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Eildon
Area Partnership

Our Scottish Borders
Your community

MINUTE of Meeting of the EILDON AREA
PARTNERSHIP held remotely by Microsoft
Teams on Thursday, 24 June 2021 at
6.00 pm

- Present:- Councillors G. Edgar (Chairman), A. Anderson, E. Jardine, J. Linehan, D. Parker.
With 25 representatives of partner organisations, Community Councils, and members of the public.
- Apologies:- Councillors S. Aitchison, H. Scott and E. Thornton-Nicol
- In Attendance:- Communities and Partnerships Manager, Locality Development Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Democratic Services Officer (F. Walling).

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held remotely via Microsoft teams, which included elected Members, guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. The Chairman went on to outline how the meeting would be conducted. He also drew attention to the document circulated with the agenda which provided links to additional information and updates, including current consultations; community information; and useful links to sources providing support and advice.

2. **FEEDBACK AND EVALUATION FROM MEETING OF 25 MARCH 2021**

The Minute of the meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership held on 25 March 2021 had been circulated and was noted. With regard to the Locality Plan Priority relating to accessibility and reliability of transport services, the Chairman advised that the Localities Transport Officer would be in attendance at future meetings.

3. **PLACE MAKING - CO-PRODUCING THE FUTURE OF OUR PLACES**

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 25 March 2021, the Chairman introduced Diarmaid Lawlor, from Scottish Futures Trust, to facilitate a brief workshop around Place-Making. This was a follow-up to the presentation given at the last Area Partnership meeting which followed the report to Council in February, outlining a proposed approach to Place-Making. The Chairman explained that Mr Lawlor, who had a broad experience of working with other communities elsewhere in Scotland, was assisting us to develop our arrangements in the Borders. 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 questions around: ambition and key issues in the community; success criteria; and principles – how we could better work together. Mr Lawlor led the discussion and made real-time notes to summarise the comments and points made. There was enthusiastic engagement in the conversation from those present at the meeting, the main

areas of conversation focusing on equity and opportunity; involvement of young people; sustainability; and the importance of reflecting and building on the beauty within our communities and area. Mr Lawlor advised that the note, summarising the key points of the discussion, would be circulated following the meeting and it was agreed that it also be attached as an appendix to the Minute. The Chairman explained that a summary of the workshop discussions across all the area partnerships would inform a report to Council at the end of August to set out the detail of the place-making approach. Subject to Council approval the first place-making events would begin in Autumn of this year. Locality Development Co-ordinator, Kenny Harrow, added that, if there were further comments or thoughts that occurred after the meeting, these should be passed on to him for inclusion in the notes. The Chairman thanked Mr Lawlor for his excellent facilitation and for all those who had taken part in the discussion.

4. **AREA PARTNERSHIP CONSULTATION**

With reference to previous discussions around the review of Area Partnerships, Mr Harrow, drew attention to the Area Partnership consultation which was ongoing and referred to the link to the consultation that was included within the agenda.

5. **EILDON COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE HUB**

Mr Harrow gave a brief update and explained that a written summary of recent activity within the Eildon Community Assistance Hub was included in the additional information document circulated with the agenda.

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

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 25 March 2021, the Chairman explained that, as agreed at that meeting, a working group had been set up and been meeting weekly to develop new proposals for the operation of the Eildon Community Fund. Membership of the group was as follows: Jenny Mushlin; Francois Du Plessis; Jim Johnston; Pauline Grigor; Ben Maclean; Susan Hunter; and Councillors Aitchison, Edgar and Thornton-Nicol. A summary of the proposals was presented as follows: grants up to £15,000 assessed quarterly; un-constituted body micro grants up to £1,500 assessed monthly; assessment panel comprising 2 members from each area and 3 elected Members; simplified criteria and conditions; simplified reporting requirements; and a simplified application form. The Chairman asked for comments and views on the group's proposals and also made reference to the draft documents circulated with the agenda, which included: a sample application form; guidance notes; proposals for the formation and recruitment of an assessment panel; and an assessment sheet setting out eligibility and assessment criteria. In a discussion of the proposed changes to the Community Fund and draft documents, Members of the Area Partnership were happy with the proposals apart from one element in relation to the maximum amounts that un-constituted groups could apply for. After discussion it was suggested that the maximum grant that an un-constituted group could apply for be £5,000, rather than £1,500 which had been proposed by the working group. In summary:

- Constituted groups could apply for up to £15,000
- Un-constituted groups could apply for up to £5,000
- Smalls grants of £1,500 and under would be assessed on a monthly basis
- An assessment panel was proposed for Eildon

Subject to this one amendment, there was unanimous agreement that the working group proposals and draft documents be put forward for formal approval. Councillor Parker thanked the working group for all their hard work in putting together these proposals and draft documents.

7. **EILDON COMMUNITY FUND**

Assessments of four applications to the Eildon Community Fund had been circulated, plus a summary of grant funding within Eildon in 2021/22 and the source of that funding. Mr Harrow referred to the summary which showed grant applications awarded, those under assessment and those to be considered by the Area Partnership. He advised that if the pending applications were approved there would still be a balance of £46,483.21 in the

Eildon pot for distribution. Before giving consideration to the four following applications, Mr Harrow gave a summary of each and confirmed that each met the Community Fund criteria.

7.1 Oxton War Memorial Hall

The application under consideration was a request for £30,000 to update Oxton War Memorial Hall to create a village hub. This would result in modernising the current hall and extending the community facilities on offer, with the aim of incorporating a permanent home for the Oxton Community Shop as an anchor tenant. The group aimed to provide a focal point to the town and create a modern community hub. Money would be used to support the development of the kitchen and toilet facilities, making these spaces accessible for all. The total expenditure for the project was £469,000. After consideration the request for £30,000 was approved in full.

7.2 Beyond Earlston

The application from the Youth Work Services group Beyond Earlston was for a grant of £12,460 to cover the cost of employing a lead Outdoors Youth Worker who would be supported by the existing staff team and volunteers. This would be a new staffing position that would be for 20 hours per week over 50 weeks. In the application it was explained that the recruitment of an Outdoors Youth Worker was required as Beyond Earlston did not currently have any staff members with the skills or experience in delivery of physical activity sessions or specific outdoor activities. The request for £12,460 was approved in full.

7.3 Melrose RFC

Melrose Rugby Football Club was applying for a grant of £4,000 to appoint a consultant to help support the organisation to develop a Business and Fundraising Plan. With the support of a consultant the club hoped that the Business and Fundraising Plan would lay out a process for providing a sustainable future which would provide benefit to the local community, both in terms of health and wellbeing and economically. It was explained that, in 2016, members of Melrose RFC opted to move operational activities to the newly formed Melrose Rugby Limited (MRL). Melrose RFC however remained as a constituted organisation and it was for Melrose RFC that the Business Plan and Fundraising Plan aimed to be created. In a discussion about this application there was some disquiet expressed and opinions were divided about whether it should be approved. However, it was pointed out and agreed that Melrose RFC, rather than MRL represented the legacy and community arm of the club. After further discussion, Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor Edgar moved that the application be approved. Councillor Anderson moved as an amendment that the application be declined. However as there was no seconder to the amendment a vote was not required and the grant for £4,000 was approved in full.

7.4 Galashiels Academy Pupil Council

The request from Galashiels Academy Pupil Council was for a grant of £4,458.54 for the purchase of videography equipment, specifically a JVC Handheld Camcorder. The group also wished to purchase other items that would support effective videography, including laptop, tripods, camera grips, microphone, lapel mics and lights. Pupil Council representatives, Ally Turnbull and Doddie Turner were present at the meeting and provided further clarification in response to questions. It was explained that the Pupil Council felt that they needed the equipment as they were currently unable to produce high quality videos for use to promote activities on their dedicated social media channels. The equipment would be stored within the school but would be accessible to other community groups in and around Galashiels, so this would not be just a school resource. Members congratulated the young people from the Pupil Council on the application and were very supportive of the aims of the project. The request for a grant of £4,458.54 received unanimous approval.

8. EILDON COMMUNITY FUND EVALUATIONS

Mr Harrow referred to the Community Fund Evaluation form provided by Stable Life, which had been circulated with the agenda. Stable Life, who had been awarded a grant of £20,000 from the Community Fund, gave detailed information of the impact of the funded project in terms of activities over the past year and outcomes met by the programmes offered to young people in the area.

9. **FOR NOTING: SBC BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND**

Mr Harrow drew attention to the recently launched “Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund” – a one-off £500k fund established as part of the Council’s response and recovery efforts relating to COVID-19. The fund, which would be open to applications until 31 May 2022, would be available for one-off new initiatives and projects and divided between the five localities. Assessments of applications would be undertaken by the Communities and Partnership Team and presented to the relevant Area Partnership for decision making. Mr Harrow invited any groups requiring assistance with an application to contact him at Kenny.Harrow@scotborders.gov.uk

10. **DATES OF FUTURE EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS**

The dates of the next three meetings of Eildon Area Partnership are 9 September 2021, 11 November 2021 and 10 February 2022. The Chairman asked for any suggestions of agenda items to be sent to a local elected Member or the Communities and Partnership Team at communityengagement@scotborders.gov.uk

11. **ANY OTHER FORMAL BUSINESS**

There was none.

12. **OPEN FORUM**

Mr Harrow raised awareness of the Tour-o-the-Borders event taking place on 5 September 2021 on closed roads. It would start in Peebles and basically follow the route taken over previous years, along the B712/A701/A708, past Talla reservoir, Megget and St Mary’s Loch. This was a participation event for cyclists of all levels. The Council wished to engage with the general public about the event via a Citizens Space Survey, during July, which could be accessed from the following link:

https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/economic-development-emergency-planning-and-communications/tour-o-the-borders-2021/start_preview?token=b67bf83f95fe97b8c6d2dc7160e9cf78068e4f30

13. **MEETING EVALUATION**

Mr Harrow reminded those present about the meeting evaluation form which could be accessed via the link <https://forms.office.com/r/Dub34x555k> . He added that feedback about the Area Partnership meetings was really helpful and was always appreciated.

CHAIRMAN

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.45 pm

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

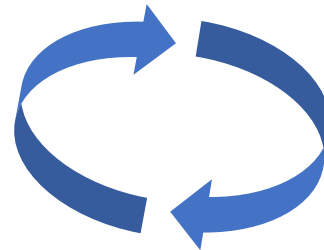
- *social inequalities*
- *hidden harm*
- *shielding*
- *stop people getting ill*

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*



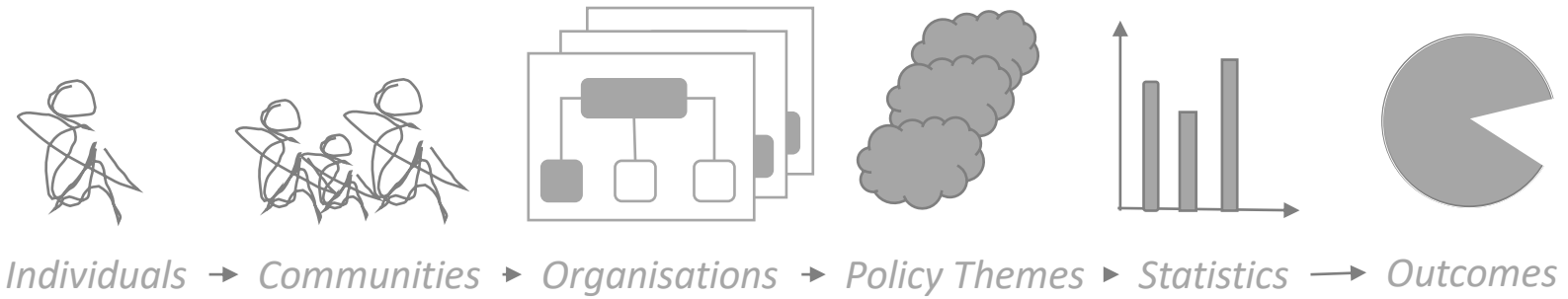
Capabilities

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

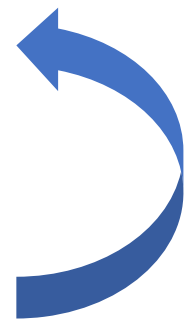
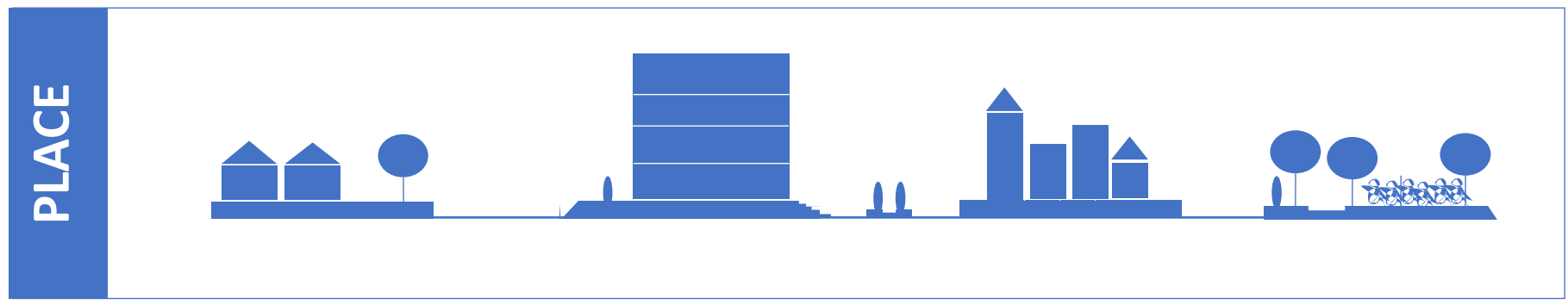
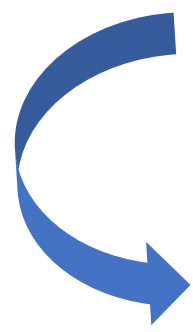
Infrastructures

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

Place as a Mechanism for Change



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Agenda

What

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- Alignment
- Simplification

- Key issues
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- Working together priorities

Key Issues

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- Stw community council
- Two communities within us
- One tiny, one larger
- Making sure the small place comes through as a place
- Community Council
- Fountainhall and Stow
- Is this a job for the Council or should it be the community that leads it
- The way of working
- Communities got stronger through Covid
- There was a disconnect in the community
- Groups overlapping each other
- Post first pandemic, met, tried to sort it, everybody more in line
- An umbrella, everybody working in line better
- Coming together as a more focused unit
- Very refreshing
- All the stuff going on
- What was happening before covid hasn't change
- Always lots of stuff going on
- Most of it goes over people's heads
- People generally unaware of what's going on
- Not everybody is digitally savvy
- Appear to have lost local newspaper showing what's going to happen
- Difficult to get news out to people
- Would love to have gone to an event, but didn't know
- No medium to get information out to everyone
- Communication is vital
- Young people have always said there is an issue with communication

Key Issues

Page 11

- Community of people
- Community of place
- Newsletter distributed
- One in covid showing peoples experiences
- One showing what is proposed to happen
- Groups starting up again
- People helping each other
- Some people are isolated
- People weren't more isolated in covid
- Shop in Stow, people were helping each other with shopping
- Huge difference between town and country
- Towns get resources, country gets less
- Need to do more ourselves
- Collaboration in covid, communities and public sector ,,maintaining and harnessing
- Coming out, the connections maybe aren't as strong as they were last march
- Fatigue
- Lots of consultation
- Not over burden with more ask
- Maintaining working relationship, not just a covid relationship
- People can get over consulted
- People need action
- The consultation has brought something
- See an end result
- How we go forward
- Whats the end product of the consultation
- Can say what we are working towards

Key Issues

Page 12

- During darkest times of pandemic, less traffic on the roads
- More time to go for a walk
- Hearing bird song, more time
- Less time driving, manically, going to Edinburgh
- Were all talking about building back better and building back greener
- Need to reduce carbon footprint
- Future needs to be resilient
- Less stuff, less throw away,
- Future to be better than it was in the past
- How it was in the past wasn't all that good, wasn't sustainable in the long term
- Mental health and wellbeing, big impact on young people
- What's needed within and beyond the school environment
- Safe spaces needed
- Now working more in the outdoors
- New opportunities for outdoor learning
- Introducing young people to the beauty of the hills and the place
- Young people, ambassadors of sustainability
- Young people and transport
- Services that are available now are not fit for purpose, no paths, towns and villages not connected
- Don't feel safe on the roads
- Cycle routes on B roads
- More dangerous on the main road
- Issue with buses....none going where you need to go, or not frequent enough, or can't understand the timetable
- Young people don't feel they are recognised
- Do people think young people do anything
- Not always causing trouble

Key Issues

- Helping people
- Not causing trouble
- The bus, no one is interested, no action

Time together

Voices heard

Different places,
different scales

Umbrella

Connected safe
spaces

Awareness

Beauty and
sustainable

Action as feedback

- Some green mapping for the region
- Green activities groups, spaces
- If you bite off more than you can chew, you do nothing
- Hone in on an issue, fix it
- Then do the next thing
- If we try and do it all at once, go no where
- People who are not normally heard get a chance to hear a voice
- Wide involvement with as many of the community as possible
- Area partnership is a good place to start the discussion]
- Involve others, young people, others
- Things can be successful by engaging those we don't normally engage with

- People could get around and enjoy the area they live in and do the things they want to do with out the inconvenience of living in a rural area
- Can be difficult to achieve the things you want to do
- Young people being able to stay in the area they were born in
- People leave
- More equality
- People have the same chances
- People not held back
- New ways of doing things
- More engagement with local community organisations, doesn't matter which one
- Set up new organisations
- Have done great things in last 18 months in zoom, café conversations
- Ideas in an hour over coffee

- Getting started
- More connections
- Vehicles to make a difference in the local community

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Hone in, do things

Voices heard

Young people stay

Different places,
different scales

Umbrella

Time together

Beauty and sustainable

Connected safe spaces

Awareness

Engage and be part

Action as feedback

Equity and more chances

