

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL  
BERWICKSHIRE COMMUNITY FUND ASSESSMENT PANEL**

MINUTES of Meeting of BERWICKSHIRE  
COMMUNITY FUND ASSESSMENT  
PANEL held via Microsoft Teams on  
Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at  
3:30pm

Present:- K Dickinson (Chair), J Anderson, A McNeil, A Mitchell, R  
Parker,  
Councillors J Greenwell, H Laing, M Rowley  
Cllr Rowley joined at 4.00pm  
In Attendance:- Locality Development Co-ordinators C Malster and G Jardine  
  
Apologies: D Scott

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of Berwickshire Community Fund Assessment Panel. A round of introductions were had for the benefit of R Parker

**2. UPDATE ON DECISIONS MADE AT SEPTEMBER BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

No issues to report following approval of Community Fund applications at the Berwickshire Area Partnership.

**3. QUESTION OF ELIGIBILITY**

Two options were presented for the process of raising application eligibility when there are concerns:

- Contact the Chair to determine whether an application goes forward
- Raise the potential issue but all panel members assess the application and discuss the question of eligibility after scoring

Agreed questions of eligibility are to go the Chair in the first instance for a decision on whether the application should be circulated to the panel for assessment

Agreed that the panel would review scores for the current applications and discuss any concerns around eligibility of the projects at the same time.

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest declared. JA advised he previously had a Treasurer role with Eyemouth & District Community Trust but has not been involved with them for some time.

**5A OVERVIEW REVIEW OF MARKS**

It was acknowledged that there had been a similarity in of level of support for the two projects with exceptions in some sections of marking.

**5b DUNS PLAYERS**

An application from Duns Players requesting £5,000 was received for the Duns Play Fest project.

**DECISION NOTED that:-**

**It was agreed to recommend that Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of £5,000 but that Duns Players should not routinely come back to the Berwickshire Community Fund for repeat funding.**

**5c EYEMOUTH & DISTRICT COMMUNITY TRUST**

An application from EDCT requesting £4,032 was received for the Fund Finder project.

**DECISION NOTED that:-**

**It was agreed to recommend that Berwickshire Area Partnership not award funding to EDCT but that EDCT submit a revised application to a future funding round.**

**5d REVIEW OF FUNDING AVAILABLE**

The Panel will work with SBC to review the promotion of the Community Fund and identify ways to reach more people and increase interest in the fund. R Parker to liaise with G Jardine.

**6 REVIEW OF POSSIBLE CHANGES TO GUIDANCE**

Agreed that a suggested word limit in the different sections of the application form would be helpful. Chair to propose to the Berwickshire Area Partnership that the panel reconsider the wording of the application to help focus people's answers.

**7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

3:30pm Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January

*The meeting concluded at 17:17pm*

**\*Record of conversation on 16/12/21**

It is suggested that due to the short succession of Berwickshire Area Partnership meetings in February and March it may be favourable to open the Community Fund for one more round rather than two rounds. This would allow Community Fund applications to be received until 20<sup>th</sup> January with the Assessment Panel meeting in February to make their funding recommendations and presenting them at the Area Partnership meeting on 03 March.