

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL  
CHEVIOT COMMUNITY FUND ASSESSMENT PANEL**

MINUTES of Meeting of CHEVIOT NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND ASSESSMENT PANEL held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2023 at 7pm.

Present:- B. Burton;  
P. Jeary,  
G. Horsburgh;  
D. Weatherson;  
G. Hayward

In Attendance:- Community Co-ordinator (G Jardine),  
Community Engagement Officer (E. Husband)

Apologies:- G. Horsburgh; for late arrival 19:50pm

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**2. OUTCOME OF ASSESSMENT PANEL RECCOMENDATIONS TO CAP**

Following previous CAP meeting, all funding recommendations were supported totalling £21,140.11 leaving a balance of £74,156.20.

**3. DISCUSSION OF CHEVIOT ASSESSMENT PANEL RECRUITMENT**

With the resignation P. Jeary at the end of the financial year, 5 spaces within the Cheviot Assessment Panel will be available for recruitment:

- Member of the Public (Jedburgh & District)
- Community Councillor (Jedburgh & District)
- SBC Councillor (Kelso & District)
- SBC Councillor (Jedburgh & District)

Panel to work with SBC Officers on recruitment of these positions.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**D. Weatherson:** Kelso Guides (CFA000116)

**G. Hayward:** Jedburgh Tourism Alliance (CFA000135)

**5. PROJECT ASSESSMENTS**

**A. OVERALL REVIEW OF MARKS**

Following protocol established at the previous assessment meeting, any project with a mean score of 80+ would be recommended for approval. Projects which fell in this category were:

1. Interest Link Borders
  - Application was submitted for £4,805.00 to offer 25 members with learning disabilities, aged 8-80, with age-based befriending. This aims to nurture friendships, provide new opportunities and improve wellbeing, confidence & social skills.
2. One Step Borders
  - Application was submitted for £3,150.00 to carry out volunteer recruitment and training throughout the Cheviot locality to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of 35 young people.
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Kelso Guides
  - Application was submitted for £1,440.00 for the purchase of four tents to allow the group to attend a UK-wide Girlguiding camp.
4. Kelso Orchard Tennis Club
  - Application was submitted for £4,005.00 to provide activities for those 65+, in partnership local care homes and sheltered housing. These activities will improve participants mental and physical wellbeing.
5. Jed Lunch Club
  - Application was submitted for £360.00 to reopen its' doors post-covid. This monthly club is held within Jed Thistle Club Rooms for older adults, offering a hot meal at an affordable cost, socialisation and reduced isolation.
6. Borders Union Agricultural Society
  - Application was submitted for £3,688.00 for the provision of educational tote bags for each child present at their Countryside Day. These bags offer a memento, as well as education on exhibitors and UN Sustainability goals, and a biodegradable water bottle.
7. Kelso Wheelers Cycling Club
  - Application was submitted for £5,000.00 to make improvement on the bike trails in Angraflat, Kelso. These improvements will allow the trails to reopen for the public.
8. Jedburgh Tourism Alliance
  - Application was submitted for £5,000.00 to commission a feasibility study by Land Use Consultants to explore what streetscape developments would enhance the appeal of the town.

These projects scored an average of 80+ in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore is recommended the Cheviot Area Partnership awards grants in full.

**Further project discussion went as follows:**

## **B. ST BOSWELLS VILLAGE HALL**

An application for £3,335.36 was submitted by St Boswells Village Hall for the replacement of their water boiler and dishwasher. These assets will allow the Hall to continue supporting vulnerable people within their community.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** Though funding remains available for Village Halls, the panel agreed that support from the Neighbourhood Support Fund will allow this group to improve their current services, encouraging future financial sustainability. The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore is recommended the Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £3,335.36.

### **C. KELSO CRICKET CLUB**

An application for £3,393.84 was submitted by Kelso Cricket Club for the refurbishment of their kitchen facilities. This work would support the club to host events for the local community.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel agreed that support from the Neighbourhood Support Fund will allow this group to improve their current services, encouraging future financial sustainability. The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore is recommended the Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £3,393.84.

### **D. KELSO CRICKET CLUB**

An application for £1,916.46 was submitted by Kelso Cricket Club for the purchase of table and chairs for their marquee. These facilities would be available for use by the community.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel agreed that this project would not provide as great a community benefit as application ref.CFA000117, and alongside a high-volume of applications from this particular group, they would not recommend this project for funding. The panel wish to encourage Kelso Cricket Club to look at ways of becoming more financially sustainable, e.g. fundraising endeavours.

### **E. GREEN ST BOSWELLS**

An application for £3,000.88 was submitted by Green St Boswells to establish a community food-growing and community wildlife gardens. These gardens aim to improve community cohesion for all ages, as well as education.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel agreed that food-growing projects such as this are assets to the communities they work within. The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability.

As the project stands, without permissions SBC Estates & Planning, the project is ineligible for funding. However, on the condition that this project is approved by SBC Estates & Planning, the panel recommended the Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £3,000.88.

### **F. JEDFOREST INSTRUMENTAL BAND**

An application for £5,000.00 was submitted by Jedforest Instrumental Band to support the implementation of an improved, energy-efficient, heating and lighting system to support the bands that practice within the hall as well as the community use.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel praised the group for their provision of free music tuition within the community. The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore is recommended the Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £5,000.00.

#### **G. ST BOSWELLS OAP SOCIAL CLUB**

An application for £1,662.75 was submitted by St Boswells OAP Social Club for their Community Activity Day. This activity will offer a trip to a location agreed amongst the group, socialisation and refreshments. This group is open to any members of the community.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel agreed that this project did not provide enough wide-spread benefit to the Cheviot Community, and were not persuaded the proposed project produced an adequate case for funding.

The panel, however, understand the benefit which this club provides to older people in the region. As a result, the panel's recommendation is to not fund the proposed project, but to award the sum of £500.00 for ongoing costs.

#### **H. BORDERS MEDIA CIC**

An application for £4,475.50 was submitted by Borders Media CIC to establish, 'Explore the Borders', a bi-monthly magazine promoting tourism in the Scottish Borders. This magazine will be supported through membership packages and advertising, available online and in print.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel were not persuaded the proposed project produced an adequate case for funding on the basis that there are multiple bodies, already in existence, who have the responsibility of promoting tourism throughout The Borders.

The panel encourages this group to work with these existing bodies in the development of their ask. With the understanding that this group wishes to tackle a more local approach to tourism throughout The Borders, the panel encourages SBC Councillors to encourage these existing bodies to develop their local approach.

If approaching these bodies in partnership is unsuccessful, the panel would welcome a more carefully considered application at a later date.

#### **I. BORDERS GROUP OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION**

An application for £4,158.00 was submitted by Borders Group of RDA for the purchase of a replacement quad bike to support the maintenance and safety of their riding arena. This purchase will benefit both children, adults and horses using their centre.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and

sustainability and therefore is recommended the Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £4,158.00.

#### **J. BORDERS GROUP OF RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION**

An application for £4,050.00 was submitted by Borders Group of RDA for the establishment of a 'sensory garden' for disabled children and young adults.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel were not persuaded the proposed project produced an adequate case for funding, as the group were unable to provide all supporting documentation required. The panel would welcome a more carefully considered application at a later date.

#### **K. KELSO FOOTBALL CLUB**

An application for £10,050.00 was submitted by Kelso Football Club for the refurbishment of the club rooms.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel were not persuaded the proposed project produced an adequate case for funding. The group exceeded the maximum ask of the fund and were unable to provide the supporting documentation required. At this time, the application does not meet the criteria of the Neighbourhood Support Fund. The panel would welcome a more carefully considered application at a later date.

#### **L. TWEED VALLEY RAILWAY CAMPAIGN**

An application for £3,750.00 was submitted by Tweed Valley Railway Campaign, a group who aim to restore rail services between the East Coast Mainline and Borders Railway via Kelso. The group wish to create promotional materials for stakeholder engagement both in person and online.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel agreed that support from the Neighbourhood Support Fund will allow this group to educate and drive an important campaign forward. The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore is recommended the Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £3,750.00.

#### **M. JEDBURGH LEGACY GROUP**

An application for £4,500.00 was submitted by the Jedburgh Legacy Group to support the heating costs of the public library. This group are in the process of taking over management to reopen this space for reading, warm and safe spaces.

**DECISION NOTED that:-** The panel agreed that support from the Neighbourhood Support Fund will allow this group establish an important asset within the Jedburgh community. The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability.

As the group are in discussions with SBC, on the condition that this group are able to agree an appropriate lease and management agreement with SBC, the panel recommended the Cheviot Area Partnership awards a grant of £4,500.00.

## N. CONDITIONS OF FUNDING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

Green St Boswells (CFA000121): SBC Planning & Estates Agreements  
Jedburgh Legacy Group (CFA000133): SBC Lease and Management Agreements

### 6. REVIEW OF FUNDING AVAILABLE AND CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT FUNDING ROUND

Entering this Cheviot Assessment Panel, the panel were presented with 20 applications totalling £71,690.79, leaving £2,465.41 in the pot.

The panel recommends the funding support of 16 applications, totalling £55,086.08, leaving £16,604.71 to be carried forward into 2023-2024 financial year.

Round 1 of the 2023-2024 financial year Neighbourhood Support Fund will close for applications on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 2023.

### 7. DECISIONS AND REPORT TO AREA PARTNERSHIP

Interest Link Borders	CFA000105	£4,805.00
One Step Borders	CFA000111	£3,150.00
St Boswells Village Hall	CFA000114	£3,335.36
2nd Kelso Guide Company	CFA000116	£1,440.00
Kelso Cricket Club	CFA000117	£3,393.84
Kelso Cricket Club	CFA000118	Not Recommended
Kelso Orchard Tennis Club	CFA000120	£4,005.00
Green St Boswells	CFA000121	£3,000.88
Jedforest Instrumental Band	CFA000122	£5,000.00
St Boswells OAP Social Club	CFA000123	£500.00
Borders Media CIC	CFA000124	Not Recommended
Borders Group of RDA	CFA000125	£4,158.00
Borders Group of RDA	CFA000126	Not Recommended
The Jed Lunch Club	CFA000127	£360.00
Border Union Agricultural Society	CFA000128	£3,688.00
Kelso Football Club	CFA000129	Not Recommended
Tweed Valley Railway Campaign	CFA000131	£3,750.00
Jedburgh Legacy Group	CFA000133	£4,500.00
Kelso Wheelers Cycling Club	CFA000134	£5,000.00
Jedburgh Tourism Alliance	CFA000135	£5,000.00

### 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Cheviot Assessment Panel will next meet on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of May at 7:00pm.

*Dean Weatherston*  
Chair

