

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Tweeddale

Ref. No.: CF2021 – TW - 5

Organisation Name: Peebles Community Trust

Funding Requested: £6,615

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Constituted group		
Annual Accounts Balance	Peebles Community Trust to provide		
<p>Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?</p> <p>Although Peebles Railway Heritage Project operates* under the auspices of Peebles Community Trust the group have financial independence. At present the group have no funding, nor have prepared accounts.</p>			
<p>Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
<p>Are they applying for Common Good Funding at the moment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
SBC Community Fund	2019	£20,090	Disabled access

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project Brief	<p>Peebles Railway Heritage wish to appoint a Heritage Consultancy to act as a consultant for the group. In appointing a consultant this will support the group to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Run a workshop with members of the Peebles Railway Heritage Group to define the scope of the development of the railway building, including looking at how the project fits the criteria of the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

<p>Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group have lodged an Expression of Interest with the National Lottery Heritage Fund in the £10k to £100k category. The consultant work required will support the group in applying to the next stage of submitting a full application. Prepare surveys for use online and plan a programme of consultation to take place from within the weighbridge office during the summer of 2020. This will produce evidence of demand and interest that can be used to support funding applications. Bring together a small team of consultants with the joint expertise to prepare the necessary documentation for a full funding application, including architect's drawings (if required), interpretation plan and exhibition design, project plan and costs. <p>The group are also looking for funding to provide urgent and necessary repairs on the Railway building including the elimination of dry rot, roof repairs and flooring repairs. The group will also look to hire a skip to remove debris from the site.</p> <p>The group are seeking funding for; £6,000 – consultancy costs £1,350 – building repairs</p> <p>As soon as funding is received</p>	
<p>Total Expenditure (£)</p>	<p>£7,350</p>	
<p>Community Fund Request (£)</p>	<p>£6,615</p>	
<p>Any Other Contribution?</p>	<p>£735 – organization contribution</p>	
<p>Other Funding Sources</p>	<p>Amount (£)</p>	<p>At what stage?</p>
<p>Community Fund Outcomes</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality local services or activities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to a better quality environment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more pride in their community</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality advice and information</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> More local groups or services are better supported to recover from financial Difficulty</p>	

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ASSESSMENT	
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<p>What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Peebles Community Trust (PCT) acquired a 25 year lease from Scottish Borders Council on the 1st March 2019. PCT have subsequently allowed the Peebles Railway Heritage group to make use of the building as a specialized project. PCT will be responsible for the administration of the project, as well as the insurance cover of the building. The Peebles Railway Heritage group will feed all information and progress into the PCT board.</p> <p>Any actions that the Railway Heritage group may require to be made will need to be approved by the building lease holder, which is PCT.</p> <p>The Peebles Railway Heritage building is part of a project group that was formed in 2018 to acquire and then subsequently develop the former railway goods and weighbridge office in the East Station car park in Peebles.</p> <p>The aim of this project group was to save the deteriorating building and then consider how to return it into community use. The Peebles Community Trust have since secured a 25 year lease on the building from owners Scottish Borders Council. The next stage in the process is to apply for National Heritage Lottery funding. This funding application will allow them to develop these plans further.</p> <p>The current project group comprises of six PCT members selected for their backgrounds and skill sets and have an interest in railway heritage. PCT now have 1060 members who are regularly contact using Mailchimp, of which 565 individuals have expressed a specific interest in being kept updated regarding the Railway Building project.</p> <p>A Facebook group was formed to publicise the project in November 2020. There are currently so far 126 people who have applied to become members of the group, allowing them to follow and comment on progress of the project. Alongside the setting up of a Facebook page PCT held a survey of their membership. As of 2 January 2021, 104 people have responded to the survey, expressing their support and offering opinions for future uses for the building.</p> <p>The building is a central location and it being an obvious railway building, the group are keen to build on the enthusiasm that has been generated so far.</p>
<p>What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the</p>	<p>The group have received pro bono advice from an industry professional regarding making an application for major funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Positive feedback from this meeting has led the group to seek funding to employ a</p>

<p>project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?</p>	<p>consultant who will help them through the Heritage lottery funding process.</p> <p>This funding application will allow the group to apply to other funders for larger sums of money.</p> <p>If the group are successful with additional larger capital funding the aim will be to offer a facility that will explain and inform visitors, of the significance of the development of the railway in Peebles. There is also potential for a tourist information point being situated in this space.</p> <p>Also in the planning stages is a proposal to develop a railway history outreach programme</p> <p>Public meeting and exhibition space are also at a premium in Peebles and redeveloping the building in such a way that it could have an occasional use will give the project a commercial future as well as a cultural one</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>The group have received considerable support from local trades in the community. To make the building secure over winter the roof needed attention and a local roofer provided repairs for free. Local tradesmen have also provided free repairs to brickwork and pointing along with the removal of some wet rot.</p> <p>104 individuals have responded to a survey organized by PCT. Using the survey individuals have been able to express their support of the project aswell as allowing for input into how best to use the building for future use.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>This application can be regarded as 'start up' funding, from which other funding, including contributions from within the Community, will develop</p> <p>The group have been in contact with Tweed Valley BID regarding their plans for the building.</p> <p>The group, if successful with this application, aim to employ a consultant that will support them to apply to National Heritage Lottery funding. This can take up to 6 to 12 month period for the project to be finalized.</p>
<p>What happens at the end of the project/activity or when the funding is spent?</p>	<p>Once capital funding has been secured to progress the refurbishment of the building the long term plans will focus on developing an income stream to ensure the longevity of the project. They aim to provide an income based on renting the building out for occasional room hire and pop up galleries and events. Peebles Community Trust would run the building, they are an organization that is Company limited by Guarantee and have also recently become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).</p> <p>The group have started early discussions with South of Scotland Enterprise Agency.</p>

Quotes received for items of expenditure	yes
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The group have negotiated and acquired a 25 year lease on the building. SBC made building wind and water tight prior to lease being agreed.</p>

SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT

The application meets the criteria of the Community Fund

Scottish Government coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance must be adhered with all participants agreeing to adhere to this protocol.

If funding were approved - we would seek the group to particularly report on:

- Number of people who benefitted from the project including volunteers, visitors, participants.
- Number of people consulted with in the community
- Improvement in venue accessibility
- Has the project become sustainable
- Improved tourist offer