

Common Good Fund: Application Form for 2023/24*

*Please note this is a fund of last resort – you will need to demonstrate to the Common Good Fund Committee that you have tried to secure funding from other sources.

Applicant Group/Organisation:	Interest Link Borders
Name of your project:	Interest Link Roxburgh (Hawick Members).
The name of the Common Good Fund that you are applying to:	Hawick

What does your organisation do and who does it support? If appropriate. (max. 100 words)

Tell us what your group does, the activities it undertakes and in what way it benefits the community. Founded by family carers, we work across Scottish Borders improving the lives of socially excluded children (8+) and adults with learning disabilities and their family carers.

We achieve this through volunteer befriending: 200 peer-age volunteers support 220 members in 1:1 links and friendship groups, also benefiting 250 carers. We deliver through four local Branches (Berwickshire, Central Borders, Roxburgh and Tweeddale).

Our service has developed through co-production and benefits include more friends & opportunities and improved mental wellbeing, confidence, self-esteem and social skills for members. Family carers' role is eased and they have better wellbeing and more opportunities for other activities.

Summarise what you want to use this funding for (max. 100 words)

Tell us what activities you plan to carry out and how you will deliver it.

Over 12 months our Roxburgh Branch will support 40 Hawick members through:

- c10 1:1 links meeting fortnightly for 2-3 hours for e.g. walks, shopping, sightseeing & sports.
- c45 places in 10 groups (six groups meeting in the community, three in-school groups and a Zoom baking group.)
 - Community groups will meet fortnightly at Burnfoot Community Hub in Hawick for 2hrs, for activities of their choice such as arts & crafts, drama, cookery & outdoor adventures. These include children's group (8-16), young people's group (16-25), young adults and older adults groups and two new intergenerational groups starting August 2023: 18-22 sessions each pa
 - In-school groups will meet fortnightly at lunchtime in Burnfoot and Wilton primaries and Hawick High, reaching members with higher personal care needs. 18 sessions pa
 - Online baking group is fortnightly for 2hrs in the evening: 18 sessions pa

Summarise how the outcomes of the project will be measured/evaluated (max. 100 words)

Our Annual Survey in June 2024 will gather outcome statistics and feedback from at least 40% of supported members, family carers, volunteers as well as teachers and care professionals. We will also ask for ideas to improve the service. This will produce a **Roxburgh Impact Report similar to that attached** and we will also drill down and report benefits to those living in Hawick

Branch Co-ordinator Val Reilly will write at least four case studies based on observation and feedback

Photoreports and films will be made of group projects & overnight trips

[See recent examples of all these types of evaluation](#)

Tell us how your activity/project will make a difference to your organisation and how it will benefit the residents of the current/former Burgh (max. 200 words)

(i.e. will it increase access, improve quality of life etc.)

Our members have Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome & Autism, with high levels of epilepsy & sensory impairment. They are socially excluded: children are taught in additional needs units and only 1% are likely to have a partner in adult life and 4.5% a job. Day support has shrunk and they are at risk if they go into the community on their own.

Our project will breakdown barriers with the Hawick community, give members some friends who are in their life out of choice and provide opportunities for new activities and experiences. This will improve their happiness, confidence, self-esteem and social skills: in our June 2023 survey 88% of Hawick members said we had made a difference in all of these areas (and 100% a difference in most of them)

Family carers have a lifelong role which isolates them and is hard to sustain. Our project will give Carers time to spend on themselves, each other and social connections, happy in the knowledge the person they care for is enjoying themselves safely with friends. In our June 2023 survey all Hawick family carers said we had made a difference to their quality of life.

Tell us how your project will be sustainable in the future (max. 100 words)

Roxburgh Branch raises funding from a wide variety of sources, currently including local trusts (Mainhouse) and SBC funds, National Lottery Community Fund, Better Breaks, Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, Creative Breaks, Garfield Weston Foundation, Trefoil, Forbes Charitable Foundation, Gannochy & RS MacDonald. We are always looking for new funders and have a strong track record in this. This approach has sustained Roxburgh Branch successfully for 22 years.

For the 2023-24 Hawick project we have a funding gap of £3,000 after all our other applications are included. We have exhausted other sources and the external funding environment is currently extremely competitive: we recently unsuccessfully applied for Roxburgh costs to the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund and Social Isolation and Loneliness Fund. Feedback from both was that our application had no faults but that only 5% of applications were successful.

Expenditure: Please tell us how much money you need for the entire activity/project (you may be asked to provide up to 3 quotes to support your application)

Item of Expenditure	Cost (£)
Staff Salaries, NI & Pension (Branch Co-ordinator and assistant working total of 37hrs per week)	35,868

Staff & volunteer recruitment, travel & training	2,846
Group costs: Sessional Staff, Activities & materials, Tutors, Venue	12,835
Office & administration (telephone, postage, stationery, insurance, payroll, accountancy)	1068
Total Expenditure	52,617
How much would you like from the Common Good Fund?	£3,000 to be spent on volunteer and group costs
Please supply a copy of your signed & dated Annual Accounts or Projected Financial Plan	Attached

Have you received funding in the last 5 years from Scottish Borders Council or any other external funders? If so, please detail the fund name, the amount and the purpose of the grant.		
Fund	Amount	Purpose
Please see Schedule attached, compiled from Annual Accounts and 202-23 Management Accounts: SBC grants are highlighted. All were for our befriending service running costs in the different localities.		
We receive £21,996 annually from SBC Learning Disabilities budget: this is classed as unrestricted income by our independent examiner so is not show separately in the Annual Accounts, however it is shown in the 2022-23 Management Accounts.		
In April 2023 we received a grant of £4,805 from SBC Neighbourhood Fund Cheviot.		

Tell us about your own fundraising or how you have secured other funding for this project.			
	Secured	Pending or Planned	Notes
Better Breaks Fund	3,500		
Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund	2,100		
Creative Breaks		3,500	Decision Sept 2023
Forbes Charitable Foundation	3,080		
Gannochy Trust	1,400		
Garfield Weston Foundation	2,800		
Hawick Common Good Fund		3,000	Decision August 2023
Donations and fundraising		660	Ongoing
Mainhouse Charitable Trust		1,400	Decision Sept 2023
National Lottery Community Fund	16,022		
RS MacDonald Charitable Trust	2,100		
SBC Community Welfare Trust		700	Decision Sept 2023
SBC Healthier Happier Stronger Fund Teviot & Liddesdale		3,850	Decision August 2023

SBC Neighbourhood Fund Teviot & Liddesdale		1,925	Decision Sept 2023
Stafford Trust		3,500	Decision Oct 2023
SBC Main Grant	3,080		
Total	34,082	18,534	
Combined Total		52,617	

Individual/Group/Organisation details:	
Contact Name:	Andrew Findlay
Position in Group/Org: (if appropriate)	Project Co-ordinator
Home Address:	Registered address: Volunteer Hall, Langtongate, Duns Berwickshire TD11 3AF
Post Code:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	
Date:	25/07/2023
Signature:	

Equalities
<p>Do you have an Equal Opportunities Policy or Equality Statement? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Explain how your project complies with the obligations contained in the Equality Act 2010</p> <p>Equality & Diversity Policy attached</p> <p>We do not discriminate on the basis of age, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.</p> <p>Providing opportunities usually denied our members with learning disabilities is key to our mission. Our members cannot attend mainstream groups, they are on low incomes, do not have friends or access to transport and are vulnerable if they go into the community alone. As a result they have poor outcomes relative to the general population in terms of mental wellbeing, confidence, self-esteem and social & communication skills. This makes them unlikely to achieve positive destinations such as employment and independent living</p>

Public Protection
<p>Does your idea/project involve work with children, young people under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes what public protection policies do you have in place and how often are these reviewed? Please provide a copy of these or give full details below.</p>

Adult & Child Protection Policies attached.

They are written to dovetail with the Scottish Borders statutory protection system and reviewed annually (last in September 2022)

Permissions

Does your project involve work to a building or land? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes do you have the following? (please tick relevant)

☐ A lease agreement (Date of lease and duration years)

☐ Written permission of owner

☐ Planning permission (Reference No.)

Common Good Funds

Common Good Funds in Scotland originated in the 15th century and are the assets and income of some of the current/former Burghs. They can represent a substantial portfolio of land, property, some moveable items and investments and by law continue to exist for the benefit of the inhabitants of the former Burghs to which they relate. Scottish Borders Council is the owner of these Funds and each Fund has a sub-committee comprising the relevant local Councillors who make the decisions on the management of the Fund's assets and approval of any requests for funding (up to a limit of £20,000 above which full Council approval is required).

If you are successful in being awarded Common Good Funds, you will be asked to complete a monitoring & evaluation form when your project is complete or within 1 year of receiving funding. Future applications will not be considered until this has been received and the Common Good Fund Sub-Committee are satisfied with the evaluation you have provided.

This completed form and supporting documents should be submitted to William Mohieddeen, Democratic Services Officer, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, TD6 0SA;
Email: william.mohieddeen@scotborders.gov.uk; Telephone: 01835 826504