

- Locality: Tweeddale
- Group name: Peebles Christmas Lights Association
- Type of group: Constituted voluntary or community group
- What does your group do?: We own, install, maintain, uninstall and store the Christmas Lights display on Peebles High Street, The Old Town, The Northgate and The Eastgate.
- First name: Malcolm
- Last name: Bruce
- Full name: Malcolm Bruce
- Email: [REDACTED]
- Telephone number: [REDACTED]
- Project name: Santa's Sleigh and Reindeers illuminated display
- Project start date: 01/12/2023
- Project end date: 31/12/2023
- Project description: We would like to purchase a replacement display for installation on the frontage of The Eastgate Theatre. The existing Santa and Sleigh are home made, painted wood and the ravages of exposure to Scottish winters have taken their toll. The replacement will be about the same size, but much brighter and capable of withstanding exposure to the elements.
- Type of project: One off project
- How will the project be delivered?: We have worked successfully for a number of years with a specialist supplier based in Fife. He has produced a proposal and costings for us and if agreed the display will be manufactured in Spain and shipped to Peebles in time for the 2023 display season. We should say at this point that it will not be possible to obtain 3 quotations for this item. As stated above we have worked successfully with this supplier in the past and this is such a specialised item, we are not even sure if there would even be an alternative supplier. Once delivered, the display will be erected by our own volunteers as with the rest of the display and will be stored in our building in Biggesknowe whilst not in use. The display will be fully insured.
- How has your community helped develop the idea?: We are a community group, and all of our planning, administration and the actual installation work itself is carried out by a dedicated band of Community volunteers. Appeals have been launched recently to attract some younger people to join our group to provide continuity moving forward. The highlight

of our year is our switch on event and Christmas Street Market, when the lights are switched on by the Beltane Queen. Preference is given in the market to locally based stallholder where possible and the entire event runs on a not for profit basis.

- What difference is your project going to make to the community?: Nothing cheers people up more at Christmas than brightly coloured lights. We already have a fantastic display but are always looking at ways of improving it, hence this application. Our switch on evening and Christmas Market event, usually the last Sunday in November, attracts many thousands of people including visitors from other towns, all to the benefit of local businesses. We received a lot of praise in recent years for continuing to mount a display during the worst period of the pandemic which can be evidenced from the many compliments we receive every year on our social media pages.
- How will you measure the success of your project in the community?: We don't overcomplicate matters where possible, and will continue to rely on our social media and press coverage to record reactions to our efforts. Our Facebook page in particular at Peebles Christmas Lights Association is open to anyone to read and holds details of previous years displays, and the reaction from the public.
- Additional information about your project: The display will be mounted on The Eastgate Theatre and we have the permission of the Theatre Manager, who is also a Director of the Theatre. This display will be manufactured from LED bulbs, and together with the self financed exchange of thousands of bulbs from our street 'ribbons' in the past year will mean our entire display is now as environmentally friendly as we can make it.
- Does your project involve work to a building or land?: Yes
- Permission building or land: Lease agreement or written permission of the owner
- What your group has: A constitution
- Have you already uploaded your constitution/operating rules?: No
- Have you already uploaded your signed and audited annual accounts dated within the last 15 months?: No
- Current bank balance (£): 11375.33
- Is any of this balance ring-fenced for anything specific?: Yes
- How much is ring-fenced? (£): 10000
- What's it ring-fenced for?: Costs associated with maintenance of the display during the summer months, power usage bills, insurances, property rental and other costs and the costs likely to be incurred in the run up to the Switch on and Christmas Market event in December.

We will recoup some of these costs but not until after the event. For example, we can probably anticipate the cost of the stage hire this year to be in the region of £5,000. Other costs include the hire of the market stalls, first aid cover, hire of generators, and advertising on Radio Borders.

- Do you have an equal opportunities policy of statement?: Yes
- Does your project involve working with children, young people under the age of 18 or vulnerable adults?: No
- Total cost of the project (£): 10000
- Financial contribution: 2500
- Amount applied for (£): 7500
- Includes staffing costs: No
- First item type £1,500 or over: Santa and Sleigh wall display
- First item cost £1,500 or over (£): 8580
- Additional information: We have a written quote for the item planned which includes VAT but excludes shipping from Spain. In common with most things these days costs can fluctuate widely, and we have no idea what the shipping costs will be until the item is built and can be weighed. We are confident that if we are successful in securing a grant of £7500, then our Association will be able to meet any further costs from within our own resources. We should also disclose at this stage that we were fortunate enough to receive funds from a bequest in the last year. Half of the bequest has been incorporated into our main bank account for the purposes stated previously but we have also invested £13,000 for a rainy day in a fixed three year bond which we cannot access.
- Has your group received any other funds from SBC in the last 3 years?: No
- Is the total cost of the project more than you're applying for?: Yes
- Contact method (text): Customer
- Original Form Reference: 1366434
- Agreement acceptance: Yes
- Financial year: CFA - 2023/24
- Date submitted: 15/06/2023
- Time submitted: 14:25:00

- Do you have or are you applying for other sources of funding for this project? Yes. We received approval for £2,000 from the Tweeddale Area Partnership Neighbourhood Support Fund on 13 June 2023.

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