

Lauderdale Youth Football Club

£10,000.00

Lauderdale Youth Football Club is planning to upgrade the existing natural grass match pitches and training pitches. The pitches are currently in poor condition and the planned works will consist of secondary sand slit drainage, aeration, top-dressing, fertiliser, and over-seeding works. The land is currently owned by Lauder Common Good.

Panel thoughts:

- Concerns about the use of community funds for the renovation of pitches that would be required to undergo the same renovation in 10 years' time (estimate). This was coupled with the responsibility of ongoing maintenance being left with either Lauderdale YFC or Scottish Borders Council, neither of whom may have the funds in the future to ensure the condition of the pitches is maintained to an acceptable level for continued use by the club.
- There needed to be significantly more community engagement for this project evidenced, given that the application was for the maximum amount of £10,000 and that it was a community asset that was being renovated.
- The panel felt that Lauderdale YFC should continue to seek alternative sources of funding for its project and hoped that, alongside the £10,000 already in the club's bank account, the £10,000 from the Scottish Football Partnership & Trust, and the £10,000 SSE pending application would provide sufficient funds if topped-up by the Scottish Football Association.

The panel recommends not to fund this project.

Selkirk Bowling Club

£9,024.00

The project is to repair the roof of the club building where the facilities are housed, the repairs are essential so that the club can continue to offer and develop a safe space for members and volunteers. The club wants to build on the events that they have held which have been open and accessible to the community and continue to help with addressing loneliness and social isolation.

Panel thoughts:

- Uncertain whether the Neighbourhood Support Fund is the most appropriate fund for this project.
- The panel notes that the club engages with various community groups and allows them to utilise the clubhouse space but feels that the repair of the roof is not directly encouraging community use. It may be more suitable for a fund that has been created to support community groups improve their facilities.
- The panel also felt that the group may benefit greatly by exploring energy efficient upgrades to the roof, as opposed to the current planned repairs. This may open up opportunities for funding from external sources specifically focused on energy saving upgrades.

The panel recommends not to fund this project. The panel also recommends submitting an enquiry to the CARES Fund, administered by Local Energy Scotland.

Interest Link Borders

£10,000.00

Approximately 12 1:1 links will be for adult and long-term (often five years or more) members. Members and volunteers are matched based on age, interests, and location. They will meet fortnightly for 2-3 hours for community activities such as local events, walking, shopping, sightseeing, and coffee. There will often be telephone contact in between face-to-face meetings.

There will also be 10 befriending groups, with a total of 65 places. These will be six, fortnightly two-hour sessions and be aimed at children (8-15), young people (16-25) and adults. Activities will include drama, crafts, cooking, brunch. The youth groups will offer activities similar to mainstream youth clubs and will offer an overnight trip.

Panel thoughts:

- Funding would benefit a large group of people with learning disabilities, across a variety of ages and demographics, specifically in the Eildon locality.
- The panel also appreciates the significant efforts have been/are being made to source funding for the entire project and that there has been a considerable amount of consultation carried out, with feedback received from members, volunteers, carers, teachers, social workers, and professionals.

The panel recommends to fund this project in full.

Lauderdale Community and Leisure Centre

£7,985.54

This is a one-off, emergency application to ensure that the Lauderdale Community and Leisure Centre (LCLC) can cover all regular and one-off costs during lower income periods so that it can remain open into the winter period when usage is higher. Despite taking significant steps to reduce monthly costs (e.g. staffing costs) our balance continues to drop due to the significant increase in utility costs.

Panel thoughts:

- This application aligns with the criteria of the Neighbourhood Support Fund, in that it will provide one-off, emergency support to an organisation whose future is at serious risk.
- The panel felt very strongly that the conversation with SOSE should continue as a priority to ensure the continued running of the centre and that any and all appropriate funding opportunities should be explored, specifically funds that encourage modern, energy-saving technology to be installed.

There was significant discussion about the risk of recommending this level of funding.

The panel recommends to fund this project in full.

Lauderdale Initiative

£10,000.00

Lauderdale Initiative seeks to increase the number of lights installed along the A68 lampposts to enhance the visual impact of festival lighting by filling in gaps in existing lighting to have lighting from one end of the town to the other. The group also wishes to purchase marquee which will allow for craft stalls, food and drink vendors, and community groups to attend the annual switch on community event that Lauderdale Initiative have created and hope to boost.

Panel thoughts:

- Appreciative of the consultation work that has already been carried out to ascertain what the community of Lauder would like to see in their town.
- The funding would benefit the whole town of Lauder and indeed those who visit or pass through during the festive period.
- This investment would continue to directly increase the level of community engagement and the sense of pride in Lauder/ the Eildon locality.
- There was a concern around the purchase of the marquee as there have been a significant number of gazebos purchased in the past using SBC community funds.

The panel recommends to fund this project in full. The marquee must be made available to community groups throughout the Scottish Borders for no charge if requested (if available).

TD1 Youth Hub

£9,360.00

TD1 Active will provide a range of weekly activities for young people focusing on improving mental health and well-being through participation in active activities. These activities will be focused on those aged 10-14 year old to provide a positive and strong supported start to young people in their transition from late primary to early secondary school. By providing free activities using local assets or organisations, TD1 Youth Hub hopes to be able to build effective partnerships for the on-going development of the project, including looking at volunteering opportunities and sports leadership.

Panel thoughts:

- The panel are extremely grateful for the positive work that the organisation delivers to continually improve the lives of young people in the Eildon locality but feel that funding for this project would better sourced from elsewhere at this time.
- The primary concern is the amount of funding that previous SBC community funds have awarded to TD1 Youth Hub since 2019/20, totalling £30,233.

The panel recommends not to fund this project and suggests exploring other funding sources, such as Youth Scotland and Youth Link Scotland.
