

Neighbourhood Support Fund, Panel Recommendations
For Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership Meeting, on 26 March 24

Pot A Recommendations

Hawick, Pot A – The Hawick, Pot A fund currently has a balance of £449.72 available.

Minutes of meeting of the Hawick Community Council Fund Pot A Assessment Panel held at the Marsh & Riddell Office, 6 Howegate, Hawick, on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 6.30pm.

Present: G. Turnbull (public member), A. Cook (public member) E. Welsh (HCC), and C. Knox (Chair, HCC).

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Declaration of interests: None.
3. An application from 3rd Hawick Rainbows requesting £500 was received to help finance a Sleepover and entertainment (silent disco, hall hire, bouncy castle and aprons) for girls aged 5-7 years old.

DECISION NOTED that:

It was unanimously agreed by the Pot A Assessment Panel to recommend that Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership award a grant of £449.72. to 3rd Hawick Rainbows. (Being the amount left in the Pot A fund).

Pot A, Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water – The UT&BW, Pot A fund currently has a balance of £2123.25 available.

An application was received from In2Venture, requesting £2,121.85 to purchase a new equipment store and workshop at the Craikhope Outdoor Centre, in the Robertson Valley.

Summary of Pot A panel meeting, which took place on Tuesday 4 March.

The panel felt that we should support the application but a number of questions were raised. These were mostly to do with the level of participation by the local community at events run at Craikhope and therefore the overall benefit to the local community. In supporting the application the panel felt that In2Veture should make more effort to advertise and promote the facilities available at Craikhope and any events taking place so that the local community is aware of what is offered. This could be done through the Borthwick Valley Newsletter and the CC Facebook page etc.

Our recommendation therefore is -

- That the grant award should be made in full.
 - That In2Venture should attempt to promote and advertise their activities and courses more widely in the local community so that more local residents are aware of these activities and thus encourage more local participation.
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Denholm, Pot A - The Denholm, Pot A fund currently has a balance of £5284.04

An application was received from Escape Youth Service, requesting £5279.78 to pay for staffing costs for a new Youth Club in Denholm. EYS is also applying to Langhope Rig Wind farm for funding and there will be a £2 per week charge for young people attending the sessions. The youth club is planned to run from 1 June 2024 to the end of May 2025. The youth club is aimed at young people from P5-S6.

The panel noted that;

- The application makes clear the difference that will be made to the youth of Denholm
- The consultation results show that the project meets a high and currently unmet need
- The budget looks good, but we feel that for a project of this size to be funded wholly by grants and income from fees with no input from an organisation that has just over £10k surplus is not right. We would ask that a contribution is made by applicant.

Panel recommendation: The panel recommends that 90% of the amount applied for is given and that Escape Youth Service provide £528 funding from their own funds as they are sitting on over £10k on top of ring-fenced monies. Therefore, the panel recommendation is to fund Escape Youth Service £4,751.78

Burnfoot, Pot A - The Burnfoot, Pot A fund currently has a balance of £4,788.38.

An application was received from Burnfoot Community Futures, requesting £4666.00 towards a Hub Lunch club, which includes staffing, venue hire, a new coffee machine, hot drinks and a nominal fee for resources to support session activities.

The application is currently with the Burnfoot, Pot A assessment panel to make their recommendation. Therefore, the recommendation is to follow.

If granted funding (in full), it would leave the Burnfoot Pot A fund with a balance of £122.38 remaining.

Newcastleton Community Council, Pot A – The Newcastleton, Pot A fund currently has a balance of £2123.25.

An application has been received from Newcastleton Community Council, seeking £2,123.25. The application is currently being assessed, and the recommendation is to follow.

Pot B Recommendations

Teviotdale Steel Bonnets

An application was received from Teviotdale Steel Bonnets, requesting £500 towards a used vehicle. The group promotes the history of the Border Reivers, by show and tell weapon displays, clothing from the 15th and 16th century and tented village encampments. The group covers the Border Towns, North Northumberland and further North if asked, however advised that the majority of their activities take place within T&L.

At the Pot B panel meeting on 7 March, the application was discussed, and the panel noted;

- The groups positive work within the community.
- Within the current Pot B (and Pot A) eligibility criteria, used vans are currently considered to be an ineligible purchase. (This is a point that will be raised within the NSF review process section.)
- The panel felt they did not have enough information within the application as to where the remainder of the funds, for the van purchase would come from.

Panel recommendation

The group were supportive of the application as a whole, but felt they needed further information on finances, specifically, where the group were planning to source the remainder of the funding. The panel will be proposing that the 'used vehicle ineligibility' is lifted from the 2024/25 funding programme and advice is currently being sought from the SBC Legal department. If this can be amended and that used vans could be reclassified to an eligible purchase, then the applicant would be encouraged to re-apply within the first funding round of 24/25.

Escape Youth Service, Pot B - Description

An application has been received from Escape Youth Service, seeking £4985.04 for a family friendly music event – Tunes by the Teviot on 17 August 2024.

Escape Youth have been working with a local individual, who brought them the idea and has previous experience in running indoor and outdoor music events. The individual will take a lead in the planning and delivery of the event. As the lead applicant, Escape Youth Services will be responsible for the grant if successful and be accountable for monitoring and evaluation of the project.

This is a ticketed event and there will be a charge for the community to attend (£12.50 for adults & £5 for children). The applicant has advised that some free places may be made available for families that may be unable to afford the ticket price of the event.

Any profits made from the event will be donated to Escape Youth and Hawick Youth Football to assist with ongoing activity and core running costs. Profits will largely depend on ticket sales. (Based on all 500 tickets being sold, 400 adults £5000, 50 under 12's £500, this would mean £953 profit between the 2 groups. In addition to this would be any fees from stall hires, raffle and sales on the day (estimate £500) and if the group are to secure any business sponsorship.

One panel member was unable to take part in the conversation about this application, due to their Association with Hawick Youth Football Club.

The panel discussed the ticket price, which the majority still felt was affordable for a full day out. They noted that the applicant had noted that free tickets may be made available to those who may not be able to afford the ticket prices. They felt the application focussed on the opportunity for the community to come together for a fun music event and that although there may be a small profit (split between the 2 groups as a result) that this is not likely to be a huge amount and that the event feels like the priority over the funding it brings in.

The panel recommendation is to fully fund Escape Youth Service, to award the £4985.04 requested.
