

Assessment Panel Recommendations 6.02.2024

Innerleithen Pipe Band

Innerleithen Pipe Band have applied for £4,000 towards the cost of purchasing new drums. The total cost to replace them is £8,000. The existing drums are at the end of their usable life and the band have undertaken various local fundraising events to meet the balance of the cost. They also have a strong young learner programme in place and felt that it was a good project to support. The panel agreed the recommendation to fund the total of £4,000.

Approval recommended.

Home Basics Co Ltd

Home Basics applied for £1,320 towards the costs of purchasing tablets and sim cards. Home Basics collect donated furniture, household and electrical items for reuse providing them at low cost to means- tested individuals in the Scottish Borders. The company wanted to purchase tablets to update their delivery system which is currently on paper. They thought having an updated system would help to inform customers of delivery times and enable tracking. The panel felt with substantial funds available in their account that these items could be self-funded. **The recommendation therefore was NOT to approve.**

Innerleithen Community Council

Innerleithen Community Council applied for £4,200 to support with the costs to run an arts event, funding for 2025 and a website. The Community Council is acting as an umbrella organisation for Open Studios One, an artists venture. The Panel did not feel that other fund-raising options had been sufficiently explored and therefore **do NOT recommend approval.**

Clovenfords Community Council

Clovenfords Community Council applied for £3,600 to finance a flood risk assessment to prepare for a larger project to construct a new bridge to replace the existing one which is inadequate. The Panel decided not to recommend funding of the flood risk assessment at this stage because it was unclear what degree of commitment had been obtained from funding bodies to enable the bridge itself to be constructed in due course. **Recommend NOT to approve.**

Tweeddale Youth Action

Tweeddale Youth Action applied for £2,237 towards the one-off £2,596 cost of setting up a pizza shop on Peebles High Street. There were discussions around whether it was appropriate to fund a business start-up which may be in competition with other commercial businesses. However, the balance of opinion in the Panel was that this consideration was outweighed by the advantages to young people of the experience of setting up and running their own business. It was therefore recommended that approval be given, as long as the

project does not change materially following a Public Consultation currently in progress.
Approval recommended.

St Ronan's Silver Band

St Ronan's Silver Band applied for £3,000 towards the cost of replacement uniforms. The panel discussed previous awards made to the band and felt that there needed to be more fund-raising efforts in future. The panel recommended to fund but only to the sum of £1,500.
Approval recommended £1,500.

Greener Peebles

Greener Peebles applied for £6,000 towards the cost of a new and improved poly tunnel to replace one damaged in a recent storm. The new polycrub will be guaranteed for 20 years. The Panel felt that this was a necessary expense to enable activities to continue in their present form and therefore recommends approval. However, as there is no evidence that part of the cost is being sought from other funding sources, it is recommended that the grant be limited to £5,000. **Approval recommended £5,000.**

Innerleithen Community Trust

Innerleithen Community Trust applied for £5,000 towards the £7,810 cost of repainting the Memorial Hall's entrances. Panel members noted that one of the aims of the project was to increase income from lettings. The Panel considered that if redecoration goes ahead the cost should be borne by the Hall's manager, thought to be SBC/Live Borders, a public body. **Recommended NOT to approve.**

Oor Space Youthy

Oor Space Youthy applied for £7,014 towards the £9,570 cost of staff salaries for the two leaders and hall rent for the first half of 2024. The activities are bringing considerable community benefit in Peebles. However, the Panel was concerned about the financial sustainability of this organisation in the latter part of 2024 and onwards and felt that there was insufficient evidence that this was being actively addressed. It was noted that the organisation had commenced in 2022 and had received a start-up grant from the Neighbourhood Fund, but it was felt that the Fund could not continue to support the cost indefinitely. There was no evidence of any links with Youth Borders. Before the Panel can consider recommending approval, the organisation need to provide specific information about the funding options they have explored for the current project and also tell us whether they will consider a management structure for the future which separates fund-raising (by an extra person) from operations. **Recommend NOT to approve but delay for further information.**

Newlands and Kirkurd Playgroup

Newlands and District Playgroup applied for £3,888 towards the £4,276 cost to employ a part-time teacher in their gardening activity. The panel agreed support of this project due to the benefit to the children and the local area. They have good connections with their local community and are looking to teach the children about growing their own food and harvesting it to eat. **Approval recommended.**

Tweed Togs

Tweed Togs applied for £7,500 towards the total project cost of £8,055 to rent storage units. Tweed Togs supplies good quality, donated clothing, carefully packed in gift bags, to local families in need. Each child will receive a clothing package containing: 5-7 outfits, PJs, a jacket and a pack of new underwear. The service is free of charge with no assessment and can be used as often as needed. The Panel considered that the services provided by the organisation are very worthwhile and therefore agreed the application, though limiting the grant to £5,000 due to lack of match funding. **Recommend approval £5,000.**

Peebles Scout Group

Peebles Scout Group applied for £3,000 towards the £3,500 cost of renovating its outdoor meeting area. The Panel recommend approval of the full amount. **Approval recommended.**