

Edintore Community Benefit Fund Decision Making Panel Meeting

Thursday 23rd September 2021
7.00pm via Zoom

Present: James Mark (Chair), George Wordie, Neil Kidd, Steve Hickin and Karen Cunningham (minutes)

1. Welcome and apologies

James welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked for them for attending.

Apologies were received from Sandy Dickson (Vice Chair), Priscilla Gordon-Duff and Karen Pryce-Iddon.

2. Financial Report

Karen provided the information from the most up to date bank statement showing a bank balance of £123,060.92 on 1st September 2021. No transactions apart from interest and bank charges since last financial statement.

A brief update was given to update the Panel on the previous applicants who had now reported and those still to report from COVID round. Some groups are finding it difficult to evidence staff costs and has required considerable communication with groups.

3. Declaration of interests

Neil Kidd – Keith Golf Club

Steve Hickin – Keith Men's Shed

Neil and Steve are both Keith Community Council, however the Keith Christmas Lights application is from a sub-committee which they do not sit on.

Those who declared an interest left the meeting (put in the Zoom waiting room) during discussion of the relevant application.

4. Assessment of applications

Fourteen applications were received. Where applicants were unsuccessful, signposting to other sources of funding and support will be given.

01/2021 Keith FC - £21,951.31 for installation of solar panels at football club.

Awarded in full. Community benefit of application discussed as potential for earning income for Club.

02/2021 Keith Men's Shed - £27,357.60 for Phase 2

Awarded in full on condition that another Panel member approves to ensure a quorate of 4 voting on application. The Panel commented that this is worthwhile capital project and that the Men's' Shed needs premises to get up and running as soon as possible. Their work in the community was commended.

03/2021 Moray Baby Bank - £6,210 towards Moray Baby Bank running costs.

Declined. The Panel discussed the application at length. Pressure on the fund was high therefore the most sustainable applications were given priority and running costs were less able to be considered.

04/2021 Grange Community Association - £2,200 towards ongoing refurbishment of King Memorial Hall.

Awarded in full. Recognised that the group have been continuing to fundraise.

05/2021 Moray Food Plus - £2,074 towards a Keith Community Pantry.

Awarded in full on the condition that the funding will only provide benefit the Keith and Strathisla area.

06/2021 Strathisla Pipe Band £3,855.56 towards a post COVID refresh.

Awarded in full. The Panel recognised the ongoing community benefit of the Pipe Band to the people and organisations of Keith and Strathisla.

07/2021 Keith Royal British Legion £10,500 towards fitting of door and Fire Exit.

Awarded in full. Panel commented on the good work carried out by the Legion and that the venue is popular with a lot of organisations and groups.

08/2021 Moray Wellbeing Hub - £998.50 towards setting up Keith Connects 21.

Awarded in full on the condition that the funding will only provide benefit for the Keith and Strathisla area and for the costs of setting up the project. Application was discussed at length.

09/2021 Boharm SWI - £250 for keeping afloat after COVID.

Declined. The Panel discussed the application at length. Pressure on the fund was high therefore the most sustainable applications were given priority and running costs were less able to be considered. Directed applicant to other funds such as Community Council micro grants.

10/2021 Keith Golf Club - £10,000 towards the cost of Drainage and waterways renovation.

Awarded in full on condition that another Panel member approves to ensure a quorate of 4 voting on application. The Panel commented on potential community benefit, including the loan of machinery purchased for community use.

11/2021 St Andrews Kirk - £5,574 towards creating rest room and kitchen facility.

Awarded in full. The Panel discussed the application at length.

12/2021 Crossroads School Council - £7,026 towards outdoor shelter for outdoor learning.

Awarded in full.

13/2021 Keith Christmas Lights - £3,971.57 towards refurbishment of brackets and wiring.

Awarded in full.

14/2021 Dufftown Royal British Legion £20,000 towards refurbishment 2021

Declined. The Panel discussed the application in length. A similar grant was awarded in 2019 and due to pressure on the fund the Panel felt that priority had to be given to applications from primary area.

5. Any Other Business

Discussion on how more support can be given to organisations or groups who are not confident at filling out application forms. REAP advertise that we can provide advice and support and feedback will be provided if applications are received at least 7 days before the closing date. However, REAP check all forms received and try to obtain any missing information before the Panel meeting. Will continue to advertise and make applicants aware of this service.

Discussion on whether change of constitution required to allow a maximum amount for running costs. This would require a Special General Meeting to be called. Panel's preference is to fund capital costs.

6. Dates of next meetings

AGM to be held in March. Date to be set nearer the time. May be able to meet in person next time, although documents on how Zoom has its benefits.

Next funding round will be set at AGM. It was agreed to try and avoid overlap between Edintore and Hill of Towie Community Benefit Fund application deadlines, for the benefit of applicants.

James thanked everyone for attending and giving up time to attend. Also thanked REAP for the admin. Everyone thanked James for chairing. The meeting closed at 21.10.