

MINUTE of Meeting of the EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP held in the Council Chamber, Council HQ and via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 28 March 2024 at 2.00 pm

Present:- Councillors E. Thornton-Nicol (Chair), C. Cochrane, L. Douglas, J. Linehan, N. Mackinnon, D. Parker, J. PatonDay, F. Sinclair and H. Steel.
Apologies:- Councillors E. Jardine
In Attendance:- Community Engagement Officer (E. Coltman), Democratic Services Team Leader.

1. **WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership and explained that it was being held to consider funding applications.

2. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND 2023/24**

2.1 There had been circulated copies of applications to the Neighbourhood Support Fund 2023/24 with the agenda. The Chair invited the Community Engagement Officer, Mr Erin Coltman, to provide a summary of the applications.

2.2 **Lauderdale Initiative**

Mr Coltman explained that the Lauderdale Initiative had been awarded £10k at the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership in September 2023 to fund the purchase and installation of Christmas lights on Lauder High Street. The Group had delivered their project with an underspend of £1,785 due to some of the required works being carried out by BEAR Scotland for no charge. The Group had requested that they retain that underspend to fund the purchase and installation of two motifs and an LED tree topper. The Assessment Panel had recommended that £814.31 be retained by Lauderdale Initiative, with the remaining £970.69 returned to the Neighbourhood Support Fund.

2.3 **Bowden Village Committee**

The application from Bowden Village Committee was for £5k to assist in a project being undertaken to restore the Brunton Fountain. The overall project aimed to restore the Fountain's foundations, archive the process, collect, and collate the history of Thomas Brunton for a booklet, increase public awareness, seek Category C listed status, and arrange for the Brunton family grave in Bowden Kirkyard to be cleaned. The final phase of the project was 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 Assessment Panel had recommended that the project receive the funding in full, however payment would be withheld until confirmation of an award from the Fallago Rigg Environment Fund or that the deficit was covered by another funding source.

2.4 Members discussed the applications in detail and highlighted that the funding for the Bowden Village Committee project was reliant upon a portion of the underspend from the Lauderdale initiative project being returned to the Neighbourhood Support Fund pot. Members unanimously agreed that the full underspend from the Lauderdale Initiative be returned to the Neighbourhood Support Fund. Members considered the historical and

cultural importance of the Brunton Fountain and unanimously agreed to approve the application for £5k from Bowden Village Committee.

The meeting concluded at 2.20 p.m.