# 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 | Go Wild Scotland | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Organisation structure | Community Interest Company – SC678643 | | | | | |
| Application reference | BBBB-EIL-19 | | | | | |
| **Theme of application** | Sport | Arts & culture | Environment | Community capacity | Community resilience | Intergenerational activity |
| | ☐ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ | ☒ |
| **Project start date** | 01 December 2021 | | **Project end date** | 01 February 2022 | | |

## 2.    Organisation's Finances

| | |
|---|---|
| **End of year balance** | £ 5,284.18 |
| **Current bank balance** | £ 4,993.08 |
| **Total cash/Unrestricted reserves available & purpose** | £ 243.18 |
| **Total restricted /committed funds & purpose** | **£4,750**<br><br>£4,750 raised from commercial research work for the Southern Upland Partnership is ring-fenced for staff payments in relation to that work, paid in line with the living wage of £9.50 an hour. (No payments for work done have been made to leave funds available for developing the project).  A further £243.18 raised through donations and commercial activity including merchandise sales is currently available for use on the Mauldsheugh Wood Community Wildlife Project. |

## 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**  ☒ | **Medium**  ☐ | **Low**  ☐ |

Comment:

Go Wild Scotland (GWS) want to create a digital and physical nature trail for use by local youth groups (they already work with Philiphaugh School, Selkirk Early Years Centre, Brownies and Beavers) and to use it as a demonstration project for other community groups in the Borders. They have already sourced the physical nature trail elements, using timber from a donated tree and educational materials

GWS have also created and successfully tested a template for an interactive digital trail using QR codes to work with smart phones – they require funding to cover the cost of building the digital trail on a dedicated section of the **gowildscotland.com** website and to develop the physical trail.

Go wild are seeking funding to cover;
- Labour costs to create trail
- Illustration and map of newly created trail
- QR code metal plates

| Evidence of individuals, groups or communities likely to <u>benefit</u> from the new initiative and how they have been affected by the pandemic: | | |
|---|---|---|
| **High** ☐ | **Medium** ☒ | **Low** ☐ |

Comment:

The Mauldsheugh Wood Community Wildlife Project has already run events for children and parents from Philiphaugh School and Selkirk Early Years Centre.  GWS also work with local youth groups including the Beavers, Brownies, Rowlands and the Scouts.

The Group plan to stage regular events centred on the nature trail - the digital aspect allows them to quickly create additional content, it could function as a trail for an Easter egg hunt, a butterfly spotting morning, a spring watch event, or bird identification trail.  As the digital platform does not rely on everything in physical form it is relatively easy to swap in and out different customised trails.   The hope to organise at least one community event per week, but are aiming to hold more to accommodate individual group requirements. GWS can also use the digital platform to provide customised trails for groups with specific needs - so they can tailor a trail to wheelchair users, for example.

Other community groups are also expressing interest and footfall in the wood has increased significantly as GWS have added more elements to the project. The group have received positive feedback in response to their social media channels, of which they have over 500 followers. Through these channels the group post trail camera footage and other photography of the wildlife that inhabits and passes through the woods. During lockdown the video feeds in particular proved very popular with people unable to leave their homes and who wanted to connect with the outside world.

The initiative aims to benefit everyone in the community and provide a safe and interesting outdoor space.

| Expected <u>impact</u> of the new initiative and how will it help those most in need recover from the pandemic | | |
|---|---|---|
| **High** ☐ | **Medium** ☒ | **Low** ☐ |

Comment:

The digital nature trail will provide a new community resource building on the existing infrastructure, allowing families and youth groups to access the physical and digital resources in the wood and for those unable to visit, to enjoy greater remote access to nature.

Access to nature has been shown to play a significant role in boosting the mental wellbeing of communities most affected by Covid-19.  The half mile circular trail will take in the forest school, bird hide and nature pond.  Rubbing plaques featuring wildlife found in the wood will be attached to tree stumps and seating, along with magnifying glasses to view small items found in the wood.  The digital trail will use QR codes printed on metal discs to link to GWS's website to provide information about the wildlife that can be seen at each location; trail camera videos; clips of birdsong and other identification aids; and location and direction information.

The Group intend to document requests for customised trails and attendance at their regular events, which would give a minimum use figure. They expect these events to be quite popular with young parents during the week once they have improved the paths, which is hopefully on course for this summer.

The Group also have a young ranger starting through the Kickstarter scheme and it is hoped that he should be able to provide insights into path usage.

## 4.   Project Expenditure:

| Total Project Cost | £5,425.25 |
|---|---|
| 10% organisation contribution | £542.25 |
| Request to BBBB | £4,883.00 |

| Item of expenditure | Cost |
|---|---|
| Labour –create physical & digital nature trail – 30 day @ £100 per day | £3,000.00 |
| Purchase QR code metal plates | £225.25 |
| Finger sign posts – cost of wood/manufacture – Selkirk Community Shed | £400.00 |
| Photography/web hosting – use of Go Wild Scotland copyright material & domain - donated | £0 |
| Illustration of nature trail map and website pages | £1,800.00 |

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** | The application meets the criteria of the BBBB fund | |
| **Comments** | The application scores high/medium.<br><br>• The project will provide access to the woodland both physically & digitally<br>• Access to outdoor space has shown to be a positive benefit to individuals wellbeing<br>• The project aims to provide education elements to the trail | |
| **Additional terms and conditions required** | If successful we would expect the group to report on;<br><br>• The number of individuals that access the digital trail<br>• Where possible, the number of individuals that access the newly created trail<br>• Anecdotal feedback as to the benefits of the new trail | |