

Lauderdale Initiative

Underspend of £1,785

Lauderdale Initiative was awarded £10,000 at the Eildon Area Partnership in September 2023 for the purchase and installation of Christmas lights on Lauder High Street.

The group has an underspend of £1,785, because of key installation works to lampposts being carried out directly by BEAR Scotland (who are responsible for the street lighting on the A68 trunk road) rather than by the expected contractor Lightways Ltd. BEAR Scotland carried out the work for no charge.

Lauderdale Initiative would like to purchase two motifs to replace existing motifs that were damaged in adverse weather, at a cost of £900 plus approximately £345 in installation fees. They would also like to replace the LED tree topper at a cost of £540.

Panel thoughts

- The panel is pleased to read that there were significant savings made to the original cost estimates thanks to the in-kind work carried out by BEAR.
- The panel is very aware that £10,000 is the maximum amount that an organisation can be awarded by the Eildon Area Partnership, and with an opening balance of approximately £86,000, the award represented a significant proportion of the overall amount available. Where there is underspend, the panel is keen to prioritise new applicants as opposed to existing applicants.
- In this instance, it is the end of the financial year and any funds that are returned to SBC cannot be carried over into the new financial year.

The panel recommends that £970.69 is returned to the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund to enable the full support of the application from Bowden Village Committee.

The panel recommends that the remaining balance of £814.31 be retained by Lauderdale Initiative to purchase further lights, aligning with the original aims and objectives of their initial application.

Bowden Village Committee

£5,000.00

The Neighbourhood Support Fund supported a full conservation assessment of the Brunton Fountain and a costed budget for restoration. The final phase of the project is to use strong conservation practice to reinstate and make sound the foundations of the Fountain and re-erect a cleaned and re-inscribed fountain with the original fixtures and fittings. The Committee have taken expert advice from qualified architects and quantity surveyors, and will work with a local specialist stonemason to ensure a sympathetic and cost effective restoration. We hope to install an interpretation panel and plan a series of community events.

We have received a full report from Ian Jamieson, Conservation Architect recommending a stabilisation of the foundations and a new stone plinth, this supported the development of a costed budget from Ian Hogg, Quantity Surveyor and the stonemason. Both these outputs now enable the Committee to complete the full restoration, interpretation and recording of the project.

The aims of the project

1. To restore the Brunton Fountain and ensure its long-term future by stabilisation of the foundations and redressing stonework
2. Record the restoration/conservation process, and archive it in the Hawick Heritage Hub
3. Collect and collate the history of the Thomas Brunton and publish in a booklet
4. Increase public awareness of the importance of the link between Bowden's development and access to water: this will include a visit by pupils from the local school to focus on some aspect of "water", climate change etc.
5. Seek Category C listing for the restored Brunton Fountain
6. To arrange for the Brunton family grave in Bowden Kirkyard to be cleaned

Total project cost: £11,646.00.

In-kind contributions total: £1,350

Total restoration cost: £10,296

Panel thoughts

- The panel had a lengthy discussion about this application, as the applicant has previously received funding from the Eildon Neighbourhood Support Fund in 2022/23 for the conservation reports. The funding for the restoration stage of the project was supposed to come from external sources.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund was explored at the end of 2023 but the committee were informed that it was unlikely to receive funding as it did not meet all four of the fund's main aims. The panel appreciates that other sources have been explored and notes that the committee has secured £1,000 from the Brunton Trust, £600 from its own funds, and has an Fallago Rigg Environment Fund application of £3,696 pending.
- With this award from the Neighbourhood Support Fund, it will strengthen the application to the Fallago Rigg Environment Fund as it significantly increases the match funding, which will hopefully allow the complete restoration of the fountain to be completed.
- The panel understands the importance of such a focal point/ feature in a village and is keen to ensure that the committee is in a position to return it to its original condition.

The panel recommends to fund this project in full, to the value of £5,000.00. It is also recommended that payment is withheld until confirmation of an award from the Fallago Rigg Environment Fund or that the deficit has been covered from another funding source.