

Report of Community Fund Assessment Panel for Berwickshire Area Partnership Meeting at 6.30pm on Thursday 2nd September

Appendix 1 – Recommendations

This paper sets out the Recommendations of the BAP Assessment Panel for consideration by the BAP. These recommendations should be read in conjunction with the accompanying paper entitled “Summary of Process”.

The “Summary of Process” firstly introduces, then provides a description of, the new process for assessing applications for the Berwickshire Community Fund. It goes on to give a brief description of those applications considered by the Assessment Panel.

We considered the applications as a collection of applications and made our judgements in relation to the available funding pot.

Outlined below are our recommendations and also a little feedback related to each application.

Allanton Village Hall

Aim of the project to repair the retaining wall between the Hall and its neighbouring property

This was a good application with clear information on:

- Aims of project
- Need - Use of Hall;
- Definition of the problem and financial justification;
- Potential solution to problem (with advice from Structural Engineer).
- Their ability to deliver within a given timescale

We recommend awarding £3150

Parent Space

The aim is to deliver courses in local schools to strengthen families in Berwickshire and beyond

All panel members recognise the good work of ParentSpace and supported the overall aims of ParentSpace. However, we had significant misgivings concerning this specific application.

- It did not appear to be clearly Berwickshire focused.
- The assertion that there is “huge demand” did not appear to be quantified in the application.
- Specific detail of exactly what was to be delivered and where this was to take place was absent.
- Detail of the expected impact of the project and evidence of impact from past work was absent.

As a consequence, **we cannot recommend that this application is funded**, although we would welcome a future submission that was more detailed and clearly focussed on our criteria.

Cockburnspath Allotment Association

The aim is to obtain funding for the employment of an Allotment and Community Garden developer and the purchase of a Polytunnel

The AP was supportive of the aims of the overall project but had a number of questions related to the application:

- We had some concern relating to the scale of the request and the proposal to spend a significant sum on the hiring of a Garden and Allotment Developer.
- It was suggested the Group should look into opportunities to connect with Abundant Borders

- It appeared that the Allotment society had significant financial reserves and they could have done more to clearly define their current financial commitments.

We recommend that £5000 be awarded specifically for the Polytunnel following confirmation that the Polytunnel has not been included in any other grant application or award.

BAVS

The aim is to purchase 2 E-bikes and fund a Community E-bike pilot study

The AP was supportive of the overall aim of the project and discussed a number of aspects of the proposal

- Concern was raised that a 2-bike study was too small, however it was also recognised that the proposal is for a “Pilot” study
- It is important to gauge the demand for E-bikes and assess other operational factors
- Dissemination of the Pilot study findings is critical and should be a priority.
- We believe it would be valuable to extend the pilot to other towns in Berwickshire in due course

We recommend that £4122 be awarded for the project. Included in the conditions of the award will be the requirement that the bikes would be passed on to another community should the pilot study in Duns prove unsuccessful.