

Assessment Panel recommendations for NSF award: TAP meeting 01.11.22

Peebles Civic Society – request £4326.29 – recommend award

The project aims to curate a digital archive based on recollections and ephemera of those who have worked in the Tweeddale woollen industry. It involves hosting blethering events to collect this material. The digital archive will be locally available on static machines and more widely available online in the long term. Peebles Civic Society has run an initial pilot to test level of local interest. They have also established partnerships for this project with other local history groups. This is a worthwhile project and very engaging for the community.

The costs cover video lighting equipment, microphones, reconditioned laptops from the Renew crew, Filemaker pro software, venue hire and exhibition materials. In the long term, the equipment would be available to other Tweeddale groups. The panel recommends that reference is made to the Borders wide nature of the woollen industry, with residual ongoing activities.

Tweed Wheels – request £7,000 – recommend award

The Bridge Council for Voluntary Service requests £7,000 to make up the balance of the sum they put aside previously for a new 17-seat minibus (£39,000) The minibus is needed now, otherwise they would go for an EV one that is able to take the wheelchair lift and is still within the size range of their volunteer driver limit.

Stable Life – request £2,500 – do not recommend award

Stable life offers riding and other services to vulnerable young people referred to them. The funding is for staff costs for a structured programme that includes Equine Assisted Therapy/Learning, riding lessons and psychosocial based interventions. They also offer transitional work placements for young people who would normally struggle in traditional work situations. They offer volunteering opportunities to the young people they have supported as well as to the wider community. The cost per child is £850. The amount requested is for 3% of 100 people who are referred to them.

However, Stable Life is Borders-wide, and there is no guarantee that the 3% will be from Tweeddale. This is a generic application for staff costs and there is no evidence of value for Tweeddale. The Panel does not recommend award.

Cheyne Gang – request £2925 – recommend award

The Tweed Valley Cheyne Gang is run by nurses as a singing group for people with long term respiratory conditions like Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). The group, which is a charity, already has significant experience of running similar sessions in other parts of Scotland. Based in Innerleithen, they are involved in local community (give concerts, have a link with a Ukelele group etc.) The money requested will cover costs for the specialist group leader, an administrator, venue hire, advertising, microphone, music stand, and travel (taxi, petrol. parking). There were 35 members pre pandemic and 27 now. 17 are attending regularly which is the reason for transport money request. The target number is 40.

Innerleithen Swap and Share Shed – request £5,000 - do not recommend award

The Swap and Share Shed has established itself in Innerleithen as a respected resource that can be used anonymously. The request is for £350 per month for a year to buy tins and toiletries plus 40 x £20 food vouchers. However, this kind of support is a broad need across the Borders. The panel is not sure that this is the right fund so does not recommend award.

For a more sustainable outcome, the Swap and Share Shed is advised to dovetail into the funded framework for food support that the SBC is working on across the 5 localities (Cook Clubs to develop skills, the Low and Slow projects, Fareshare etc). There is a fairly extensive Food Conversation group that helps to channel resources in to the most appropriate places, hence the proposals going forward to the Strategic group. The plan is to have a collective strategy around access to food and that will involve bringing partners together and building collective proposals that help with access to food.

Clovenfords & District Community Council – request £1944 – recommend award

Clovenfords Community Council requests £1944 towards the £2160 required for design consultants to specify and design a wooden bridge to link the Playing Field to Caddonfoot Road. The present one is so weak it can only take 3 people at a time. Only one quote has been received, though they have tried to get more.

SBC can help with some Place Based, capital costs, but is unable to cover any consultancy/feasibility fees. Hence the application to NSF to start this process. SBC would continue to be consulted throughout the process. Once the design has been agreed, Clovenfords will look for funding from other sources.

Broughton Social Make and Play Club – request £936 – recommend award for 6 months (£488)

Broughton social make and play club runs twice a month on Friday evenings 5-9pm, in Broughton village hall. They request £936, which is 2/3 of annual Hall fees plus £40 for materials.

It is a drop-in event, open to everyone - noughties to nineties, it invites people to come along to chat, craft and or play games/music/musical instruments. It attracts an average of 30 people per evening which is a good number for our small rural community. It has been running now successfully for 7months. Hall hire has so far been funded by CC micro-grants. They hope that going forward they can meet costs by donation and fund-raising, including accessing other funding if necessary. The group is unconstituted, but Restorative Routes is the umbrella organisation that will act as banker

The panel takes the view that this is a very worthwhile activity that has grown organically and recommends it should be supported to develop a constitution. The award recommended is for 6 months funding to give them time to constitute, set up a bank account and get some rules in place for the running of the club. The group should then come back with a further application to the fund before the end of the current financial year.