

Interim Community Fund Evaluation Form



Group name:	Morebattle Shop
CF Reference No.	CF1920/CHE/7
Amount Awarded	£10,000

Following your successful application to the Interim Communities Fund we would like to hear what impact your funded project / activity has had in your area. Remember that failure to report will impact on your eligibility to secure future funding. Community Fund funded projects will also be invited to share their story with the wider community at local Area Partnership meetings.

Your project had the identified outcomes of:

- Communities have more access to better quality local services or activities*
- Communities have more access to a better quality environment*
- Communities have more pride in their community*
- Communities have more access to better quality advice and information*
- More local groups or services are better supported to recover from financial difficulty*

Section 1: Tell us about your project / activity and what difference it has made

To tell us what you did and what difference your project / activity made to your community. You can submit photographs, short films or audio as well as feedback from people who were involved. Alternatively you can write about your experiences here. Remember to refer back to the description of your idea / project in your application and include information on the number of people who were involved, how they benefited and what the impact of the project / activity was. If your project has achieved a different outcome or additional outcomes, please select the different / additional outcomes above and explain why.

Morebattle Community Shop Ltd managed by a board elected by the shareholders produced a business plan that showed if the Flat above the shop could be renovated using money obtained by the grant, that the business could become more sustainable in the longer term. Other improvements to the shop such as decoration and flooring and some external repairs were also applied for. The interior redecoration flooring and external repairs are still waiting to be completed as priority was given to the flat renovation which was completed prior to COVID 19 lockdown.

The tenant was due to move in at the beginning of March but due to COVID 19 restrictions was unable to do so until July, the tenant is now happily in place and we are receiving a rent of £350 per month adding a very useful £4200 of annual income. Local tradesmen were used to complete the flat renovation.

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Our Scottish Borders
Your community

Prior the grant application the shop had a manager and full-time assistance, the manager resigned in autumn 19 and the shop board effectively managed the shop with the assistant and volunteers. When COVID 19 hit a board member stepped in to manage the shop on a day to day basis along with the assistant and volunteers. In July the board member indicated they could no longer continue to manage the shop.

Although the shop turnover had increased considerably since the COVID 19 restrictions and was extremely well supported by the community a business plan showed that it was not financially viable to have an assistant and a manager in place.

Subsequently sadly the assistants' position was made redundant. The position of shop manager was advertised and following interviews a couple who made a joint application were appointed. This has made a significant difference to the performance of the shop, we now have proper management in place a team of 16 volunteers and strong financial results. Recently an alcohol licence has been obtained and the shop should be selling alcohol by the beginning of December.

Whilst the board were concerned about the effects of COVID 19 on turnover with the loss of income from walkers and holidaymakers. The reverse has been the case and strong support from the local community has seen a significant increase in turnover supported during the summer by holiday makers and a return of walkers.

With the additional profit (all be it small) and the regular income from the flat and additional income form alcohol sales we believe the business is sustainable in the longer term, particularly if the local community continue to support the shop.

Plans are on going for shop improvements interior decorations and flooring will be completed as and when we finish internal alterations such as moving the counter increasing storage space for stock and purchasing more efficient Freezers and Chill cabinets.

The shop had an AGM on 26th August by Zoom, 27 attended and 9 people came forward to sit on the Board.

Scottish Land Week 2019 video. <https://vimeo.com/350942253/a8f517991e>

Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/MorebattleCommunityShop>

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The shop opening hours are reviewed regularly and currently are 8am – 5pm Monday to Friday Saturday 8am-4pm Sunday 8am – 3pm The shop will be opening for extended hours Thursdays Friday and Saturdays until 6.30pm for a trial period starting on the 3rd December.

Shop footfall averages 650 per week.

Feedback from the Community has been positive, the shop try to cater for everyone and the management will try a fulfil individual requirements by shopping online for small quantities from Supermarkets and taking advantage of cheap offers that are more competitive than the usual Wholesalers, every effort has been made to keep prices competitive while providing sufficient margin to cover the overheads.

Section 2: How you spent the money

Please give details below of the items funded by the award. Please note that **original receipts must be submitted** with this evaluation form. All receipts submitted will be returned to you. This table can be copied if more space is required.

Item/activity	Reference Number (please number your receipts)	Cost (corresponding evidence of spending attached)
Various Works to Flat including kitchen and bathroom	1	£3891.20
To carrying out electrical work to flat	2	£1804.26
Supply and fitting of shower	3	£1093.20
Decoration of interior to flat	4	£2538.24
To supply of flooring to flat	5	£1668.00
Total amount spent by your group		£10994.90

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If the items detailed above are **different in any way** from the expenditure listed in your original application form, use the space below to explain the change(s).

To date the flashing to rear extension, works to the chimney, Nonslip floor coverings and painting on the shop's interior have not been completed due to COVID 19 delaying the availability of tradesmen and ongoing changes to the layout of the shop and installation of equipment.

Section 3: Future work

If your project is continuing, let us know what you have planned for the next stage or, if your project has inspired you to start a new community project, please tell us about it.

The external repairs will be reevaluated, plans for the non-slip flooring, and internal redecoration are ongoing and will take place. They need to follow on from plans to move the counter revise the storage space and install new freezer and chill cabinet installation of which may damage decorations and floor covering hence the delay.

Section 4: Signed declaration

I confirm that the details contained in this form are correct and that we will keep all financial records and accounts, including receipts for items purchased with the award, for at least two years from payment of the grant. We understand that this does not release us from our statutory obligations to keep records for longer periods. We are aware that we may be visited to inspect our records.

Name:	Date: 30/11/20
Position: Treasurer	Tel: No:

For Office Use Only

Expenditure satisfactory Receipts seen & satisfactory

Benefits consistent Attending Area Partnership

Further monitoring requirements: Reason for monitoring?