

## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Berwickshire

Ref. No.: CF2021-BER

Organisation Name: Abundant Borders

Funding Requested: £8,000

ABOUT THE GROUP			
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	SCIO		
<b>Annual Accounts Balance</b>	£61,503		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
Robertson Trust	Contribution to CO's salary (2)	12,000.00	
National Lottery	Revenue costs (2)	34,788.00	
EatWellAgeWell	Support to social lunches in B'shire	3,733	
Drone Hill Windfarm	Training- cooking & food growing (2)	1,600.00	
Blackhill Windfarm	Contribution to cookery course	510.00	
Drone Hill Windfarm	Training- cooking & food growing (1)	1,600	
Climate Challenge Fund	Research: viability of local food waste composting	850.75	
Robertson Trust	Contribution to CO's salary (1)	12,000.00	
SCVO	Support volunteering at Eyemouth community garden	3,800.00	
National Lottery	Revenue costs (1)	28,382	
At the end of our last accounting period, The group had £3,876 unreserved funds and would expect this amount to be similar at year end 2021.			
Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>			
<b>SBC Funds received</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>	<b>What used for?</b>
Community Fund (2019) – evaluation not yet completed due to Covid19	2020	1,386.00	Mobile Kitchen Equipment

Have they applied for Common Good Funding

Yes     No

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Project Brief	<p>Abundant Borders are looking for funding so that they can create an outdoor, sheltered space within a community Garden at Todlaw, Duns.</p> <p>Funding will be used to erect a community classroom in the garden allowing it to be accessible to all.</p> <p>The group aim to purchase a 4m Octagonal Outdoor Building (including on site build), along with paving slabs. Other spend for this project will include landscaping costs.</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	Start construction in December with the estimated project completion in February/March 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£11,700	
Community Fund Request (£)	£8,000	
10% organisation contribution	£800	
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	
Action Plan priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for lifelong learning</li> <li>• Invest in and create community facilities and spaces</li> </ul>	

## ASSESSMENT

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

Prior to lockdown Abundant Borders held three consultation events and were part way through community training course. As a result of these discussions, the most important thing identified

	<p>by the community members was the provision and need for an outdoor, sheltered space.</p> <p>The importance of outdoor spaces, community gardens, parks, and allotments, has been magnified throughout Covid and the need for outdoor teaching space has increased.</p> <p>The design of the building being proposed for this project is open-sided, allowing for free air flow, which means that it can be used while indoor meeting restrictions are in place.</p> <p>Currently the community garden is accessed by gravel and grass paths. The garden is open access. From within the housing development, the garden can be accessed through a side gate.</p> <p>During Covid restrictions and to ensure social distancing and hygiene procedures are observed, the group are operating a system where volunteers book in advance to attend supported volunteering sessions. It is intended that, once restrictions are eased, the garden will be fully open so that anyone can gain access at any time.</p> <p>Conditions underfoot will worsen with more use and with winter weather, which makes it difficult for anyone with a walking impairment to negotiate and impossible for anyone in a wheelchair to access the garden.</p>
<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 classroom will be used for training courses, workshops and for community events, such as apple-pressing at harvest time. It would also be available to other community groups who would be able to relocate some of their events previously held indoors, to this outdoor space, groups that have shown an interest in using this space include; A Heart for Duns and ParentSpace.</p> <p>The group have linked in with local primary schools and parents. The group have created a learning programme to help primary aged children learn about food and food growing, called Little Robins. The outdoor classroom will be important in allowing young people to learn in an outdoor space. Getting children to learn about where food comes from and how to eat healthily will be beneficial in educating the pupils on positive health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Having an outdoor, sheltered space, will allow Abundant Borders to continue to run workshops and events to tackle isolation and support the community.</p> <p>The project aim to use some of this funding to create permanent pathways from the garden entrance to the new classroom and to a seating area beyond the new building, which will have views</p>

	<p>across the garden and become a peaceful spot for community members to sit and enjoy being outdoors.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Abundant Borders have worked in partnership with other organisations including local schools. A partnership has also been created with Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA) where the community garden is being developed within the housing development at Todlaw, Duns. BHA own the land and an agreement is in place for this area to be developed by Abundant Borders. A similar agreement is in place in Ayton, where a garden project is also situated on BHA land.</p> <p>Equipment and idea sharing currently takes place with other organisations and local groups including; A Heart for Duns and BAVS, this will ensure that the facility can be widely used</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>The group had applied to Dronehill Wind Farm for funding for the building and landscaping earlier this year. The Wind farm felt that the amount applied for (£8,000) was beyond what they were able to fund. They indicated that a smaller bid might be successful and the group may go back to this fund when the building is in place to support plants/landscaping costs.</p> <p>The group have current funding from National Lottery to support the development of the garden, which has allowed them to start work this year and, if funding is continued into 2021/22, will allow the group to buy plants and equipment for the next growing season and support volunteering costs. This fund does not allow purchase of large, capital items, like an outdoor classroom.</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>Abundant Borders has a Project Co-Ordinator on site, two days per week. This post is funded by National Lottery Community Fund through to Spring 2022. National Lottery and Robertson Trust also support the role of Chief Officer with responsibility for project delivery, until 2022. Both staff members will support the community garden beyond the delivery of this project.</p> <p>National Lottery Community Fund also supports plants and landscaping within the garden, which will cover ongoing maintenance of the classroom and pathways.</p> <p>There is also support from Berwickshire Housing Association.</p>
<p>Quotes received for items of expenditure</p>	<p>yes</p>

Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	yes
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### 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 people who benefitted from the project including volunteers, visitors, participants
- Number of activities delivered
- Improvement in venue accessibility
- More opportunities to bring people together and address social isolation