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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TWEEDDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTE of Meeting of the TWEEDDALE
AREA PARTNERSHIP held in Via MS
Teams on Tuesday, 15 June 2021 at 7.00
pm

Present:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman), H. Anderson, S. Bell, S. Haslam, E. Small
together with 20 representatives from Partner Organisations, Community
Councils and members of the public.

Absent:- Councillors K. Chapman
In Attendance:- Locality Development Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Portfolio Manager (J. Lamb),
Adult Learning Worker (M. Smail), Project Manager (S. Renwick), Democratic
Services Team Leader

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership
being held via Microsoft Teams and outlined how the meeting would be conducted and
how those both in the meeting and watching via the Live Stream could take part.

1.2 Mr Steven Renwick, Project Manager for the works at Peebles High School advised that a
community consultation on the new Community Campus to replace the fire-damaged
Peebles High School had now been launched and he encouraged everyone to take part.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 30 MARCH 2021**

The Minute of the meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership held on 20 March 2021 had
been circulated and this was noted.

3. **PLACE MAKING APPROACH**

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 20 March 2021, the Chairman welcomed
Diarmaid Lawlor from Scottish Futures Trust to the meeting. Mr Lawlor had been invited
by Scottish Borders Council to work with Area Partnerships to assist with the development
of Place Making proposals. Mr Lawlor had already worked with other areas and had a
wide experience of place making. Mr Lawlor gave a short presentation and advised that
from an understanding of local need and ambition, and using Covid learning, there was an
opportunity for a different way of working between communities and public agencies. A
'place based' approach sought to co-produce an understanding of local priorities and co-
deliver action. The format for the workshop was based on three areas namely what were
the key issues, what would success look like and how could we work together better. Mr
Lawlor led the discussion and made real-time notes to summarise the comments and
points made. Those present contributed to the discussion and highlighted what was
important to communities within Tweeddale and the need to take account of the
differences between communities especially between rural and town. The importance of
not losing the gains in communities working together during the Covid pandemic was
highlighted. The need to listen to all age groups was also highlighted as was the need to
make Tweeddale an area where young people wanted to live and work. Mr Lawlor
advised that his notes summarising the key points of the discussion, would be circulated
following the meeting and are also be attached as an appendix to this Minute. Mr Lawlor
was visiting all Area Partnerships and a summary of all the workshop discussions across
all the five area partnerships would inform a report to Council at the end of August setting
out the detail of the place-making approach. The Chairman thanked Mr Lawlor for his

facilitation. Mr Harrow asked that if anyone had anything further to add that they should get in touch with him.

4. **AREA PARTNERSHIP CONSULTATION**

Mr Harrow advised that advised that the consultation was now live, the link to which was included on the agenda. He encouraged everyone to engage and advised that he was happy to talk to any group or individual if they wished.

5. **TWEEDDALE COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE HUB**

A note of the recent work had been circulated with the agenda. If anyone had any questions or requests they were asked to email Ms Margaret Smail.

6. **COMMUNITY FUND WORKING GROUP UPDATE / PROPOSALS**

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 30 March 2021, Councillor Anderson gave a presentation on the outcome of the Sub-Group meetings. They had met 10 times and copies of various documentation relating to the work of the Group had been circulated with the agenda. These included the proposals they had drawn up, the criteria for funding and the draft application form. It was proposed that the Assessment Panel comprise 6 Members including 2 community councillors, representatives of young and older people and representatives from the voluntary sector. Those present discussed the proposals and the Sub-Group members answered questions on the operation of the fund. Mr Harrow confirmed that recipients of funding would still complete evaluation forms and come and speak at Area Partnership meetings. Those present supported the proposed operation of the Community Fund Assessment Panel and that it should be reviewed after 1 year of operation. A report on the recruitment process would be brought to a special meeting of the Area Partnership later in the summer.

7. **COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS**

7.1 **Applications**

(a) Men's Shed

There had been circulated an application for funding of £13,500 to cover additional costs of their toilet refurbishment programme. Mr Harrow advised that although additional information had been provided by Mr Malcolm Bruce the application did not currently meet the criteria for the fund as no estimates for the expenditure of the funds had been provided. Mr Bruce advised that he had now reduced his request to £9,500 towards an estimated total cost of £14,000. However, estimates for the work were still not available. Mr Bruce answered questions from those present. Following a discussion Councillor Tatler proposed that this application should be withdrawn and a new application be submitted for consideration by the new Assessment Panel in the next financial year. Councillor Haslam supported that proposal. Mr Bruce agreed to withdraw his application.

(b) Peebles Lawn Tennis Club

There had been circulated an application for funding of £10,000 from Peebles Lawn Tennis Club towards the cost of replacing their existing clubhouse. Ms Anne McKinnon from the Club advised that slow progress was being made regarding funding with £2k achieved so far. A number of applications were due to be considered soon and it was hoped that these would be successful as the building was in a very poor condition and membership was increasing significantly. Councillor Bell, seconded by Councillor Haslam moved approval of the application for £10,000 and this was approved.

(c) Citizens Advice Bureau

There had been circulated an application for funding of £4,000 from Peebles CAB to install a new telephony system which would allow a streamlined system of call handling. Ms Jill Westwood, Manager of the Peebles CAB outlined the benefits of a new system which would also enable the recruitment of new advisers. Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Small, moved approval of the application for £4,000 and this was unanimously approved.

7.2 **Evaluations**

There had been circulated evaluation forms from St Ronan's Bowling Club, Peebles Christmas Lights and Innerleithen Community Fund and these were noted.

8. **BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND**

The new fund had been launched on 1 June and the link for applications had been circulated. Applications would be brought to the Area Partnership for approval. Mr Harrow reported that no applications had yet been received for the Tweeddale Area but he was expecting some soon.

9. **PARKING REVIEW GROUP UPDATE**

Councillor Tatler reported that the work of the Parking Review Group had been halted due to Covid but a meeting would be set up within the next few weeks to agree how to take this matter forward and proposals would be reported back to the Area Partnership.

10. **DATE OF NEXT TWEEDDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

The next full meeting of the Area Partnership was scheduled for 24 August 2021 and the Chairman asked for agenda item suggestions to be submitted.

11. **ANY OTHER FORMAL BUSINESS**

No items were raised.

12. **OPEN FORUM**

No items were raised.

13. **MEETING EVALUATION**

Mr Harrow reminded everyone to provide their feedback via the link on the agenda.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm

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Agenda

- Key issues
- Success =
- Working together priorities

What

Working better together around local needs

Why

Build on Covid experiences and support community ambitions

How

- Shared principles; way of working
- Alignment
- Simplification

Vulnerabilities

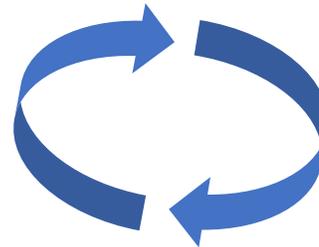
- *social inequalities*
- *hidden harm*
- *shielding*
- *stop people getting ill*

Common Purpose

- *the order of doing*
- *what matters - a common purpose*
- *quick decisions - oversight by trust*
- *affects every aspect of life*
- *leadership at all levels*

Localism

- *social partnerships - impact*
- *gaps before statutory responses*
- *distributed services*
- *real world learning*



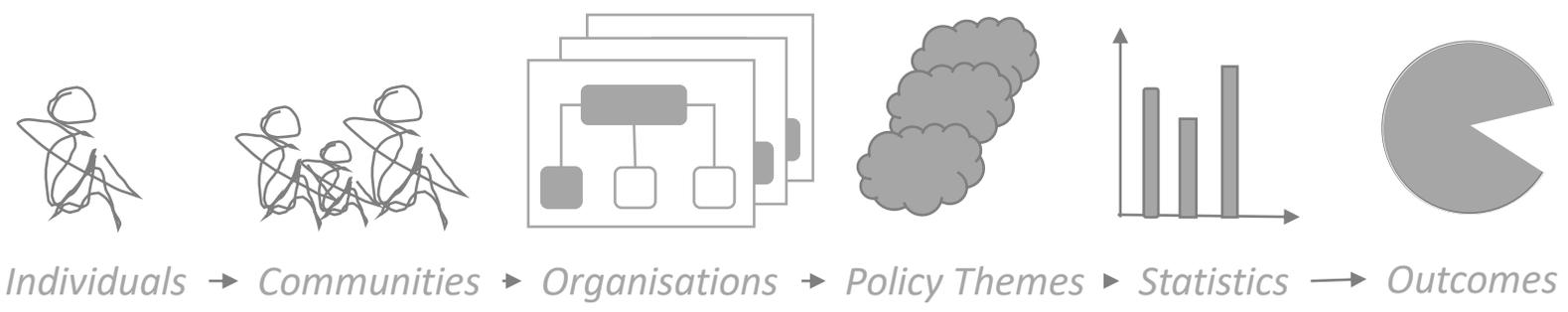
Capabilities

- *trusted people*
- *rediscovered interests*
- *national tensions*
- *new ways of working*

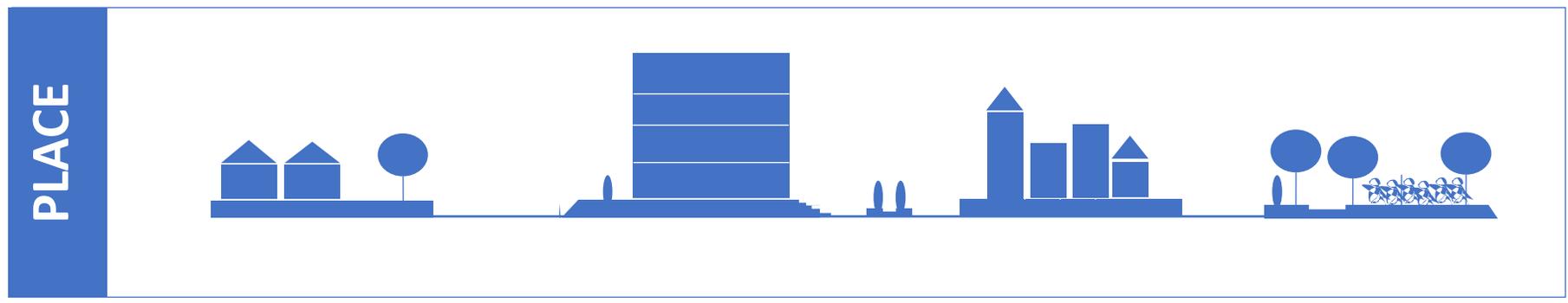
Infrastructures

- *ownership of space*
- *resourcing*
- *digital equity*
- *new settings*

Place as a Mechanism for Change



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Agenda

What

Working better together around local needs

Why

Build on Covid experiences and support community ambitions

How

- Shared principles; way of working
- Alignment
- Simplification

- Key issues
- Success =
- Working together priorities

- Ok, so how, and what's the forum
- The ecological approach
- Every area will be different, the demography will be different
- The community meetings that have replaced the community assistance hub would be useful to exchange ideas
- Respect the place based approach but in respect of Tweeddale area, there are vast differences, comparing the town and rural areas]
- Drilling down needs to go further
- The connections between places are important, without a car
- Huge need for a healing process to be undertaken
- Huge chunks of our community are broke
- Used to have 65 weekly groups, now none
- Rediscovering the groups and networks, bringing them back after like being in storage
- Councillors traverse the area all the time. The role of the councillor could be used...connections, the knotting job a councillor can do across a range of areas]
- Putting people in touch with each other
- Helping people see the parts
- There is someone in West Linton that would be good to talk to....doing the same thing as you
- Broughton has no public transport on Sundays....build in around the concept of place....the ability to move from one place to another makes the concept work
- Peebles Community Trust...updating town masterplan and community plan...peebles and surrounds....
- Crowded place with lots of plans.....
- Legislation Local Place Plans...cutting across what we are talking about

Key Issues

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- Opportunity for confusion in the planning processes
- Can be at odds around 'what matters to you'
- Work a bit more at clarifying this
- People on the call may be more aware than the general public
- Actioning the input we are getting from the community
- From substantive projects to individual comments
- Overarching this, we have no mechanism that shows how this input is actioned as part of the strategic thinking
- Hard to identify that there is a strand, like qualities, that will be considered at all stages
- How will all the effort going in produce change
- Effort seems to disappear
- True at all levels
- Unless we see a way SBC shows a mechanism that we are all working to, that this is how it will be integrated into the strategic thinking and the action plans
- Perception of lot of effort and little impact
- Very aware of a massive cultural shift happening
- Communities have been telling of their needs for ages
- The planning department manages housing developments
- Cultural change...listen to what people are telling
- Scale of change
- We use the term planning....long relationship with the planning department and officers, but it is much wider...
- Older people and day centres....get people out and about...but no community input....how would you deliver that

- No resource was supplied, service level agreements to support the change
- Not the planning department. It is the planning of service delivery
- No route to inform officer about the infrastructure of town, not just the physical infrastructure
- There are differences between what councils do and what communities do
- The views from communities may not be fully embraced by councils...but there are all sorts of levels of engagement....views of communities may not always be as represented as they would like
- Needs to be a basis for engagement
- Legislation on local place plans, open to June 25th, asks questions about the nature of this engagement and how this can be embraced in the planning process, LDP
- Coproduction, co-operation...
- From community perspective...often seems to be council driven
- Topsy turvey
- Would like to see an end point
- The how, the mechanisms
- Use the local place planning consultation
- There are gaps in understanding in what we are trying to do and who is trying to do it
- Ensure everyone is involved, listened to, all generations
- Equity
- Facilitation particularly important in a time of profound change
- Not to forget the climate emergency

Key Issues

Culture change, planning

listening

connections

Climate emergency

healing

ecologies

Roles and facilitation

Visible route to impact

Connecting plans

- Tweeddale community assistance hub
- Community meetings are parts of the community recovery
- Getting key partners together
- Looking at what the issues are
- The key parts are the trusted relationships built up
- **Cutting down barriers**
- Faster impact
- Simple way, can phone social work lead, information
- Can phone Lorna at the Bridge,
- Mechanisms were there before, but are better, stronger
- Especially in the smaller communitie
- **Now I know the people that are there**
- There is someone in the community who needs...who would be best to support them
- The work from relationships, the connection made are a platform to move from response to recovery
- **Somebody knows**
- **Immediate responses**
- More affordable housing available within the scope of the people who live and work in the community
- More jobs and more jobs above minimum wage
- Small tippy toes, community says we would like to see more...
- Our young people are able to live and work here because they can afford to
- What happens at the moment....planning create wonderful fraphics of development zones...in the future the community make a presentation of what the community needs to see. And the planners will take notes and make the plan from the wishes of the community
- The planners job is to operationalise the ideas

- Sanitisation stations outside supermarkets
- Relationships in communities
- What does good look like....
- Cherish relationships
- Communities no longer feel council are doing things to them
- **Doing things in relationship**
- Fast and reliable broadband for home working across the Borders
- Equal access regardless of where you live...transport, broadband, facilities...
- Not beholden to lack of car on Sunday]
- Equality of access
- **Spending less time talking about the process, and more time getting the issues resolved**
- Singing the praises of the weekly hubs, connecting groups
- **More knitting...sharing of knowledge and resources between groups**
- **Build confidence and wellbeing before needing formal health and social care interventions**
- **Accessible and affordable housing**
- Listening....we might know we are winning when we see evidence of SBC listening
- Working with communities

Key Issues

Culture change, planning

listening

connections

Visible route to impact

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healing

ecologies

Roles and facilitation

Success

- **Cutting down barriers**
- **Now I know the people that are there**
- **There is someone in the community who needs...who would be best to support them**
- **Somebody knows**
- **Immediate responses**
- **Doing things in relationship**
- **Spending less time talking about the process, and more time getting the issues resolved**
- **More knitting...sharing of knowledge and resources between groups**
- **Build confidence and wellbeing before needing formal health and social care interventions**
- **Accessible and affordable housing**
- **More things for young people to do**
- **Our young people are able to live and work here because they can afford to**

Priorities

- *Knitting*
- *Relationships*
- *People throughout the area should have the same opportunities; equity*
- *Success are buses that connect*
- *Sharing knowledge*
- *Action*
- *Actions involve community as decision makers*
- *All actions need to be embraced by all generations*

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Place workshop | Tweeddale Area Partnership

Issues

“an ecological approach to places, and their differences”

Every area will be different. Drill down into these issues. And the connections between places.

Councillors traverse the area all the time. They could help strengthen connections, knitting communities, putting people in touch, letting people know about things happening in other areas.

But, huge chunks of our community are broke. There were over 65 weekly groups before Covid. Now, often, there are none. We are rediscovering groups and networks, helping to bring them back after being in storage. There is a huge need for a healing process to be undertaken.

“we need to the right forum to exchange ideas”

Communities have been telling of their needs for ages. From community perspective co-production and co-operation often seem to be Council driven. It's topsy turvy. And communities want to see an end point, with greater focus on the how, the mechanisms for action.

There are gaps in understanding in what we are trying to do and who is trying to do it. Recent work on older people and day centres aims get people out and about, but there has been no community input. No resource was supplied and no service level agreements. So, how can change be delivered locally?

Planning is wider than relationships with the planning departments and a focus on housing. We are interested in the planning of service delivery. That's the culture change. And, in that we need to ensure that people feel listened to, across all generations.

“It's about equity”

We recognise that there are different sorts of levels of engagement, and views from communities may not always be fully embraced by Councils. But, there needs to be a clear basis for action. We feel we have no overarching mechanism that shows how community input is actioned as part of the strategic thinking. It is hard to identify a continuous strand, an expression of what we see as important, considered across all stages of planning processes. We want to better understand how the effort going in will produce change. Effort seems to disappear, and this seems true at all levels.

“Perception of lot of effort and little impact”

Community Trusts and local people are already updating town masterplans and community plans, for their place and the surrounds. We are crowded with lots of plans. The legislation on Local Place Plans is cutting across this work. There is the opportunity for confusion in the planning processes. And opportunities for different plans to be at odds with 'what matters to you'.

“there needs to be more work at clarifying the landscape of plans”

Place workshop | Tweeddale Area Partnership

Success

“Cherish relationships”

We want to keep some of the good changes from the covid response, like improved relationships in communities. And sanitisation stations outside supermarkets.

Community meetings are part of the community recovery. Build on the work established for the Community Assistance hubs. It is about getting the key partners together and looking at what the key issues are. It works because the key parts are the trusted relationships already built up.

Let's build confidence and wellbeing in communities, with more opportunities for people before needing formal health and social care interventions.

“Somebody knows”

So, focus on cutting down barriers. And faster impact, immediate responses. If we identify someone in the community who needs help, we can find who is the best person to support them because we know the people who are there to help. This work comes from relationships. These mechanisms were there before the pandemic but now they are better, and stronger.

We want a future where communities no longer feel council are doing things to them. Everyone is doing things in a relationship. And all actions are embraced by all generations. So, facilitation is particularly important in a time of profound change, and climate emergency.

“Success is our young people able to live and work here because they can afford to.”

We need more affordable housing to be available within the scope of the people who live and work in the community. We need more jobs, and more jobs above the minimum wage. But sometimes, change feels like it is on small tippy toes. The community say we would like to see more.

We want fast and reliable broadband for home working across the Borders. And equal access regardless of where you live for transport, broadband, and local facilities. And buses that connect, a future where people are not beholden to the lack of a car on any day of the week.

We want to spend less time talking about the process and more time getting to the issues resolved. We want more knitting of communities, more sharing of knowledge and resources between groups. In the future, we would like to see communities make a presentation of what the community needs to see, and planners taking notes and make plans from the wishes of the community, operationalising community ambition.

“we know we are winning when we see evidence of the Council listening and more working with communities”