

2020/2021 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Tweeddale

Ref. No.: CF2021- TW - 22

Organisation Name: Go Tweed Valley (Tweed Valley Tourism BID)

Funding Requested: £13,747.50

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Private Company Limited by Guarantee and Not Having a Share Capital		
Annual Accounts Balance	£16,001		
Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?			
Account balance for on-going project/staffing costs in the delivery of the 5 year business plan.			
Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
Tweed Valley Tourism BID	March 2020	£15,000	
Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project brief	<p>Tweed Valley Bid are looking for funding to undertake a feasibility study, led by the Tourism BID, that will determine how a path could be built that follows the route of The Lade in Innerleithen and also how to celebrate its history.</p> <p>The aim of the feasibility study will be to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further and formally engage with the local community to explore what they would like to see from the project and to collect the oral history of The Lade. <p>Tweed Valley Bid aim to appoint Connecting Threads, the cultural strand of Destination Tweed, to run sessions with</p>

	<p>the community to help identify what they would like to achieve with the project in cultural and creative terms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group wish to map and cost the route of the lade trail and explore how it could incorporate the history of the area through digital/online content, physical tours using local volunteer guides, music, images, geo mapping and more. • Cost the renovation and maintenance of the actual lade as part of the work to assess its feasibility as a source of hydro energy. • To develop these proposals for further funding. <p>The group aim for the feasibility study to take 6 months. This will allow for effective engagement within the community. The group aim to start this process on 1st May to 30th Sept (6 months).</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	May 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£15,275	
Community Fund Request (£)	£13,747.50	
10% organisation contribution	£1,527.50	
Any Other Contribution?		
Other Funding Sources	Amount (£)	At what stage?
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 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> <p>Enhance marketing and promotion of the Tweeddale tourism offer</p>	

ASSESSMENT

What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?

Tweed Valley Bid have been engaged with 8 to 10 community individuals over the past year who have spoken about this proposed project and have helped to develop project ideas while encouraging Tweed Valley Bid to explore the possibility of undertaking a feasibility study.

There is already an informal path along some sections of the route of the Lade. However after speaking to a variety of local community groups it is felt that a longer, more substantial, accessible trail following The Lade from the town centre to Caerlee Mill and then onto the cauld near Innerleithen Golf Club would be positive for the community.

This would cover a distance of approx. 3km.

From engaging with community members who have been involved in the towns Mill past it has become clear how many stories and memories are associated with the lade and the enthusiasm from the community to connect with the Lade and its history.

These discussions with community members have helped shape the project further and the group are now keen to explore the possibility of providing interpretation projects that tell the story of the lade, its role in the history of the town and the many personal tales associated with it.

What benefits will be gained from the project/activity and how well does the project/activity meet the outcomes of the scheme?

The project would aim to deliver:

- A trail plan and costing of an accessible route from the town centre that will encourage local interest and promote activity, health and wellbeing.
- A report on the cost and potential of the lade as a source of hydro power for the community.
- Wider engagement in a project that recognises and celebrates the town's industrial heritage, so helping to connect Innerleithen old and new.
- Provide education about the history of the area and the role played by the town's mills in days gone by (with potential feed-ins to involvement of children at St Ronan's PS).
- A high-quality addition to local visitor infrastructure, with all associated benefits to local businesses. It will also add to the growing network of paths around the area that again benefit both locals and visitors to the area.

The group feel that the community will be better connected, from industrial heritage to the new Mountain Bike Innovation Centre and it will demonstrate the changes within the town.

	<p>The group feel that this project will allow the community to have access to more activities, resources and infrastructure.</p> <p>The group are also hopeful that this wproject will allow information to be shared more widely around the hidden story of waterpower and industry in Innerleithen</p> <p>The end goal of this proposal is to produce a final report with a version that can be shared and is accessible to the local community, as well as a more detailed and fully-costed report that can be used to access funding.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>Further community engagement would form part of the feasibility study process. The group have engaged with some community groups already but wish to engage with more community groups and members over the duration of the feasibility study.</p> <p>TVTb propose to have a core community group of 6 to 8 individuals who are lade 'experts', this will be the groups main sounding board. The group will also engage with other community groups including the Community Council and the Community Trust and work in partnership with Destination Tweed who will engage creatively with local groups to develop ideas for the interpretation of the trail.</p> <p>The group have also highlighted the need and importance to be engaged with as many community groups as possible that may not have knowledge of the history of the town. YVTB would look to engage with existing groups such as The Hub Community Interest Company who are already engaging with groups and businesses in the area through other projects</p> <p>The group will also consult with landowners. The group already know who owns the land (there are 3 landowners to consult with).</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>No other funding sought for this specific project.</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 Tourism BID is set up as a business this project is part of the five-year business plan which can be found at: GoTweedValley.co.uk</p> <p>The group also work in partnership with other organisation's such as Dmbins, community organisations as well as others. This project addresses aims for other organisations as well, so it would work with them if the project needs ongoing support/</p>

	The success of the project will be the completed feasibility report.
Quotes received for items of expenditure	yes
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:

- *The result of the feasibility study*
- *Number of community members/group engaged with*