

2021/2022 Community Fund: Interim Assessment Form

Locality: Eildon

Ref. No.: CF2021- EIL-05

Organisation Name: Melrose Rugby Football Club

Funding Requested: £4,000

ABOUT THE GROUP			
Organisation Structure	Constituted group		
Annual Accounts Balance	£176,000		
<p>Are any funds ring-fenced, if so why & how much?</p> <p>Application would be supported by Melrose Rugby Limited (MRL) and they would act as banker for the group. As Melrose Rugby Football Club (MRFC) don't have an active bank account currently.</p> <p>Accounts provided for Melrose Rugby Limited (MRL) - Recent bank statement; £32,381, this provides on-going running costs for the club. Melrose Rugby Limited currently have an annual net spend of £159,000</p>			
<p>Has the applicant successfully applied for SBC funding within the last three years?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			
SBC Funds received	Financial Year	Amount (£)	What used for?
<p>Have they recently applied to the Common Good Fund?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>			

ABOUT THE PROJECT	
Project brief	<p>Melrose Rugby Football Club (MRFC) in partnership with Melrose Rugby Ltd (MRL) wish to appoint a consultant to help support the organisation to develop a Business and Fundraising plan.</p> <p>With the support of a consultant the club hope that the business and fundraising plan will lay out a process for providing a sustainable future which will provide benefit to</p>

	<p>the local community both in terms of health and wellbeing and also economically.</p> <p>The consultant would be employed for a flexible period to provide 10 days of work to develop a Business plan and an additional 7 days of work to develop a fundraising plan.</p>	
Project Start Date: DD/MM/YY	July 2021	
Total Expenditure (£)	£4,500	
Community Fund Request (£)	£4,000	
10% organisation contribution	£500	
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 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"> • improve communication of social and leisure opportunities to local residents • Carry out more community mapping and consultations to identify what people want in their area 	

ASSESSMENT

What need/demand has been evidenced for this project/activity?	<p>In 2016 members of Melrose Rugby Football Club opted to move operational activities of the rugby club to the newly formed Melrose Rugby Limited (MRL). This provided protection to members from any personal liability. MRFC however remains as a constituted organization and it is through MRFC that the business plan and fundraising plan aims to be created for.</p> <p>Both the 2020 and 2021 Sevens tournaments have been cancelled as a result of Covid which has had a significant</p>
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	<p>impact on club income (in 2019 Melrose Sevens generated an economic impact of £572,000). Within the current MRL structure there is no plan for sustainability or club vision and is reliant on the success of the annual Sevens tournament. This has focused the members of the board of MRL to look at creating long term sustainability for MRFC.</p> <p>The MRL board wish to further imbed MRFC into the local community and increase connections within the community while also making MRFC sustainable and not solely reliant on income generated from the Melrose Sevens.</p> <p>As a result the group aim to explore the opportunities of MRFC becoming a charity or the creation of a foundation. The direction that MRFC will take would be determined by the outcomes of the consultancy work. Depending on the outcome of the consultation MRFC would leave all commercial/operational activity to Melrose Rugby Limited.</p> <p>Wider consultation with community members would have helped to evidence need for this project more significantly. Although via the consultation process community members will have the opportunity to feed in to the discussion.</p>
<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>If successful with this application an appointed consultant will work along with the board of MRL to create a Business and Fundraising Plan. This process will involve working closely with the local community and key stakeholders to create a business and fundraising plan specifically for MRFC.</p> <p>The consultancy work will evaluate the way forward for the Club to secure a sustainable future and one that provides benefits to the local community, in terms of health and wellbeing and economically. In the longer term, this work will enable Melrose Rugby Football Club to achieve the aims of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting, delivering and participating in youth and amateur rugby in the Melrose and district community. • Promoting, delivering and participating in the heritage of Melrose rugby, the Melrose Sevens and the worldwide development of seven aside rugby. <p>The proposed project will look to develop and focus on health and wellbeing of club members and wider stakeholder's. The business plan would look to build on the way forward in how to engage and involve local community members, educate and improve young rugby players' as well as coaches. Also the consultancy will look at ways to develop the Club's heritage, locally within the community</p>

	<p>but also how this can be further extended to reach a more global audience.</p>
<p>What support and involvement of the wider community is there for this project/activity?</p>	<p>The proposal of creating a business and fundraising plan has the support of the MRL board.</p> <p>Through the consultation exercise views and opinions will be sought from wider stakeholder groups including members, partners and community representatives. This activity will be carried out primarily by the consultant with assistance from the officers and directors of the club. This process will aim to include open community meetings as well as structured interviews with key individuals and groups.</p> <p>Through MRL Conversations have taken place with South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) although there is no active engagement with SoSE at present. SoSE would be interested in supporting if the club can evidence an enterprising aspect to club proposals.</p>
<p>What efforts have been made by the applicant to secure other sources of funding for the project/activity?</p>	<p>None</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 consultancy can be measured through the creation and acceptance of the business and fundraising plans by the club and how these inform the decision making process going forward.</p> <p>Both plans will be scrutinized by the office bearers in MRFC and the Board of MRL who will also monitor the work of the consultant through the process.</p>
<p>Quotes received for items of expenditure</p>	<p>MRFC have asked via the clubs website and social media channels for expressions of interest for the role of a consultant to undertake this task.</p> <p>The MRL board have been in direct contact with 5 qualified individuals to provide a quote. Currently 2 quotes have been received.</p> <p>One individual approached declined the offer to provide a quote due to lack of time to commit to the project.</p>
<p>Have appropriate permissions been sought/granted?</p>	<p>n/a</p>

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:

How many individuals and other stakeholders have been involved in the consultation process

The Business and Fundraising Plans are submitted to Scottish Borders Council as part of the evaluation & monitoring process

The delivery of key actions from the Business and Fundraising plans