

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: *Berwickshire*

Ref. No.: *CF2021-BER-14*

Organisation Name: *Berwickshire Marine Reserve*

Funding Requested: *£12,511*

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)		
Annual Accounts Balance	£37,089		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much? £34,272 was restricted income for remaining LEADER project and has subsequently been spent.			
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 Area Partnership will contribute to the costs of employing a Project Officer, and project costs, to enable Berwickshire Marine Reserve (BMR) to run the one year project.</p> <p>The Berwickshire Marine Reserve was established by the local community after witnessing increasing conflict and user pressure on the Berwickshire waters.</p> <p>The 'Conserve Your Marine Reserve' is a Berwickshire based Citizen Science project that will engage users of the BMR to help identify pressures that threaten the survival of marine ecosystems and promote people's ability to appreciate and protect it. The work will feed into wider partnership work with the Marine Conservation Society and the Fauna and Flora, Coastal Communities Network.</p> <p>Subtidal and intertidal sites will be monitored in the form of a periodic 'BioBlitz' to assess the resilience of the ecosystems within the Reserve facing increasing environmental and</p>

	<p>recreational pressures. (BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area). The public will be encouraged to get involved in the long term scientific monitoring scheme to assess the health of the features of the BMR. Every year, BMR staff and volunteers engage with approximately 5,000 people.</p> <p>The project will provide training to the local community to make sure that they have the knowledge and skills they need to protect the Reserve, in turn giving them the confidence to make informed management decisions. The training sessions and workshops will encourage community buy-in to this project and give them a fantastic opportunity to contribute to a large-scale scientific monitoring project.</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	May 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£48,971	
Community Fund Request (£)	£12,511	
10% organisation contribution	£1,390	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
Awards for All	£10,000	Awarded
Fallago Foundation	£5,000	Awarded
Crighton Foundation	£6,000	Awarded
MBTAG	£3,860	Awarded
Coastal Community Network	£5,210	Awarded
Garfield Western Foundation	£5,000	Awarded
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 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	<p>The project meets the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and retain traditional skills unique to Berwickshire (e.g. sea skills) • Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise) • Support and make the most of existing Tourism opportunities 	

ASSESSMENT	
What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>Anecdotal information from local divers and fishers is that the abundance of climate indicator species is declining.</p> <p>The scientific data collected throughout this project will highlight the importance of certain sites and of the area as a whole - be that for diving, marine recreation, fishing or scientific research. This will inform and identify conservation work required to protect the Reserve for future generations.</p>
What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?	<p>Training sessions and workshops will encourage community buy-in to this project, ensure the local community has the knowledge and skills they need to protect it, in turn giving them the confidence to make informed management decisions and give them an opportunity to contribute to a large-scale scientific monitoring project.</p>
What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?	<p>Since 2016, BMR have held numerous workshops with the local community as well stakeholders and users of the Reserve, and from these a clear outcome was that monitoring needs to continue to be a key purpose within the organisation's aims and objectives.</p> <p>BMR has good working relationships with partner organisations, including the Coastal Communities Network (who have contributed funding to the project), the Marine Conservation Society, BLUE Marine Foundation, and the St. Abbs Marine Station.</p>
What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?	<p>£35,070 (72%) of the total project costs have already been secured.</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>BMR will measure the success of the project through key performance indicators including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of practical activities for children, school & community groups, such as Seashore Safaris, touch tank sessions and beach cleans • Number of presentations and talks to local interest groups • Number of engagements with the local and visiting community about our Codes and Conduct and sustainable use practices • Number of underwater surveys to monitor health and abundance of the seabed • Number of Rocky shore BioBlitz to assess the presence and abundance of marine life, and how this is changing over time • Comparing data collected to our existing habitat map of the seabed and sea temperature recorded using our temperature loggers and dive computers <p>Existing citizen science projects will also be built on including training members of the public in how to collect scientific data which will contribute to our Conserve Your Marine Reserve project.</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 people participating in training sessions, including a breakdown of those from the local area.
- Number of activities for children, school and community groups, including the number of participants.
- Number of underwater and BioBlitz surveys undertaken.
- Number of divers engaged with throughout the project.
- Feedback from those that have participated in training sessions and wider activities.
- Provision of the final project report.