

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Eildon

Ref. No.: CF2021-EIL-13

Organisation Name: Stow Community Trust

Funding Requested: £11,000

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Community Trust		
Annual Accounts Balance	£10,689		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
All monies are ring fenced			
Stow Community Trust is working with 7 funders and we have arrangements to draw down monies according to a series of monthly cash flow projections for the building/ construction work of the Stow Station House restoration project			
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>Stow Community Trust are looking for funding to help part fund a Community Development Worker for a 12 month period. The post holder will be employed for 20 hours per week or 75-80 per month</p> <p>The creation of this post will look to engage with residents of Stow and Fountainhall to support their involvement in the creation of a community action plan</p>

	The post holder will look to support, write and begin to implement the delivery of the Community action plan in collaboration with community members. It is also hoped that during the 12 month period of the post the postholder will be able to make a start on some key priorities and 'quick wins' within the action plan.	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	February 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	22,000	
Community Fund Request (£)	11,000	
10% organisation contribution	2,200	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE)	£11,000	Provisional/In principle
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	
Action Plan priorities	The project meets the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out more community mapping • Strengthen partnership working 	

ASSESSMENT

What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>Stow community Trust undertook an extensive engagement exercise while in the process of the Stow Station House Renovation project. From a variety of engagement exercises over a 4 to 6 month period the group found that residents were interested in a variety of other projects that weren't directly linked to Stow Station House.</p> <p>A questionnaire in 2019 produced 100 responses and highlighted other issues that the community were interested in supporting.</p> <p>The last community engagement exercise took place over Zoom in February 2020 and attracted 120 individuals. Feedback from these recent meetings along with the 2019 questionnaire, has</p>
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	<p>highlighted that the local community are keen to develop and look to improve their community. Survey returns showed that residents are keen to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better use Stow Town Hall, • Improve community exercise facilities, • Look into the lack of affordable short stay accommodation, • How best to support residents as a result of increased social isolation • Improve transport and transport links , • Develop local adult education opportunities including IT , • Improve facilities/ opportunities for children and young people and develop an art exhibition space. <p>While these ideas are out of the scope of the Stow Station House project the group feel that these views would benefit from not being lost or dismissed but located within a community action plan.</p> <p>The Trust currently has a membership of 159 members and believe that the group need to widen their engagement scope. Including engaging with;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other stakeholders – statutory agencies, local business including farmers and community organisations. • The maximum reach and number of residents of all ages and diversity including hard to reach groups (elderly and isolated),
<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 development of a community action plan will act as a road map for implementing community change and delivery of essential services by clarifying what will be done, who will do it and how it will be done. The plan will describe what the community wants to achieve, what activities are required during a specified time period, what resources (money, people and material) are needed to be successful and affords a continuous rolling opportunity to review and monitor progress and successes.</p> <p>The community action plan will set out the keys areas that need to be addressed in order to improve the local economy, contribute to environmental sustainability and improve health and wellbeing outcomes. If successful with this funding the post holder will be involved with the writing and delivery of the plan in collaboration with community members. This will also include making a start in the time available on small and other quick win projects identified.</p> <p>The plan will serve to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish agreement across community groups and organisations on the projects that should be progressed, their priority and the benefits to the community. • Increase the confidence of potential funders that projects will be delivered. • Increase the speed and efficiency of project delivery and minimise the risk of waste from poorly thought out projects lacking community support.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide statutory service delivery partners (such as SBC) with a better understanding of the needs of the local community and opportunities for collaboration. • Strengthen community empowerment as the local community is better able to describe its needs and aspirations.
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>This proposal is supported by Stow Community Trust and its 159 members. Stow Community Council and a group of local community businesses who have formed into a local forum also support this project.</p> <p>Community Council support letter;</p>  <p>letter[37715].docx</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	<p>Part funded via South of Scotland enterprise</p> <p>The 50% funding commitment made for the post from elsewhere is conditional upon matched funding of equal value being granted.</p> <p>If match funding isn't secured the group would still be able to proceed with this post on reduced hours.</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>The post is for a fixed term of 12 months and succession planning will form part of the community action plan</p> <p>There will be an expectation that the Community Development Worker, with support from others, will detail the future resources required to drive and deliver the range of identified projects emerging from the action plan.</p>
Quotes received for items of expenditure	
Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?	yes

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 residents that have been involved in community engagement

Completion of Stow Community Action Plan and the number of activities within this plan that the community worker has been able to take forward

Anecdotal comments as to the benefits a Community Development Worker has had on the local community.