

## Eildon Assessment Panel Recommendations – 17 November 2022

Neighbourhood Support Fund 2022/23

### 1) Stable Life

£15,000.00

Stable Life will deliver a structured programme for at least 100 referred young people (51% from the Eildon Area) which will include Equine Assisted Therapy/Learning, riding lessons and psychosocial based interventions. They will also offer transitional work placements for young people who would normally struggle in traditional work situations and volunteering opportunities for children they have supported as well as the wider community. The application is towards project workers' salaries.

#### Panel thoughts:

- Other localities have funded this project
- Supportive of the work that the organisation does
- Aware that the organisation is facing current financial challenges
- The panel would like the group to move towards a more sustainable funding model.

**Recommend to part-fund this project £12,500 and the panel would encourage the group to access funding from other sources in future years.**

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### 2) Selkirk High School Parent Partnership

£13,903.92

Selkirk High School Parent Partnership aims to establish a well-resourced school bike club to remove barriers to entry and facilitate access to opportunities in mountain biking for the young people of Selkirk and surrounding areas. The club's activities will include guided off-road riding, skills coaching, bike maintenance and trail building. Funding will be used to purchase bikes and trail building tools.

#### Panel thoughts:

- Aware that young people have been impacted by COVID-19 and activities such as this will be positive for those young people that participate
- The activity will not only provide bikes but tutoring which would allow young people to be safe when cycling and also build on their confidence.
- The group sits separately from the school and is open to all
- The panel would encourage the group to be conscious of non-cyclists and use cycle routes considerately.

**Recommend to fully fund this project £13,903.92.**

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### 3) Selkirk Regeneration

£1,777.00

Selkirk Regeneration are applying for funds to print an already written book detailing the battle to recover the Fishing rights for Selkirk that were stolen by the Crown Estate predecessors in 1912. The book will be sold and any funds gained will be credited to Selkirk Regeneration. The group are looking to print 100 'perfect bound copies'.

#### Panel thoughts:

- The panel are interested in the history that will be told within the book
- It is unclear as to the wider community interest in the book
- The need and demand hasn't been clearly evidenced in the application
- There may be more suitable funding options for this application

**Recommend not to fund**

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#### **4) Earlston Bumps, Babies and Toddlers Group**

£8,100

The group aim to provide support and friendship to all parents attending and to encourage the wider family (grandparents, dads, aunties and uncles) to come along. The group provide weekly talks and input from local professionals that will benefit the group such as Health Visitors, Nursery nurse. There are currently 12 active members with the aim of increasing this number to 20.

##### Panel thoughts:

- Supportive of the project and the work that it will do bringing families together to learn from each other
- The financial expenditure didn't marry up successfully with the application
- The panel isn't supportive of some of the expenditure highlighted in the application, such as trips.
- The panel would encourage the group to look at more sustainable and locally sourced toys

**Recommend not to fund**

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#### **5) Perfect Harmony**

£3,000

Perfect Harmony currently deliver four concerts per year in each of the 40 care facilities through the Scottish Borders. This funding would allow for additional concerts to be delivered.

##### Panel thoughts:

- Providing entertainment older people in care facilities is positive
- The Neighbourhood Support Fund is designed with the benefit of all community members in mind
- Some members of the panel have experience these sessions and were able to provide positive feedback about the concerts
- Aware that the application to Eildon is part of a larger application to other localities in the Scottish Borders and as such, if funding applications are unsuccessful in those localities, the Panel recommend that the £3,000 is ring-fenced for care facilities within the Eildon area.

**Recommend to fully fund this project £3,000**

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#### **6) Abbotsford Trust**

£14,964.89

The project will inform, empower and support adults with mental health needs referred by SBC's LAC Mental Health Team using Abbotsford's natural and built heritage as a focus for meaningful wellbeing and employability-focused activity as a route into volunteering and/or work within the heritage sector. Participants will improve their physical and mental health, and develop their life skills through engagement with areas such as the estate, front of house, digital marketing, visitor interpretation etc.

##### Panel thoughts:

- The panel are supportive of the project and the work that The Abbotsford Trust have done as part of the successful BBBB Recovery Fund grant.
- The project will support individuals gain new skills, provide volunteering and employment opportunities and improve the physical and mental health of participants.
- The panel are aware of their responsibility to manage the Neighbourhood Support Fund and feel that part-funding is appropriate in this instance and hope that The Abbotsford Trust can still deliver this project in a slightly reduced capacity.

**Recommend to part-fund this project £10,000**

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## **7) Heritage & Archaeological Research Practice (HARP)**

**£7,787.27**

The Sports Heritage in Galashiels project will focus on sports heritage and provide health walks in Galashiels. The project will provide opportunities for volunteers and members of the local public to engage with their local heritage and learn new skills. The project will identify and highlight the history of sport in Galashiels and volunteers will learn how to research the history and heritage of the local area online, with skills training provided in archaeological survey and recording.

### Panel thoughts:

- Cultural heritage plays an important role in Galashiels
- The project has developed after discussions with HARP and various partners in the local area
- This will be a targeted project. The panel were slightly unsure of the wider community interest and will pay particular attention to the project evaluation and interest from the local community.

**Recommend to part-fund this project £5,000.**

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## **8) Café Recharge**

**£15,000.00**

Café ReCharge are seeking to employ someone in the kitchen to take the lead in preparing and serving the food in the cafe during the week and run the kitchen at the weekend. They would also manage a small team of staff and volunteers as necessary to run the kitchen. This will then allow Café Recharge to run community supper evenings and family brunches to extend their services.

### Panel thoughts:

- Aware of the good work that Café Recharge has done up until now
- Supportive of the idea of a surplus food café and the positive impact this has on the climate
- Provides a positive service to those struggling financially
- Aware that the group has applied previously to the BBBB and Community Fund

**Recommend to fully fund this project £15,000.**

**With the aim that this will allow the group to become sustainable. The panel would encourage the group to access funding from other sources in future years.**

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## **9) Waverley Consort**

**£4,645.00**

Waverley Consort is a group of singers and instrumentalists that put on classical concerts. The group want to deliver a classical music event in Melrose, on Easter weekend 2023, performing Bach's great St Matthew Passion on Good Friday. The vision is an inclusive community event, with no ticket charge, presenting a high quality devotional concert, telling the Easter story and bringing together audience and performers for live music.

### Panel thoughts:

- It will provide a memorable community event, free of charge
- Supports local amateur musicians
- Boosts local cultural life in the Borders after COVID-19

**Recommend to fully fund this project £4,645.**

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**10) Selkirk Cricket Club**  
**£11,028.00**

Selkirk Cricket Club's three, old grass-cutting machines are no longer fit for purpose. The club has identified a new machine, the Dennis FT510, which would do the job of all current mowers, saving both time and money.

Panel thoughts:

- Recreational area is a well-used facility for cricket and for wider community activity
- New mower would assist with the Selkirk Cricket Club's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ground Improvement Project
- Have received letters of support from a number of other local clubs and community groups
- Removes the need for three mowers.

**Recommend to fully fund this project £11,028**

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