

## 2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

*Locality: Berwickshire*

*Ref. No.: CF2021-Ber-15*

*Organisation Name: Sea the Change (Sustainable Education Accessibility)*

*Funding Requested: £7,684*

ABOUT THE GROUP			
<b>Organisation Structure</b>	SCIO		
<b>Annual Accounts Balance</b>	£28,692 (March 2020)		
<p>Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why &amp; how much?</p> <p>£20,653.26 of funding is ring-fenced for a part time project officer to help co-ordinate the beach wheelchair project from April onwards and deliver the John Muir Environmental Education Programme in schools once restrictions ease. This is an 18 month post. Unrestricted funds of £4,790.58 have been allocated by the Board of Trustees as a safeguard for the future of the organisation due to the limited ability this past year to fundraise and generate income.</p>			
<p>Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></p>			
<b>SBC Funds received</b>	<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>	<b>What used for?</b>
Localities Bid Fund 2	2019/20	£13,267.98	Purchase two beach wheelchairs and equipment
<p>Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b></p>			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
<b>Project brief</b>	<p>Sea the Change runs events, activities and campaigns to raise awareness and encourage sustainable living and protection of the natural environment. The charity successfully applied to SBC's Localities Bid Fund 2 to set up a Beach Wheelchair Scheme in East Berwickshire. They purchased two adult wheelchairs, equipment and storage space to be managed at Coldingham beach by volunteers. This is operated on a pay as you feel basis.</p>

	<p>Sea the Change and AccessAble Borders CIC completed an access audit last August following a year's operation of the scheme. The report identifies changes to the infrastructure of the beach area which could be made to enhance visitor experiences, regardless of physical ability.</p> <p>Sea the Change are seeking funding to commission a feasibility study to explore solutions to the report's recommendations. The 5 key issues identified are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Access to the Disabled Parking</li> <li>2. Access to the Beach Wheelchairs Storage</li> <li>3. Access to the Disabled Toilets</li> <li>4. Access to the Beach</li> <li>5. Access to the Boardwalk</li> </ol> <p>The project costs are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insurance covering beach wheelchair activity and consultation period £550</li> <li>• 12 months Project Manager 5 hrs per week @ £16/h to oversee feasibility study and follow on work £3840</li> <li>• Feasibility Study &amp; Architects Drawings £6370</li> </ul>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	June 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£10,760	
Community Fund Request (£)	£7,684	
10% organisation contribution	£1,076	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
	£2,000	Bruce Wake Trust - secured
Community Fund Outcomes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communities have more access to better quality local services or activities <input 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	<p>The project meets the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in and create community facilities/spaces (for all ages/ intergenerational)</li> <li>• Support local community capacity building, in particular local volunteers (utilising their skills and expertise)</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage leisure/cultural facilities to be as accessible as possible (convenient, affordable, time of day)</li> <li>• Work with local communities on regenerating and reimagining their local places (town centres, village halls, play areas etc.)</li> </ul>
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<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	
<p>What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?</p>	<p>With one in five people in the UK living with a disability or health condition, Sea the Change believe improvements need to be made to the beach infrastructure to ensure everyone has equal access to the coast. Access to Coldingham beach is via a steep descent. There are two parking bay at the bottom of the access road to the beach and a disabled toilet part way down. In July 2019, a Beach Wheelchair Hut was installed to facilitate the use of beach wheelchairs. Whilst the current facilities help people to access the beach, Sea the Change and AccessAble Borders have identified a number of issues which can impede someone’s ability to enjoy the beach. Two parking bays is limiting in busier periods and the path to the wheelchair hut is uneven. There is a steep ramp to access the disabled toilets and a slippery and uneven ramp to access the beach. Challenges in accessing the Boardwalk are also referenced (report below).</p> <p>The report suggests the creation of a third parking bay at the bottom of the hill and improving direct access from the parking bay to the beach. Moving the beach hut closer to the parking bays would help overcome problems with the uneven path. The report also suggests it would be desirable to improve the disabled toilet with an inclusive design and improve access to the beach to overcome problems people have experienced with the steep, slippery ramp.</p> <p>Currently, SBC has fulfilled its responsibilities with regards to access at Coldingham beach but is supportive of the work and ambition of Sea the Change. Sea the Change and AccessAble Borders’ report takes account of the current and future obligations of Scottish Borders Council as a service provider under the Disability Discrimination Act, the Equality Act 2010 and BS 8300, 2009.</p> <p>There is no record of visitor numbers to Coldingham beach last year but Verdant Leisure Caravan Parks reported that despite lockdown, they had their busiest year to date at Coldingham. Sea the Change report that the usage of the wheelchairs was quieter in 2020 than they would expect for a normal year but people booked the wheelchairs for longer than anticipated i.e. some people booked the wheelchairs for a full week. In 2020, the wheelchairs were used for a total of 195 hours.</p>
<p>What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and</p>	<p>The proposed feasibility study would provide an opportunity for current and prospective beach users to feedback their</p>

<p>how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?</p>	<p>experiences and ideas and consider the suggested options to improve access at the beach. The first stage of the consultation would present options to improve access to key stakeholders. Feedback from stage one would refine the list of options which would be presented during stage two of the consultation to determine the most supported options. An online and drop-in consultation would then be carried out and a Feasibility Study Report produced detailing final proposals and costs.</p> <p>It is estimated this would be completed within a two month timescale.</p> <p>Sea the Change will continue to work with Scottish Borders Council to explore the feasibility of improving all aspects of access to the beach, to provide easier access for all visitors including disabled people families with buggies and elderly people.</p> <p>The proposed improvements have been considered with minimal intervention to the historic fabric of the beach to maintain ecological integrity.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Sea the Change has gathered positive feedback from users and non-users of the Beach Wheelchair scheme and the feasibility study will confirm what support there is for further improvement.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>Sea the Change has been awarded £2,000 from Bruce Wake Trust towards the costs of the feasibility study. This funding must be spent by February 2022.</p> <p>Sea the Change have discussed their ideas with South of Scotland Enterprise who are supportive of what the group are looking to achieve. Discussions will be ongoing with SOSE regarding funding for infrastructure improvements once the feasibility study is complete.</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>The success of the project is to be measured on the outcome of the feasibility study. The intention is to engage with a wide demographic, including current and prospective beach wheelchair users through mediums such as public consultation, social media engagement and questionnaires, all of which will be presented in the study. The study will define what improvements people would like to see in the area so that improvements are user led.</p>
<p>Quotes received for items of expenditure</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?</p>	<p>N/A</p>

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.

*If successful, we would seek the group to particularly report on:*

- The outcomes of the feasibility study
- The range of engagement methods used
- The number of people who responded to the consultations
- Support from other services, organisations, community groups etc
- Next steps for the project

