

2021/2022 BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND

Assessment Form

For the purpose of assessment, projects have been ranked high, medium or low to reflect how strongly the application meets the criteria of the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund.

High – a strong demonstration of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

Medium – provides acceptable examples of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

Low – lacks detail of how the project will assist recovery from the pandemic

1. Applicant Details

Organisation name	Newstead Village Community Trust					
Organisation structure	Constituted – company limited by guarantee					
Application reference	BBBB-EIL-17					
Theme of application	Sport	Arts & culture	Environment	Community capacity	Community resilience	Intergenerational activity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project start date	Jan 22			Project end date	July 22	

2. Organisation's Finances

End of year balance	£
Current bank balance	£2,015.88
Total cash/Unrestricted reserves available & purpose	£2,015.88
Total restricted /committed funds & purpose	£

3. Project:

Outline of what the group plan to do to help people recover from the pandemic. Projects will be ranked higher if the application strongly demonstrates that they are meeting an identified need in the community. (e.g. area of deprivation, protected characteristics, tackling wellbeing and isolation, tackling climate change)

High <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Comment:</p> <p>Newstead Village Community Trust (NVCT) are looking to appoint a professional consultant to work with NVCT directors and the wider community to develop a comprehensive Community Action Plan and Business Plan.</p> <p>NVCT was formed as a result of the pandemic. A number of Newstead residents came together during the pandemic to understand and support the needs of local people that</p>		

required extra support as a result of Covid, shopping, wellbeing and isolation. This inspired a greater sense of neighbourliness and started a regular community meet which took place over zoom.

Ideas were subsequently formed and put into action including support for vulnerable residents, safe activities to connect the community and a quarterly village newsletter called the Newstead News.

The group now wish to harness and further develop the feeling of community and develop an action plan for the village. To enable the group to realise their ambitions they would like to produce a Community Action Plan and Business Plan.

While the group have undertaken community consultation and engagement they are aware that it was limited in terms of reach and also took place when people were unable to meet face-to-face. The group want to engage more effectively and reach those that are the hardest to reach in their community. NVCT feel that Professional and independent expertise will be able to draw on a variety of methods of engagement and help them to translate the results into a plan that is 'owned' by the community.

NVCT are looking for funding to appoint a professional development consultant.

NVCT developed a 'brief' outlining the scope of work. This was then forwarded to six organisations who offered the required expertise and skills to develop a Community action and Business Plan. The group received three quotes from organisations who were in a position to undertake the required work.

- Community Enterprise (£13758 inc VAT)
- STAR Development (£13000 ex VAT)
- Urban Animation (£10000 ex VAT)

Community Enterprise is the groups preferred provider for the following reasons:

- The plan they propose is comprehensive and the timescales they suggest for the work closely matches our requirements as outlined in the brief we circulated for tender.
- We have reviewed their previous projects, many of which are similar to our own and their track record of delivering realisable and accessible plans which serve communities into the future is impressive. –
- We have spoken to other organisations who have commissioned their support, including within the Scottish Borders and they come highly recommended and are aware of local issues pertinent to the area and our community.

Evidence of individuals, groups or communities likely to benefit from the new initiative and how they have been affected by the pandemic:

High <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low <input type="checkbox"/>
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Comment:

NVCT has a growing membership which currently stands at 84 ordinary members, 22 associate members, 2 junior members and 2 corporate members. At the last census there were 272 people on the electoral roll within Newstead.

A recent community survey carried out within The Newstead News returned 142 responses from members and non-members of the Trust. The newsletter has become very popular and not only provides opportunities for a growing number of local

contributors to write about issues which are important to them, it also enables the Trust to update the community on its progress and offers routes to participate.

NVCT have 347 followers, Newstead Village Chat (private Facebook group) has 146 members, 218 accounts follow the NVCT on Twitter and the village WhatsApp group has 30 members. NVCT recently created a Just Giving page to help raise funds to further their aims which has encouraged donations, So far of £2390.

Newstead has a larger than average retired population and a growing population of families with young children. Throughout the pandemic the community has come together to understand and support the needs of local people. Neighbours supported one another practically and emotionally through a number of forums that were established including a Whatsapp Group, Facebook, Zoom meetings and the development of a village newsletter delivered to every household.

Further consultation will enable NVCT to engage the needs and wishes of the community and establish an on-going plan of activities and events embedded within a community action plan to meet these needs.

Expected impact of the new initiative and how will it help those most in need recover from the pandemic

High **Medium** **Low**

NVCT have a broad of experience and expertise on their Board however, don't have the capacity to produce a document that will provide detail and quality that the whole community will buy in to. In looking to appoint a consultancy firm the group feel that this will help the group to realise the ambitions of their community and to deliver projects identified by the community.

- An Action Plan pulled together by independent party on behalf of the village is usually seen as best practice by external funders. Organisations like the Lottery often look favourably on Community Action Plans developed with third party independent involvement as they feel that these plans are more likely to accurately reflect community views.
- To unlock external funding for projects, Action Plans and Community Consultations are normally required so a properly developed Action Plan on the back of detailed consultation would be looked on very favourably by funders when trying to justify funding applications.
- Although the costs of an Action Plan can be seen as expensive, in the long run if they help unlock grant funding for the projects of priority highlighted in an Action Plan, then the original spend creating the Action Plan is good value for money.

4. Project Expenditure:

Total Project Cost	£13,758
10% organisation contribution	£1,375.80
Request to BBBB	£12,382.20

Item of expenditure	Cost
Professional Services for Consultation and delivery of CAP and BP	£13,758
	£

	£
	£
	£

Match/other funding sought:

Funder	Funding Requested	Status
	£	
	£	
	£	

Grants received from Scottish Borders Council or any other funder within the last three years

Date	Project Title	Amount
		£
		£
		£
		£
		£

SBC OFFICER ASSESSMENT	
Comments	<p>the application meets the criteria of the BBBB fund</p> <p>The application scores medium as it demonstrates an active community which has been fostered during Covid and their enthusiasm to further develop their community.</p> <p>An action plan will allow the group to access other funding opportunities.</p>
Additional terms and conditions required	<p>the applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance</p> <p>If successful we require the group to effectively evaluate their project with a specific focus on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of members of the community that were involved in community consultations/engagement • The completed action plan • Key priorities that the community wish to develop and deliver within Newstead