

Eildon Assessment Panel Recommendations – 23rd March 2023
Neighbourhood Support Fund 2022/23

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:

- Melrose in Bloom/Melrose Bowling Club have not been able to confirm land ownership as of yet. The application therefore does not meet the criteria of the fund but the panel welcomes an application in the future when the Neighbourhood Support Fund reopens in 2023/24.

The Panel recommends not to fund this project.

At Birkhill House CIC

£10,183.00

At Birkhill House is 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
- Concerns about lack of quotes for work to be carried out and lack of a business plan have been answered by the applicant. The Communities and Partnership Team had a positive meeting with SOSE to discuss the project.

The Panel recommends to part-fund this project to the value of £8,665.45.

Rotary Club Melrose

£2,500

To re-establish the library at Earlston High School after many years of neglect. The community library is currently located in the same site. The school has appointed a new librarian and the impetus is there to go ahead. The project will be delivered by purchasing new and appropriate books including books of interest.

Panel thoughts:

- The panel felt that it was not an appropriate use of public money and recommend that Earlston High School, The Rotary Club of Melrose and any other interested community group work in partnership with Live Borders to ascertain the types of books that are available in SBC-owned buildings and what can be funded through Live Borders and external funders in the first instance.
- The panel also recommends that SBC liaise with Live Borders about how library services can be improved to cater for local demand.

The panel recommends not to fund this project.
