvement will help their emotional development, their intelligence, their confidence, their professionalism, their team spirit, their spatial awareness, their understanding of the world and of each other</p> <p>There will be a prize for a promising student from Berwickshire High School to encourage them to progress and further develop their theatre skills. The recipient of the prize will be decided in consultation with teachers from Berwickshire High School.</p> <p>Bespoke seating will be available for older people and a sign board will be provided to help those with a visual impairment follow the performances. This equipment will remain in the Volunteer Hall and be available to all groups using the venue.</p>

	Alternative pricing structures are being considered in order to make the events available to all those that wish to attend.
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>The grant giving arms of local wind farms are run by local residents, many of whom are community councilors. They have shown their support through the award of grants.</p> <p>The group is in touch regularly with teachers at Berwickshire High School and Duns Primary School all of whom have shown their support.</p> <p>Duns Rotary Club and Duns Probus are supportive of the festival.</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	Funding for over 78% of the projected costs is already in place. With a grant from the Berwickshire Community Fund, and contribution from the group, the short fall is £1,646. It is anticipated that this will be met by ticket and food sales.
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>The views of the public are constantly sought through various social media platforms. Audience members will be invited to complete a questionnaire. Sales of tickets, food &amp; drink and a balanced budget will be clear indicators of success as will the number of people returning to be part of DunsPlayFest 2022.</p> <p>It is expected that DunsPlayFest will always to be looking for the support of community funds to some extent although sponsorship by local retailers is being explored in order to reduce the reliance on grant funding.</p>
Quotes received for items of expenditure	n/a
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	n/a

### SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT

The application meets the criteria of the Community Fund.

*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:*

- Number of performance tickets sold.
- Number of people participating in readings, workshops and community events.

- Steps taken to reduce reliance on grant funding.
- Evaluation of feedback from performers, audiences and other participants.