

Public Document Pack

**Cheviot
Area Partnership**

Our Scottish Borders
Your community

MINUTES of Meeting of the
CHEVIOT AREA PARTNERSHIP
held remotely by Microsoft Teams
on Wednesday, 30 June 2021 at
6.30 pm.

Present:- Councillors S. Hamilton (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, E. Robson, S. Scott, T. Weatherston, together with 13 Representatives of Partner Organisations, Community Councils and Members of the Public.

In attendance: - Locality Development Co-ordinator, Democratic Services Officer (F. Henderson).

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Cheviot Area Partnership held remotely via Microsoft teams, which included elected Members, guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. He outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

2.0 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 24 MARCH 2021

2.1 The minute of the meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership held on 24 March 2021 had been circulated and was noted.

SECTION 1: SERVICE & PARTNER UPDATES

3.0 PLACE MAKING APPROACH

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 24 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 the area partnerships 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 broadband issues; equity and opportunity; involvement of young people; sustainability. 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, Clare Malster, 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.

4.0 SCOTTISH BORDERS WARM AND WELL PROJECT

Due to the unexpected last minute unavailability of Ruth Dickson, this item was deferred to a future meeting.

5.0 AREA PARTNERSHIP CONSULTATION

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

6.0 SECTION 2: LOCAL PRIORITIES

ROADS UPDATE ON MAINTENANCE WORK, INCLUDING WINTER 2020/21

The Chairman introduced Roads Asset Team Leader, Donald Scott and Assistant Engineer, Scott Learmonth to update the Area Partnership on roads maintenance. Mr Scott briefly outlined that Asset Management followed a strategic approach and the National Guidance and Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP), Annual Financial Review and planned work programme in association with Public Service Excellence (APSE) and Performance Measurement (National PI's). The types of Maintenance undertaken included planned maintenance - Carriageways (Resurfacing, Surface Dressing and Patching), Footways (Resurfacing, Slurry Sealing and Kerbing), Drainage (Improvement Works and New Schemes), Embankments (Stabilisation, Re-profiling and Erosion Repairs), Cattle Grids (Removal and Replacement), Street Furniture (Improvement and Replacement), Routine and Cyclic Maintenance, Reactive maintenance and winter maintenance. In terms of gritting roads and footways, the Primary Road Network totalled 1154 km (39% of all roads) identified as primary routes for treatment and receive precautionary treatment. Secondary Road Network totalled 472 km (16% of all roads) identified to receive treatment next when severe and prolonged winter conditions and resources allowed. The Tertiary Road Network: Remaining roads (including car parks) would only be treated when extended weather conditions persist and Primary Footway Network: Primary routes identified in larger towns and villages would receive post-treatment. All other routes are classed as Secondary routes. The budget for 2021/22 was divided into Capital -just under £7 million, Revenue - just under £5 million and Winter was just under £3 million and External Funding (STTS/SWCR). Mr Scott concluded his presentation with details of planned works to be carried out in the Cheviot Area. Mr Scott and Mr Learmonth answered questions and the Chairman thanked him for his informative presentation.

7.0 CHEVIOT COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE HUB

Clare Malster, Locality Development Co-ordinator reported that the number of new referrals to Cheviot Community Assistance Hub had greatly reduced since the last meeting. However, it was stressed that the Hub was still operational and could be contacted through 0301 100 1800 or Covid-19Community@scotborders.gov.uk by anyone requiring support for themselves or someone they know. iPads have been delivered to four Community Assistance Hub clients who were awarded devices through the Scottish Government's Connecting Scotland Winter Support Package. Cheviot Community Partners (Community organisations, Third Sector, SBC and NHS Borders) continued to meet on a weekly basis to share service updates and recently received a presentation from Dr Victoria Thomson about Transform Psychological Trauma and those present were asked for ideas on how all sectors could work together to embed the approach across all our organisations.

Partners are starting to meet clients face to face again but, depending on the organisation, this is restricted by numbers and need. The meeting continued to be attended by a range of organisations with the shared experience and knowledge being a very valuable resource to identify solutions to problems and issues which were brought to the meeting.

8.0 **CHEVIOT COMMUNITY UPDATE**

- 8.1 Hazel Woodsell, Kelso Heritage reported that the Kelso Community Orchard was progressing well with the addition of raised beds, local schools becoming more involved, Guides had planted flowers in the raised beds and the Kelso Men's shed was very supportive.
- 8.2 It was reported that the Kalewater Suspension Bridge had been closed due to there being more damage than initially thought. A report on the bridge would be available in September.

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY FUND

9.0 **COMMUNITY FUND WORKING GROUP**

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of 24 March 2021, the Chairman explained that the working group had met again to further develop new proposals for the operation of the Cheviot Area Partnership. There had been circulated copies of a report which detailed proposals on how members would be appointed to the Cheviot Community Fund Assessment Panel and how that Panel would operate with regard to meetings, together with the draft Community Fund Application Form, Draft Assessment Scoring Matrix, Cheviot Community Fund Framework 2021 and Draft Cheviot Community Fund Guidance Notes. In terms of appointments of applicants from the Cheviot area public to the Assessment Panel, it was proposed that the decision was delegated to the Service Director Customer & Communities, in consultation with the Chair of the Cheviot Area Partnership and the Executive Member for Community Development and Localities. The names of the successful candidates would be notified to the next available meeting of the Area Partnership. Suitable training would be provided to all members of the Assessment Panel. The proposed constitution and procedural rules for the Assessment Panel were contained in the Appendix to the report. The report detailed the background to the report, the proposed recruitment process for membership of the Assessment Panel and proposed Constitution and Procedural rules. In terms of the Assessment Criteria, it was thought to be very good, concise and easy to follow. Councillor Mountford sought an amendment that appointment of local Members be delegated to Jenni Craig in consultation with the local members. It was confirmed that there would be a review after 12 months. In response to a question about the age of the young person, it was advised that 16 yrs. had been chosen as it is a legal age and in order that they had a vote.

DECISION

AGREED to:-

- (a) **delegate authority to the Service Director Customer & Communities, in consultation with the Chair of the Area Partnership and the Executive Member for Community Development and Localities, to appoint members of the Cheviot community to the Cheviot Community Fund Assessment Panel, following a suitable recruitment process;**
 - (b) **approve the constitution and procedural rules for the Assessment Panel as detailed in the Appendix to this report; and**
 - (c) **appoint two SBC Elected Members, one each from Jedburgh & District and Kelso & District wards, as non-voting members of Cheviot Assessment Panel.**
10. **CHEVIOT COMMUNITY FUNDING 2020/21**
There had been circulated copies of the Cheviot Funding for 2021/2022 which detailed the funding available together with information on the allocation of the Community Grant Fund in 2020/21. The opening balance at 1 April 2021 was £46,551.00 plus 50% of available Local Festival Grant Budget totalling £8,337.50, which resulted in an overall budget of £54,888.50. Other sources of Grant Funding for Cheviot totalled £79,926.00. The Fund was currently closed.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

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

Ms Malster 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 related 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. Ms Malster invited any groups requiring assistance with an application to contact her at cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk

12.0 OTHER INFORMATION AND NEWS FOR NOTING

12.1 The Chairman drew attention to the current consultations and other items for noting which were included in the Agenda and in particular highlighted the Area Partnerships – next Steps which closed on 1 August 2021.

12.2 Don McNeil, Station Commander highlighted the public consultation on the long term vision of the Fire and Rescue Service which closed on 18 July 2021.

13. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Meetings of the Cheviot Area Partnership would be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

Wednesday, 24 November 2021

Wednesday, 26 January 2022

Wednesday, 23 March 2022

Wednesday, 29 June 2022

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 30 June 2021 at 6.30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams when there would be a presentation on winter maintenance.

14. MEETING EVALUATION

Ms Malster reminded those present about the meeting evaluation form which could be accessed via the link <https://forms.office.com/r/HHH1dEcmz3> and was available until 11.45 p.m. on 4 July. She added that feedback about the Area Partnership meetings was really helpful and always appreciated.

CHAIRMAN

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

The meeting concluded at 9.00 pm

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

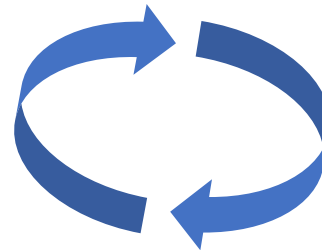
- *social inequalities*
- *hidden harm*
- *shielding*
- *stop people getting ill*

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*



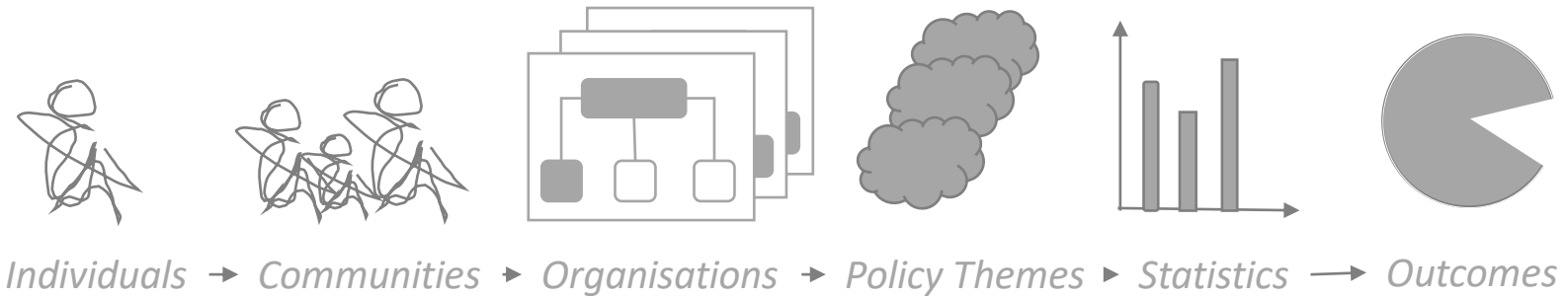
Capabilities

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

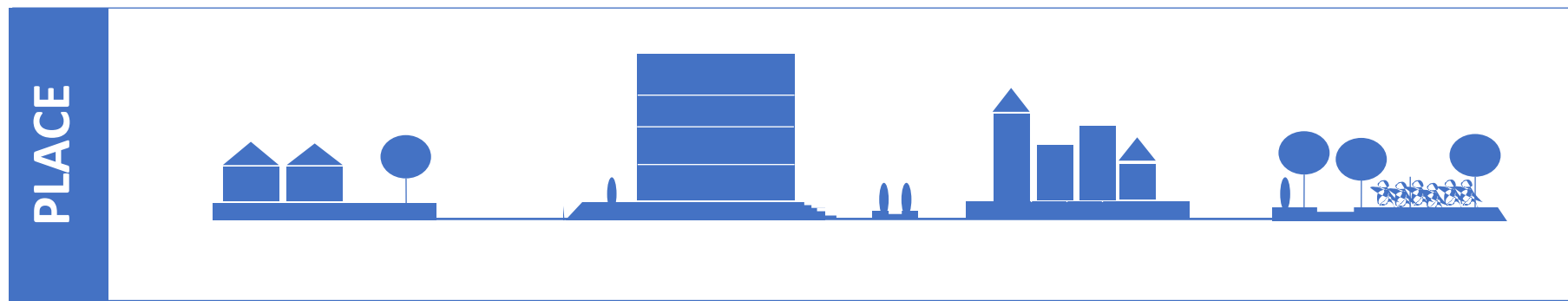
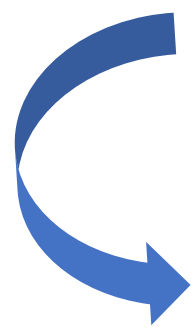
Infrastructures

- *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

- **Communication** is the most vital part of working together
- Must have this from the off
- If we all go in and are able to speak to each other, we can get to the **outcomes**
- Covid has caught the world out
- Should we be encouraging local communities to be doing a **risk assessment** on what could happen in their area
- Flood, fire, power outage
- What would we do in the event of one of these issues
- Community hall as emergency point; lowest point in the village....may not be useful in a flood
- Fire....gas tanks...street impact
- Encourage consideration
- **Review priorities** based on local insights on risk
- Communication
- Wifi and internet connections
- Children need to be educated at home,,,parents working at home...no wifi, causes frustration
- The internet has to be very good
- **Need the connectivity and the support to work digitally**
- Audit people's skills and experience in the community
- Find out what people can do, in the church, cleaning, meeting etc....the skills we have
- **Use the skills as a form of citizen panel**
- Help people realise the capabilities we have
- Have done this, works
- Colin and the law, help
- **People worrying about minor things that can be solved easily**
- Practical skills and other things

- Furlough, people working from home, use this
- Create a **personnel department** for the whole of a small business estate
- Confidentiality and trust
- Can overcome worries about handing over secrets
- **Hobbies and interests**, practical things people can do, and things they can use them for
- Community empowerment in a direct sense, not a technical sense
- **Build confidence in relationships**
- The Men;s Shed, computer room, and specialists
- People don't know about these things
- Need to know what exists, find out
- Have a very good risk assessment in Scottish Borders, resilience
- What wasn't covered was global pandemic
- The risk assessment could be adapted
- Clearing snow, getting people to Cemo...
- Every community has a risk assessment, adapt
- Community hall in Sprouston has never flooded; safe
- All village halls, 95, are local emergency centres, and have been used on multiple occasions for food etc
- Allows people to have a base searching for missing persons
- The Bridge, funded through SG, a role as part of Third Sector Interface
- A lot to do
- Has the most vibrant area of community activity
- People doing things they love that make a big difference

- Resilience groups self organising and swung into action
- A lot of organisations who do provide activities and services, lunch clubs and other activities to mitigate social isolation, they have been a huge miss
- Couldn't happen because of lock down
- Organised by older people for older people
- Not quick coming back
- Some halls open
- No Live Borders venues open to end August
- Has caused upset from organisations who would like to get started again
- Spaces not available
- **More needs to be done, community taking over premises**, not mega structures
- Needs of the people
- Jedburgh community looking to take over community spaces based on community need
- Re-entry for community groups
- Guidance and support
- Guidance based on the type of activity
- Broadband
- Young people have mentioned; school work, home work, stay in Borders for a job
- **Catalyst for young people to stay for good green jobs**
- **Engaging with young people**....doing a lot but people not knowing they are doing it
- Why is it **young people can't have a blether and do a craft**....why isn't it offered to us...space to be
- **Skills....bartering system**....a cheque book....if you did something for someone, you bank points and go to someone else and ask them to fix the door...cheque for points
- No money change hands

- Helps value the skills people have
- Young mums want a night off
- Local Exchange Trading System [LETS]
- Villages and smaller communities thrive
- Ones that thrive have institutions like shops, pubs, schools
- Provide meeting points, where people can interact
- Community ownership
- Community shops
- Jedburgh community looking to take over community spaces based on community need
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Success

Resilience

Skills audit

Connectivity and support

Meeting space[s]

Priorities

Ownership

Communication

Value and visibility

High level Risk

- Youth
- Improved premises
- Spaces to meet for a bit of craic and fun together
- Youth facilities don't get a lot of funding locally
- They spend a lot of time chasing funding to cover costs
- Success would be more support, more funding
- **If you value it, invest**
- Harnessing the older generation, many lonely, encourage talking, demonstrate old skills
- Working out the square root of 27 without computer
- Old skills for a new generation
- Sharing to support
- Hand tools and skills
- Craft

- **Two generations coming together for free, and create good**
- Need greater investment in youth provision of all ages
- It always gets cut
- Bringing multi generations together of skills to share with other....teaching girls to do woodwork, teach boys to knit
- Young people talk about loneliness and isolation
- **Share skills and companionship**
- Schools etc can be spaces to bring people together, and **not cost** as much as bringing in professional skills people
- **Local facilities are multi functional spaces...a community building as well as a school during the day....lots of other activities**
- At the centre of the community
- Schools out of hours....hefty charges
- **Multi generational activities**

- When you are out of a formal space like schools....need people with PVG etc so everybody knows everybody is safe
- Adds to cost
- **Want people to be safe**
- **Flexibility in communities**
- Aye been, drags communities down
- Be more flexible in the approach to change and resilience in oyrselfes
- Those who adapt quicker are on the ball quicker
- **Challenge and support**
- Reduced cost as opposed to no cost
- **Connectivity improved, need to be connected in a better way**
- **Indoor spaces and outdoor spaces matter**
- **Two generations coming together for free, and create good**
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Place workshop | Cheviot Area Partnership

Issues

Communication is the most vital part of working together. We must have this from the off. If we all go in and are able to speak to each other, we can get to the outcomes.

“Review existing community risk assessments”

Covid has caught the world out. Scottish Borders have good risk assessments for winter resilience. But what wasn't covered was a global pandemic. What would we do in the event of one of these issues in the future? For example, in some places the village hall as the emergency point occupies the lowest point in the village, not useful in a major flood event. Review priorities based on local insights on high level risk events.

“audit people's skills and experience in the community”

Find out what people can do, the skills we have in communities. Use the skills as a form of citizen panel. Help people realise the capabilities they have. There are people often worrying about minor things that can be solved easily through a conversation with someone local who has the skills.

Hobbies and skills offer a safe space to try things, another path way to opportunity.

Some areas have looked at a skills bartering system, like a Local Exchange Trading System [LETS. No money changes hands. It helps value the skills people have. And, it offers people time and support, a way of getting a night off from caring duties.

The key is to build confidentiality. And trust, so people overcome fears about talking about 'secrets'. This is community empowerment in a direct sense, not a technical sense. It is about building confidence in relationships. And, helping people discover what exists locally.

“build confidentiality and trust”

In the pandemic, resilience groups self organised and swung into action, making a big difference. However, a lot of organisations who provide lunch clubs and other activities to mitigate social isolation have been missed. Many activities couldn't happen because of lockdown. Often, these activities were organised by older people for older people and are not quick coming back.

Some halls are now open. But, there are no Live Borders venues open until the end of August. Spaces are not available to get started again. More needs to be done to support community taking over premises to meet the needs of people, not mega structures. And there is a need for more guidance and support on re-entry to physical spaces for community groups.

“Some activities don't have the space to come back”

Young people often mention the importance of broadband for school work, and home work. It is a catalyst for young people to stay for good green jobs. So, we need connectivity to be improved, and we need to be connected in a better way.

And young people are already doing a lot in our communities. But, often, people don't know. Young people often feel they need space for a blether or to do a craft, and wonder why it isn't offered to them. The need space to be. And improved connectivity to support school, home and work.

“connectivity is a catalyst for young people to stay for good green jobs”

Place workshop | Cheviot Area Partnership

Success

“If you value it, invest in it”

Success is about improved opportunities for youth, more spaces, and improved premises to meet for a bit of craic and fun together. Youth facilities don't get a lot of funding locally. We need greater investment in youth provision of all ages. It always gets cut, so youth organisations spend a lot of time chasing funding to cover costs. Success would be more support.

And, harness the skills of the older generation. Many people are lonely in our communities. Young people talk about loneliness and isolation too. Encourage talking. Demonstrate old skills like working out the square root of 27 without computer. Support girls to do woodwork. And boys to knit. Bring generations together, sharing skills and companionship for free to create good.

“we want local facilities to be more multi functional spaces”

Villages and smaller communities thrive where there are local institutions like shops, pubs, schools, spaces that provide meeting points where people can interact. Sometimes, these spaces are in community ownership, like the community shop. Support local spaces in local places.

Schools can be spaces to bring people together. And using local skills does not cost as much as bringing in professional people. So, we want local facilities to be more multi functional spaces. Schools as community building at the centre of the community, supporting lots of other activities as well as being a school during the day. But often schools out of hours use have hefty charges.

And, when activities take place out of a formal space like schools, you need people with PVG so everybody knows everybody is safe. This adds to cost. We are looking at reduced cost as opposed to no cost. And flexibility in the use of indoor and outdoor spaces.

“build a culture of support and challenge amongst ourselves”

'Aye been' drags communities down. Be more flexible in the approach to change and resilience in ourselves. Those who adapt quicker are on the ball quicker.