

Common Good Fund: Application Form for 2022/23*

*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:	The Borders Green Team Enterprises
Name of your project:	The Green Team
The name of the Common Good Fund that you are applying to:	Hawick Common Good Fund

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

The Green Team is a social enterprise which provides gardening services to the people of Hawick and the surrounding area as well as day support to people with learning disabilities. The organisation was established to provide our service users with opportunities to learn new skills which will enable them to contribute to society and to become fully integrated into their local communities. The service provided by The Green Team affords our service users opportunities to forge relationships across demographics and communities. As a result, service users have gained self-esteem and confidence; reduced isolation and generally become valued citizens.

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

The Green Team are seeking funding to support our core running costs. This would allow us to invest in the workplace; buy new machinery and equipment; improve professional development opportunities offered to staff; promote learning and innovation thus ensuring that the Green Team is a safe place for the service users to reach their full potential.

It is important for the wellbeing of service users that we retain our skilled support staff. Funding would also be used to increase the working hours of two of our staff, currently working part-time, and moving them to full-time hours. This would allow us to expand our core commercial work in the community, which is vital to the running of the Team.

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

Our service users have individual support plans. These set out the needs of each individual and also include what their personal aims and objectives are for the year. Evaluation documents will continue to be issued to service users and those significant to them and are reviewed and evaluated regularly.

The commercial side of the Green Team's activities will be measured using the customer feedback forms to evaluate and ensure continued customer satisfaction.

Annual appraisals are undertaken on staff members for continued professional development and to identify any training needs.

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)*

With the proper level of funding, this will allow us to renew the equipment used by the Green Team which will help to maintain high standards and the quality of work completed on customers' premises. Our contract work includes a varied range of gardening services, as well as the upkeep of the grass areas surrounding the community pump track throughout the year, and snow clearing/gritting work for local care homes.

Our service users gain many personal skills and strengths from their involvement with the Green Team. However, the lack of an increase in our Service Level Agreement with SBC over many years has led to regular financial shortfalls in our funding which puts the service in jeopardy. A decline in the services we provide would lead to a loss of these strengths and skills, not only for the individual service users but also for local communities.

We know that the absence of services during the COVID-19 lockdown led to social isolation, the deterioration of mental health conditions and an impoverishment of social skills. We are therefore concerned that a permanent loss of the facilities will have a real impact on families, particularly across our local community here in Hawick, and elsewhere.

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

Due to the nature of the services we provide, it is necessary to replace our vehicles and stock of machinery and tools on a regular basis. New and improved equipment will require less servicing and repair incurred by our aging equipment.

The Board has been seeking an uplift in the annual Service Level Agreement from SBC – an increase of 5% (£2,230) was finally agreed in April this year and we anticipate this will be paid by the end of October. Whilst this increase is welcome, further funding will be necessary to ensure the continuance of the organization.

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/training	
Running costs: utilities/fuel/insurance	
Upgrade of machinery/IT equipment	
Total Expenditure	£20,000
How much would you like from the Common Good Fund?	£20,000
Please supply a copy of your signed & dated Annual Accounts or Projected Financial Plan	Y/E 31 March 2023

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
Scottish Borders Council	£44,600	SLA: cost of day care of adults with learning disabilities
Robertson Trust	£8,000	Core running costs

Tell us about your own fundraising or how you have secured other funding for this project.

	Amount	Purpose
Hawick Eventide Homes	£1,000	Donation
Crowdfunder - 2023	£1,922	Appeal - donations

Individual/Group/Organisation details:

Contact Name:	George Sprott
Position in Group/Org: (if appropriate)	Vice- Chair Board of Directors
Home Address:	
Post Code:	
Telephone Number:	
Email Address:	
Date:	30 October 2023
Signature:	<i>George Sprott</i>

Equalities

Do you have an Equal Opportunities Policy or Equality Statement? Yes No

Explain how your project complies with the obligations contained in the Equality Act 2010

Borders Green Team Enterprises endeavours to be inclusive in its recruitment policies. The Green Team encourages participation from people with learning disabilities, as per our agreement with SBC. However, the Green Team have also had service users who have experienced mental health issues and physical disabilities. Our referral process does not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics stated in the Equality Act 2010. This process is reviewed to ensure no discrimination occurs.

Public Protection

Does your idea/project involve work with children, young people under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults? Yes No

**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.**

All staff complete enhanced PVG checks.

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