

**Eildon Assessment Panel Recommendations – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
Neighbourhood Support Fund 2022/23

**Earlston Bumps, Babies and Toddler Group**

£3,763.39

To continue to support the Bumps, Babies and Toddler Group in Earlston. To provide support and friendship to all parents attending and to encourage the wider family (grandparents, dads, aunties and uncles) to come along. Provide weekly talks and input from local professionals that will benefit the group such as Health Visitors, Nursery nurse.

Panel thoughts

- Keen to support provision for a trial period
- Wish to support the training costs within application

**The Panel recommends to part-fund this project £1,500.00.**

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**Perfect Harmony**

£3,000.00

Perfect Harmony engages local musicians to provide concerts in Nursing Homes, Residential Homes/Flats, Sheltered Housing, Hospitals and Day Care Centres in the whole of the Scottish Borders. Perfect Harmony will offer an additional 40 concerts per year throughout 13 care facilities in the Eildon area.

Panel thoughts

- Very supportive of the use of music in care facilities, especially given the positive responses from those suffering with dementia.
- Enables care facility users to connect with each other via a common love for music.
- The group have indicated that they would be able to offer an additional 40 concerts across Eildon
- The concerts are free at the point of access.

**The Panel recommends to fully-fund this project £3,000.00. If applications to other localities in the Scottish Borders are unsuccessful then the £3,000.00 must be ring-fenced for Eildon care facilities only.**

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**Hike and Bike Hub**

£8,200.00

Hike and Bike Hub aim to promote active travel in and around Galashiels by providing affordable bike hire, bike servicing, bike maintenance, led cycles and guided walks. The group are looking for support with initial rental costs of a unit in Galashiels. The deposit and first month's rent will be paid by donation from the trustees, but funding is sought to cover the first annual lease costs from February 2023. Utility costs will be met by the grant from Firstport and trading income. The group do not plan to access SBC funding for rent costs in the future.

Panel thoughts

- Would like to see how the self-sustaining aspect of the project progresses within the first six months
- The community benefit and positive impact(s) of this project should be evidenced at the evaluation stage

**The Panel recommends to part-fund this project £4,100.00.**

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**Melrose in Bloom**  
**£5,750.00**

Melrose in Bloom is looking for funding to replace the wooden fence between the Boat Brae footpath and Melrose Bowling Club's outer perimeter. This fence will follow the line of the present one, which is now unsightly and in very poor condition. This project will build on the improvement of this stretch of footpath, to create an enhanced visual experience for locals and visitors to Melrose, especially with the planting of bulbs and evergreen shrubs along the length of the footpath banking.

Panel thoughts

- Panel haven't been able to determine current ownership of the fence
- Supportive of project but dependant on who currently owns the fence

**The Panel recommends not to fund this project.**

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**At Birkhill House CIC**  
**£10,183.00**

At Birkhill House are looking for support towards associated costs with creating a "Fleece & Fibre" physical hub, which will enable members of the community, children and young people, students and other stakeholders to connect, learn new techniques and skills through the process of working with fibre and fleece and build on a programme of existing work that we have developed. This project will enable At Birkhill House CIC to apply for planning permission and associated professional fees for the development of a Fleece and Fibre Hub.

Panel thoughts

- The group deliver important and interesting activity for the community
- It was a strong application and the panel are supportive of the overall project
- Only one quote currently submitted
- Application would benefit from receiving business plan and timeline for project to clearly understand how the overall build will be funded.

**The Panel recommends not to fund this project.**