

## Scottish Borders Council

### Scottish Borders Council Neighbourhood Support Fund Pot B Assessment Panel

Minutes of meeting of Teviotdale & Liddesdale Fund Pot B Assessment Panel held by Teams meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 5.00 pm

Present: Marion Short (Chair), Duncan Taylor, Billy Fletcher, Dale Ploughman

In attendance: Gillian Jardine (SBC) and Scott McKail (SBC)

Note – Two other members of the Panel, namely Philip Kerr and Iain Crosbie submitted their views by email to SBC and these were incorporated with those attending the actual meeting

#### **Hawick, Selkirk and Denholm Red Squirrel Network**

An application from Hawick, Selkirk & Denholm Red Squirrel Network requesting £3745 towards expanding and administering the volunteer survey. The amount they requested included many items – insurance, printing, feed/bait, paper/ink, leaflets, stamps, venue hire, meetings, event participation, mileage costs. They cover the area from Galashiels to the Scotland/England border

They state they will carry out fundraising for the project long term but do not specify what the fundraising would be. This particular application is relevant for the period 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023.

The panel was advised by SBC that the primary reason for this application was that national funding previously enjoyed has now been withdrawn

DECISION NOTED that: It was agreed to recommend that Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership award a grant of £3371 to Hawick, Selkirk & Denholm Red Squirrel Network, which represents a shortfall of £374 from their total as it was felt based on a pro rata approach 10% should be deducted and that they should apply to the Eildon Partnership for any work in the Selkirk area, representing this 10%, on a separate basis.

There were no conditions attached apart from this reduction in payment, however Panel members expressed some comments –

It was considered that the Group should be advised that they should increase their own fund raising as is the normal practice for many other groups and organisations

Should they wish to submit any similar claim in the future it was recommended that they should keep logs of mileage as it was noted that this element was the largest amount specified within their application and there was no specific evidence to corroborate their figures

### **Hawick Reivers Association**

An application from Hawick Reivers Association requesting £5000 towards the cost of the Reivers annual event in March 2023, which is the Association's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Panel considered this application and noted that other fund raising was in place and that costs for the event were on a one-off basis due to it being their anniversary and wanting to maximise the event over a weekend as opposed to a shorter normal time-scale.

DECISION NOTED that: It was agreed to recommend that Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership award a grant of £5000.00 to Hawick Reivers Association and there were no conditions attached

However, Panel members expressed some favourable comments as undernoted –

This event definitely brings additional revenue and income to the community particularly in respect of accommodation/catering and they should be congratulated on the work they undertake

There is a lot of public support for the event and participation especially with the market and the fireworks display

It was noted that as this was the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Group and incorporating increased expenditure, it was unlikely that applications to both Pot B and/or Pot A would be for the same high monetary value again

Note – for Elected Members – discussion was held again on the suitability of the Hawick Reivers Festival being accredited "Festival Status" by Scottish Borders Council, similarly to local Common Ridings and the Borders Book festival for example and that Councillors should re-address this issue with SBC as some priority

Marion Short

Chair

26 October 2022

### **Borders Green Team Enterprise**

An application from the Borders Green Team Enterprises requesting £5000 towards the provision of additional staffing during the winter period was considered

There were queries raised by the Panel in respect of the content of the application and SBC undertook to contact the organisation with a view to clarifying these queries relating to what they were actually wishing to fund and perhaps would be better suited to a different project. However, as at 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 no contact could be made

On that basis enquiries are still continuing and it may be that as Chair I will advise of the outcome at the Area Partnership meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November

DECISION NOTED that: It was agreed that whilst the Panel supported this application in principle it was decided to categorise the application as pending in view of these ongoing enquiries and that a final decision would be advised at a later date

The Panel felt it should be noted that this organisation plays a meaningful part in the community relative to providing pre-employment training for individuals with physical and learning difficulties. They undertake a wide range of garden maintenance services, including grass cutting, shed building, path laying and other hard landscape jobs

Marion Short

Chair

2 November 2022