

Meeting

Date: Thursday, 9 February 2023
Time: 6:45pm
Location: Foulden Village Hall, Foulden, Berwickshire, TD15 1UH

Please note this is a physical meeting of the Area Partnership and the meeting will not therefore be livestreamed or recorded and there is no option to join online

AGENDA

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| 1. | Welcome |
| 2. | Feedback from meeting of 1 December 2022 (Pages 5 - 10) Consider Minute of Meeting held on 1 December 2022 for approval and signature by the Chair. (Copy attached.) |
| | Section 1: Service and Partner updates and consultations |
| 3. | Community Conversation feedback (Pages 11 - 22) (Copy attached.) |
| 4. | South of Scotland Community Housing An overview from Harry Whitmore, South of Scotland Community Housing (SOSCH) on support available to communities for community housing projects. |
| 5. | NHS Borders Karen Maitland – Primary Care, NHS Borders |
| | Section 2: Community Empowerment and Community Funding |
| 6. | Berwickshire Funding Table 2022-23 (Pages 23 - 24) Overview from SBC Communities and Partnership Team. (Copy attached.) |
| 7. | Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund (Pages 25 - 32) NSF recommendations to be presented by the Berwickshire assessment panel on the following applications: |

- The Cheyne Gang
- Greenlaw Bowling Club
- Perfect Harmony
- Chirnside Common Good Association
- Berwickshire Marine Reserve
- Berwickshire Marine Reserve & Abundant Borders
- Eyemouth & District Community Trust
- Berwickshire Cookery Club
- Gordon Community Sports Field Group
- Borders Pottery CIC
- Berwickshire Swap
- Outside the Box Development Support Ltd
- Abundant Borders
- Coldstream Heart Rhythm
- RBL Coldstream
- The Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service
- Border Womens Aid
- Duns Play Fest
- A Heart for Duns (AHFD)
- Duns Tennis Club
- Duns Golf Club
- Whitsome Village Hall
- Swinton & Ladykirk CC
- Grantshouse Village Hall
- Parent Space
- Ayton Christmas Lights Group
- Duns Rugby Club
- Duns Football Club
- Friends of Duns Primary
- East Berwickshire University of the Third Age (ebu3a)
- Gavinton Village Hall
- Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO
- Allanton Arts AHFD others
- Eyemouth Scout Group
- Cockburnspath Playground Association
- Eat Sleep Ride
- Learning Space
- Birgham Community Development Trust

(Copy attached.)

Section 3: Local Priorities

8. **Berwickshire Anti-Litter Group**

Alison Currie, Berwickshire Anti-Litter Group (BAG)

9. **Place Making**

Update from James Purves on Place Making progress in Berwickshire.

10. **Cost of living update** (Pages 33 - 34)

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| | SBC Communities and Partnership Team and BAVS. (Copy attached.) |
| | Section 4: Other |
| 11. | Additional Information document (Pages 35 - 38) (Copy attached.) |
| 12. | Next meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership Next meeting: Thursday 30 March 2023, agenda issued Thursday 16 March. |
| 13. | Any other business |
| 14. | Meeting evaluation |

Please direct any enquiries to William Mohieddeen
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**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

MINUTES of Meeting of the
BERWICKSHIRE AREA PARTNERSHIP
held in Coldstream Community Centre, High
Street, Coldstream, TD12 4AP on Thursday,
1 December 2022 at 6.30 pm

Present:- Councillors J. Anderson (Chair), J. Greenwell, C. Hamilton, D. Moffat, A. Orr and M. Rowley

Other organisations attendees: Ms J. Amaral (BAVS), Ms L. Anderson (Eyemouth CC); Mr J. Cairnie and Mr A. Johnson (Duns CC); Ms T. Collin (Allanton, Whitsome and Edrom CC), Ms D. Findlay, Ms J. Thomson and Ms W. Myers (Coldstream and District CC); Mr L. Inglis (Reston and Auchencrow CC), Ms A. McNeil (A Heart for Duns), Mr C. McQuinn (Hutton and Paxton CC), Ms R. Parker (The Frangipane Bakery), Mr D. Paterson (Berwickshire Housing Association) Ms J. Sutton (Cockburnspath and Cove CC) and Mr S. Wright (Chirnside CC).

In Attendance:- Community Co-ordinator (G. Jardine), Community Engagement Officer (J. Purves), Sergeant Alison Grainger (Police Scotland); Ms Rachel Hardie and Mr T. Jackson (Borders Greenway); Group Commander Douglas Tait (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership and to Coldstream Community Centre.

2. REPORT FROM POLICE SCOTLAND

The Chair introduced Community Sergeant Alison Grainger to deliver a presentation on Police Scotland work in Berwickshire communities. Sergeant Grainger advised that there was guidance for police officers to attend Coldstream and District, Duns and Eyemouth community councils while attendance for smaller community councils could be arranged on request. In Berwickshire, there were three community police constables, two based in Eyemouth and one based in Duns. Availability of police officers was affected by resources and Sergeant Grainger advised that community officers would fill gaps in provision affected by response police officers. In response to a question on whether there was enough police officers needed to cover the area, Sergeant Grainger advised that there were generally two police constables to cover each area however the Borders was a challenging local authority area to cover and that the guidance from the Chief Inspector was that Police Scotland should meet needs rather than expectations. Police Scotland were always recruiting and it was advised that the policy of retirement being available for police officers over 50 years-old or with 25 years of service brought challenges to Police Scotland capacity. Road safety and speeding in communities was discussed and attendees raised the possibility of more dragon's teeth road markings being used. Sergeant Grainger advised that she worked regularly with Scottish Borders Council Road Network Team Leader on issues of road safety. Mr Inglis raised the importance for the

police representation on the Berwickshire Community Safety Panel and Sergeant Grainger advised that she could be contacted by email to discuss possible police attendance. Sergeant Grainger advised that high-risk missing persons contributed to a great deal of work for Police Scotland. It had been observed that mental health issues have increased since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and that the impact on incidences of high-risk missing persons required a lot of police resource. The Chair thanked Sergeant Grainger for her contribution and advised attendees that councillors work with Police Scotland and could pass on any messaging through the Area Partnership.

3. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING OF 1 SEPTEMBER 2022**

- 3.1 There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 1 September 2022. Mr Dougie Paterson, Berwickshire Housing Association, advised that he had also been in attendance at the meeting.
- 3.2 With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the Meeting held on 1 September 2022, the Chair advised that Ayton Heritage had already received funding elsewhere and that the panel didn't want to disclose that information before the funding scenario had been clarified.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute of the Meeting for signature by the Chair subject to the change detailed above.

URGENT BUSINESS

Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chair was of the opinion that the item dealt with in the following paragraph should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, in view of the need to keep Members informed.

4. **REPORT FROM SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

- 4.1 The Chair invited Dougie Tait, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Group Commander for Midlothian, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders to provide an update on fire and rescue matters for Berwickshire. The following statistics of incidences in Berwickshire for the year to date were presented to the Area Partnership.
- There had been 8 accidental dwelling fires, which caused 3 deaths
 - There had been 48 recorded incidences of other fires
 - There had been 41 non-fire incidences including 19 road traffic collisions, with 3 requiring rescue work with 6 recorded injuries
 - The service had seen an increase of incidences where forced entry was required for partner agencies, there had been 16 incidences recorded.
 - There was a significant recording of unwanted fire alarm signals, there were 91 since the first year quarter.
- 4.2 An on-call watch commander was introduced to co-ordinate non-fire related work. There were three on-call stations in Berwickshire. The service operated its own community action team which consisted of 4 firefighters and a Local Area Liaison Officer. 48 home fire safety visits for the most vulnerable had taken place. More community activity was able to take place following the ease of restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic which included CPR training at The Hirsell, Coldstream and bonfire safety talks in schools. With regards to skills development in the service, training activity had taken place for flood response. Coldstream station was appointed as wildfire support station following a period in July-August 2022 where there were wildfire incidences in the area. Group Commander Tait advised that the service supports wildfire response in Northumberland. With regards to recruitment, the Duns station saw an increase of personnel from 5 to 10 following targeted recruitment work. Daytime availability of personnel increased from 34% to 80% and there was an aim to increase availability by 25% in Coldstream and Eyemouth. Pre-recruitment opportunities were available for

prospective personnel to meet crew and observe training.

- 4.3 Group Commander Tait responded to questions from attendees. It was confirmed that damage to Duns fire station caused by Storm Arwen was resolved and the service's business continuity plan ensured that emergency availability was maintained. With regards to reports related to institutional prejudice in the London Fire Brigade, Group Commander Tait advised that he wasn't aware of the situation there, however his experience was that in 25 years of service in Scotland, he had not come across anything like what had been described in the reports of the London Fire Brigade. With regards to fire alarm legislation, the service initially fitted new smoke detectors for high-risk people. Group Commander Tait advised that information on CPR training could be accessed through groups contacting him by email.

DECISION

AGREED to circulate contact details for community groups to access support from SFRS community action team

5. BORDERS GREENWAY BRIEFING

- 5.1 The Chair invited Rachel Hardie to present an update on work taking place to establish an active travel route connecting Tweedbank Station with Eyemouth using the route of the old Berwickshire railway. The project started in 2020 when the potential was identified for connecting Tweedbank and Reston stations via the old railway route. There were benefits identified in three categories:
- People – Mental health and fitness benefits in a route with no traffic.
 - Place – active travel would have economic benefits for local businesses, and to connect communities.
 - Planet – active travel would be beneficial in the context of the climate crisis encouraging a shift from using cars.
- 5.2 In 2021, a group was formed to advocate the establishment of the route and which put a proposal to South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE) who provided funding for a Scottish Borders Council-led feasibility study which was reported on in May 2022. The proposal put forward was for a hard-surface buggy/wheelchair friendly path for walkers and cyclists. The accommodation for equestrian use was being debated. In October 2021, a formal community collaboration group was established to work with communities to identify the most feasible route for the route. A walk of the old railway line from Earlston to Gordon had taken place to assess barriers and fencing for reporting to Scottish Borders Council. Community Councils were encouraged to participate in the group and to find out more by visiting <https://www.gavinton.net>.
- 5.3 Ms Hardie advised the route would be 40 miles-long and that over the course of the old railway line, two-thirds was walkable and access was allowed over three-quarters of the route. Roads were to be avoided as far as possible and final route had not been determined. The Chair thanked Ms Hardie for the presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

MEMBER

Councillor Rowley joined the meeting during discussion of the above item.

6. UPDATE FROM NHS BORDERS

- 6.1 The Chair invited Mr Inglis, Reston and Auchencrow Community Council to introduce the item. A representative from NHS Borders primary care was not able to attend the meeting to address health centre matters. Adelle McElrath, Director of Dentistry of NHS Borders provided an update on dentist provision in Berwickshire and the Scottish Borders. Dr McElrath advised that primary dental care was provided through general services and public services. It was explained that general services were generally provided through

independent, high street-based dental practices. Public services were employed by NHS Borders and provided a safety net which offered services to the vulnerable, children and for emergency care. The Covid-19 pandemic had affected dental provision. There were 16 general dental services in the Scottish Borders and activity was at 84% higher than the national average. Public dental services were working hard to cover unscheduled and emergency care. Recruitment was increasingly an issue for dental services as nurses and receptionists were leaving the service. The establishment of a new dental surgery for Duns was progressing. Advertising for the new surgery couldn't begin until inspections on equipment had taken place. There was a potential for capability of 4,500 patients and registrations were being accepted on their website.

- 6.2 Dr McElrath advised that due to annual leave and sickness, there was not anyone available from NHS Borders to address the closure of the Chirnside Health Centre.

7. **PLACE MAKING**

- 7.1 The Chair invited Anne McNeil to present an update on the Duns and District Place Plan development. A meeting on place making in Duns had recently taken place with over people from various local groups. Amongst issues discussed were the desire to look at natural spaces like the park. Feedback also highlighted the desire for face-to-face consultancy to take place with someone that understood the community. It was identified that when data is collected from the community that resource was needed to take forward the work. A Heart for Duns had a part-time development officer led by a voluntary lead officer, however additional resource was needed to take forward place planning. Attendees discussed capacity requirements for communities take forward place making. Ms McNeil advised that a full-time officer could take forward this work and that A Heart for Duns would otherwise not have the capacity to take forward the work.

- 7.2 Attendees undertook table discussions for 10 minutes to discuss taking forward place making in communities.

8. **COAST TO COAST CYCLE ROUTE**

The Chair invited Councillor Rowley to present an update on developments of the Coast to Coast Cycle Route in place of Lena Hutton, South of Scotland Enterprise. Councillor Rowley advised that a soft launch of the route would soon take place and that the concept was for a cycling equivalent of the Southern Upland Way. The route would begin at Stranraer and would aim to go through as many settlements as possible along the route, making connections through scenic roads. The end point was intended to be Eyemouth. The expected time taken for keen recreational cyclists to complete the route would be 4-7 days. The intended impact of the route would be that investment would follow for e-bike storage and other infrastructure. The route has been fully funded and would follow as a legacy of the UCI World Championships which would take place in Scotland in August 2023. Councillor Rowley advised that project would not be an engineering project and that the route would be supported by new signage and a mobile application. Attendees discussed the route, and raised the importance of investing in road quality for cyclists and other users.

9. **COST OF LIVING UPDATE**

The Community Co-ordinator provided an update on activity and support across the Borders and in Berwickshire in relation to the cost of living. Scottish Borders Council had £1.2 million to support communities and households with the rising cost of living. Some activity was related to food including work with Fareshare and the Low and Slow Project with NHS Borders and Changeworks. BAVS had opened Warm Spaces Fund which used funding from SBC. Ms Amaral of BAVS advised that support had been received from The National Lottery and that applications to the fund were being received. Ms Amaral advised that there had been concerns raised with food distribution and that there had been movement to advocate for a 'cash first' approach. Councillor Anderson advised that feedback had been received from foodbanks for donations of pet food. Attendees raised concern about ongoing impact of the cost of living crisis and what further support there

would be from SBC. This would be dependent on the announcement of local authority funding from the Scottish Government which was due for December 2022. Mr Inglis advised that storage heaters had been switched off in the Reston community larder due to uncertainty of how to pay for heating. Feedback from users indicated that financial support was required possibly to cover food vouchers or money off electricity bills. It was noted that less food was being donated through Fareshare. The Community Coordinator advised that supermarket vouchers were available for distribution and the information to access them could be shared with community groups. Communities and Partnerships advised they would follow-up with community groups with information related to food vouchers and food distribution.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

10. **BERWICKSHIRE FUNDING TABLE 2022-23**

There had been circulated copies of the Berwickshire Funding Table which showed available funding in the Berwickshire area. Communities and Partnership confirmed balances of funds available and noted there were no applications for funding to be considered at the meeting. The Neighbourhood Support Fund began with £99,997.19 for 2022-23 and that £62,565.64 of funding had been awarded since 1 April 2022.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

The meeting concluded at 8.40 pm.

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No. in attendance: 15

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| Overall summary of Issues | |
| Positive Feedback from the event indicated the Council is clearly trying to develop the Place Making agenda. The work being undertaken on climate change is welcomed as is the attempt to engage with communities through these sessions and address the challenges they face. | |
| There are however a number of challenging issues raised as part of the community conservation in Hawick and Denholm Ward. A number of these are thought to be opinions expressed for which no specific action is required e.g. SOSE not forgetting its commitment to projects, or isolated fault issues e.g. street lighting during the day. There are also a number of issues which are subjective individual perceptions e.g. Denholm school a mess. | |

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| You said | We Propose To |
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| Social Work under stress | A review of the capacity of Social Work to support communities is underway. New information systems are being implemented to provide better information management re case load. Programmes are in place to grow our own social workers, 5 recently qualified and new intake are in training. Front line staff are being empowered with hand held technology to reduce admin burden. |
| Planning permission required to change colour of door as in conservation area | The Chief Planning Officer will undertake a review of planning policy with respect to conservation areas |
| Drivers not adhering to 20 mph speed limit in Denholm | The Council is currently consulting on the future pilot arrangements re 20mph. The scheme has recently won a national road safety award and there has been a significant reduction in accidents of around 34% since the introduction of the scheme. |
| Street sweepers in Denholm once in a blue moon | The Council will review the adequacy of street sweeping arrangements and publish the frequency of road sweeping. |
| Weeds on paths | To raise awareness of policy re. weed spraying which is costly and damaging to the environment. Community groups to be assisted with grants to buy tools to help with weed control. |
| Send biggest bin lorry to streets built in mid 40s | Council will review vehicles on routes to ensure they are appropriate to the physical layout of streets. It may be however, that a replacement vehicle was deployed due to the breakdown of a regular collection vehicle |
| Potholes | Council has purchased a pot master pro and is looking to source another. Three jet patchers are now active on the network. The council will publish its planned roads maintenance programme in the future highlighting to the community when maintenance is planned. |
| Hawick Youth Rugby & Lindean - in Feb John Curry/Mark Rowley met at the pitch at new high school. SRU have a time limited grant of 50k time of which there is two and half years left. Volunteer park previously raised. | There are issues with the pitch at the volunteer park and the stand will be examined as part of the Hawick High School Replacement project. |
| Application to buy a bike shed on Denholm primary school car park by the community hall (reg charity and SCIO) still not resolved after 4 years. When will it be finalised? Funding coming from non SBC sources. | A review of the efficiency of the community asset transfer policy is to be undertaken |
| Access: transportation - linkage on the pathway system from Denholm to Hawick. Clear need to link Denholm in to the active travel network. Public transport inadequate. No bus after 6pm in the evening. There is an existing pathway but 1 mile is on the road (Hassendean Bank) comes out at the CRC | Council is developing its strategy re. path networks and seeking to encourage active travel and healthy lifestyles. The Hawick active travel network was funded by Sustrans and they and SOSE will be engaged to assess the potential for extending the scheme to Denholm, subject to funding. |
| Building Control - In recognising the difficulties that the construction industry continue to experience, why are building control so rigid in their enforcement of deadlines. Need for more flexibility in timelines. Discussion to be had re making this easier for construction professionals. No flexibility. Pressure on everyone. | Review of approach to development deadlines. |
| Ability to access applications, online and comment via a link has died. Now a Word document attached to an email is required. When a Word doc is submitted there is no guarantee that the doc is available to those viewing. Consultees lose certainty, why was this necessary. | Review of approach to the way in which the community council can access the planning portal and comment on individual applications |
| Denholm CC - has happened coincidental with Covid, the CC previously always informed via email and letter when a planning application was submitted to permit comment. CC no longer seem to be notified, expected to access weekly list to find applications. CC should have an automatic notification, can this be looked at? List has to be opened - is it not spendable? | The reinstatement of the previous system whereby the community were notified of a planning application to be explored |
| Live Borders no provision for secondary age pupils. | Review of sports and activity strategy to be undertaken with Live Borders. |

No. in attendance: 14

Overall summary of Issues

General issues of town maintenance, roads, public toilets, parking, Saltgreens - meals, Safe Place scheme, old Eyemouth High School, need for affordable housing

| You said | We Propose To |
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| General maintenance around swimming pool, bottle banks, bins, pilot "big belly bins". Make waste bins seagull proof. There are weeds everywhere, footpaths overgrown, inadequate lighting at Deanhead Drive and Road | We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, painting railings etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot (regrettably) do everything we would like to and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. The suggestions re new types of bins that are gull proof will be looked at. |
| Roads - some need resurfacing, Home Arms car park, whole length at back of Murrayfield needs tarmac. Lack of drop down kerbs | We are currently developing a new approach to roads maintenance which allows communities to determine planned road maintenance priorities in their areas. The Council now has 3 jet patchers and one pot master pro active on the road network filling in pot holes but it is recognised more needs to be done to address larger sections of roads which require resurfacing. |
| Warner Park - nets and fencing needs repaired, parking issues | We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, railing etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot regrettably do everything and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. |
| Food supply at Saltgreens | The Council wants to ensure residents in all our care homes have access to the best quality food and continually review the quality and affordability of products provided by our suppliers. A recent pilot arrangement in schools using local supplier to provide butcher meat has proved to be very successful and we are looking at ways in which this approach can be rolled out. |
| Safe place scheme - not just for LD cases | We are in agreement for the need of safe places and we are exploring how we can become part of the Safe Place Scheme. |
| No public toilets at Reston car park | We have delivered multi million pound upgrades to parks in a number of our communities in recent years. If a park for Reston is a priority then this should be raised via local councillors so that it can be added to the list of future schemes that may be undertaken. |
| More money should be spent on tourism in Berwickshire | We would love to spend more money on tourism, regrettably this has to be prioritised against other issues. There is a community fund and a Coastal maritime fund which may be able to provide some support. We are also engaging with SOSE and the Gunsgreen house trust to look at investment requirements at Eyemouth harbour. |
| Eyemouth HS - what is happening with old High School and play park and tennis courts | A plan for the redevelopment of the old High school site is being prepared by Council officers and will be subject to future community consultation. |
| Toilets in Eyemouth in poor condition | A report on the future provision of toilets is being developed for consideration by members. This may involve rationalising the number of public toilets we have across the region. We have too many and cannot afford to operate and upgrade them all. This is a non statutory service and we need to prioritise where we can invest and sustain services. In the future we may have fewer but better facilities. |
| Social enterprise - gluten free bakery at risk of losing grant, needs a property | This issue has been resolved and the bakery is now occupying alternative premises. |
| Allanton - 20mph - concerns over speeding, parking on pavements, school bus safety. Speed on New Harbour road Eyemouth | The Council has introduced a trial 20mph speed limit scheme in many communities and is currently consulting on the future of this scheme. If there is a desire to see more roads included as part of this scheme then this could be looked at, subject to the outcome of the consultation. |
| Continued partnership with Harbour Trust | The Council has an excellent relationship with the Harbour trust and supports their ongoing activities both financially and in kind. We wish to see this relationship develop in future, building on the success of the EDF investment in the harbour and the expansion of the marine servicing base. |
| Number of holiday lets stopping local residents finding affordable housing | The Council is working with local RSL partners through the Strategic Housing Improvement Plan to enhance the number of local affordable houses. We recognise this is a major issue for local people. We can use use powers under council tax legislation to levy an additional tax on second homes, however is a private decision for individuals if they wish to own and let out a second home in an area. We will discuss this further with Scottish Government to see if there are ways we could acquire more homes for public ownership when they come onto the open market. |
| Healthcare provision, GPs and dentists - not good | Not a responsibility of SBC. Will be raised with NHS Borders and the IJB. |

No. in attendance: 15

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| Overall summary of Issues |
| Main topic was the new Campus, plus general issues of buses, maintenance, Gala Resource Centre, dialogue with community, working conditions for teachers, Burgh Yard, Mountain Bike trails, cheap rents for students, college graduates, history of area |
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| You said | We Propose To |
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| Why are bus timetables no longer in print | Online access to bus timetables is considered to be more environmentally friendly and easier to update |
| General maintenance and upkeep of Galashiels; Volunteer Hall signage, bins in Lintburn street, rubbish lying on Channel Street, weeds everywhere, general poor standard of cleanliness and poor upkeep of cemeteries | We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget, which can be used to address issues such as benches, painting railings etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot (regrettably) do everything we would like to and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. |
| Status of Gala Resource Centre | The building is not currently in use and we are awaiting for the building to be transferred to Estates. This will then be available for any interested parties. |
| More dialogue with community in regards to what projects are happening/on-going | Agreed. The council is currently considering ways in which we can engage, inform and consult with communities more effectively |
| New Academy - campus | The Council is progressing the delivery of the new campus as quickly as possible using Hub South East . Planning permission for the new facility is now in place and the project is progressing. We believe the proposed location of the school within Scott Park provides the optimum solution which will allow the building to be constructed with minimum impact on the delivery of the curriculum. |
| Improve working conditions for teachers | The working conditions for teachers are regularly discussed in meetings between the council and the trades union to ensure all workers have the best possible terms and conditions and the best possible working environment |
| Would like the Council to lead the green agenda | The council is doing everything it can to reduce our carbon footprint; green council fleet, reducing our energy consumption and encouraging bio diversity. We have declared a climate emergency and are actively pursuing a net zero agenda for 2045. |
| Mountain bike trails for Galashiels | Active cycling network throughout the Borders including Gala is being developed using a network of multi use paths. The Council's ambition is for the Borders to develop its status as a top destination of cycling and mountain biking. The region will host the Enduro World mountain biking championships in 2023 and the council is one of the sponsors of the event. |
| Cheap rents and grants to keep college graduates in area | This is not something, regrettably, that current resources will allow. The council is however a living wage employer and encourages all its partners and suppliers to also sign up to the scheme. |
| Recording history of area, re-use old buildings | The council is working with SOSE to undertake the development of place plans which will examine a range of issues facing communities including the need to regenerate high streets, improve the appearance of the public realm and adopt a more interventionist approach to dealing with problem buildings. The first 4 sessions are planned for Hawick, Galashiels, Jedburgh and Eyemouth in November and it is proposed that more sessions, including Selkirk will follow. |

No. in attendance: 12

Overall summary of Issues

Main issues were CARS, Teviot Wind Farm, Eskdale Muir Rifle Range, general maintenance, roads etc., issues re money to town

| You said | We Propose To |
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| Roads - cold tar filling, idling vehicles - emissions | The council recognise that the use of cold tar is problematic and we only use this for emergency pothole repairs. We are currently developing a new approach to roads maintenance which allows communities to determine planned road maintenance priorities in their areas. The Council now has 3 jet patchers and one pot master pro active on the road network filling in pot holes but it is recognised more needs to be done to address larger sections of roads which require re surfacing. |
| McDonalds - bringing more rubbish | Noted. This could only be solved by people changing their behaviour and attitude to litter. |
| CARS is a façade, prohibitive costs | The Council believe that the CARS scheme provide a valuable boost to the appearance of town centres and the scheme that have been delivered to date have provided significant benefits for communities. |
| Use 3D to show what new HS may look like | Thank you this will be explored |
| Teviot wind farm | These issues will be addressed with planning colleagues. |
| Biodiversity issues in the Borders | The Council has declared a climate emergency and is encouraging wild flowers and bio diversity through reprioritising its grass cutting regime. This is not proving popular with all sections of the community The Biodiversity of environments along the Tweed has been the subject of action following council reports and the use of weed killer and salt is being managed more carefully. |
| Eskdale Muir rifle range | These issues will be addressed with planning colleagues. |
| Impact of walls for flooding, maintenance | The flood protection scheme will provide 1 in 75 flood protection to the town and protect over 900 properties for the blight of flooding. The scheme is being delivered to a very high standard of design and finish. |
| Community hospital - 7 gardens - friends maintain | Community hospitals are operated by NHS Borders |
| General maintenance - weeds, cemeteries, gaps in pavements, litter bins in laybys never emptied, lack of dog poo and litter bins at Acre Know | We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, railing etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot regrettably do everything and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. |

No. in attendance: 10

| |
|---|
| Overall summary of Issues |
| There was only one attendee, Provost Gavin Horsburgh who raised various issues from maintenance, Gypsy Travellers, Public toilets, bus shelter, Maxmill Park, council systems, community and taxi transport |
| |

| You said | We Propose To |
|--|--|
| Glebe Wall Bridge Street, owned by Church of Scotland, can CoS give third of land for car parking | Need to explore this with the Church of Scotland. Maybe something the community council could discuss with the Church. |
| General maintenance issues, install lighting to footpath between Bridge St and Mayfield Gdn Centre, no precinct sweeper in Kelso | We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, railing etc. The council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot regrettably do everything and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. The issue of the precinct sweeper in Kelso will be looked at. |
| Prevent Gypsy travellers camping in Kelso | Gypsy travellers are a recognised equalities group and SBC cannot take legal steps to prevent people camping in Kelso. Where any illegal traveller encampments occur on council owned land we will take steps to ensure their duration is minimised. The council has no legal powers to evict Gypsy travellers from private land but can provide advice to landowners. |
| Public toilets, provide tap and go access | In line with many areas across the UK, the council is having to charge for this non statutory service; however, the development of cashless tap and go facility can be looked at. The initial capital outlay and complexity of providing wi-fi connected cashless infrastructure across the Borders may prove to be ineffective in cost terms given take up and other logistical challenges. |
| Home to school transport | The logistics of providing home to school transport across such a large area in the Scottish Borders are significantly challenging and complex. Nevertheless, we are keen to hear of ways in which this could be improved and would suggest this be the subject of further review. |
| Bus shelter in town a poor environment, buses mounting kerbs | The council is keen to examine ways in which rural transport can be boosted. Perhaps this is something the community council could take forward in partnership with SBC? |
| Potential purchaser of the Maxmill site (owner of the old gasworks on Sprouston Road/ Station Road. This is currently temporary/ homelessness accommodation to support homelessness services and now the Ukraine crisis. Willing to pay the DV value | This will be subject to further investigation |
| Community and Taxi transport does not seem joined up particularly in supporting patients travelling to and from BGH. | The council recognises the importance of transport connectivity to rural communities in particular in accessing employment, education and health appointments. Regrettably given the geography of the Borders and the significant travel distances involved, transport is a huge issue. We are piloting a rural demand responsive transport service in Berwickshire which is providing encouraging early feedback, but any ideas as to how transport services could be improved for the Cheviot area and Kelso would be welcome. |
| Council systems can be laborious for members of the community. CC tends to get information manually by secretary, planning portal and social media. | Thank you for the feedback. We are trying to develop more immediate forms of information dissemination including Twitter, Facebook, yammer and via the council's website. Any ideas you have in terms of how we could communicate more effectively will be gratefully considered. |

LEADERDALE AND MELROSE ISSUES 14/7/2022

No. in attendance:

5

Overall summary of Issues

Road conditions, better interaction with CC's, cemeteries, Council phone system

| You said | We Propose To |
|---|---|
| Road conditions - potholes and white lining, roads narrow due to lack of verge cleaning | We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, painting railings etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot (regrettably) do everything we would like to and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. |
| Want to see better interaction with CC's | We agree and the council will explore how we can engage more effectively with community councils. |
| cemetery conditions | This is a significant issue for many people and we are currently reviewing the approach to cemetery maintenance and grave stones in cemeteries that are still being used. |
| Council phone system - being cut off after being on hold for 30 mins - told will get a call back but never does | We recognise this is currently a problem. Many people are frustrated by problems accessing council services using the 0300 number. We are urgently looking at ways in which this can be improved including ways of accessing council services using the councils website are being developed. The capacity of systems underpinning the 0300 number is a known problem which is being addressed with CGI. |

No. in attendance: 6

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|---|
| Overall summary of Issues |
| Reston station, platform at Berwick station, roads, CC's, signage |
| |

| You said | We Propose To |
|--|--|
| Reston Station - inconsistent train timings, to and from Reston to Edinburgh. Platform gap north end of Berwick Station. | This is not an issue where the council has any direct locus. The council leader has recently written to Scottish Ministers expressing frustration and concern at the lack of a Scotrail operated service to the new station. |
| approaching Duns from Berwick, roads - resurfaced but not renewed all white lining | This will be prioritised within the white lining programme and addressed as quickly as possible. |
| Community Council working group - how to see what other CC's are doing | This is an issue that community councils could seek to resolve |
| Signs for the original caravan site on the green still in place in Coldstream | This will be looked at to remove the sign asap. |

No. in attendance:

10

Overall summary of Issues

David Deacon emailed a list of issues but didn't approach anyone at the meeting. Main concerns were general maintenance, ECH needed for LD, Roads, council 0300 number, re-generation of high street and old Sainsbury's building, gypsy travellers, CAT Team, closure of banks and ATM's, new school - will it be a campus.

| You said | We Propose To |
|---|---|
| General issues, garden waste collections, no pavement sweeper, maintenance of cycle paths, state of pavements in town, Salt bins - lid missing, cemeteries, state of kingsland avenue, Pringle park - dog mess and grass, choked drains, stones down in cemeteries, | We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, railing etc. The council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot regrettably do everything and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. |
| ECH housing needed for LD | The council is exploring the development of new facilities for LD clients with Cornerstone, trying to replicate the facility the currently operate in the West of Scotland. |
| General road issues; one way system Yarrow Terrace & Buccleuch Road, speed limits, 20 mph limit. Provision of a taxi rank? Not enough parking | These issues will be passed on to the roads team to address. A consultation over the 20mph limit is currently underway. |
| Council 0300 number, difficulty getting right person | Ways of accessing council services using the councils website are being developed. The capacity of systems underpinning the 0300 number is a known problem which is being addressed with CGI. |
| Re-generation of high street; need an affordable supermarket and housing | The council is working with South Of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) to undertake the development of place plans which will examine a range of issues facing communities including the need to regenerate high streets, improve the appearance of the public realm and adopt a more interventionist approach to dealing with problem buildings. The first 4 sessions are planned for Hawick, Galashiels, Jedburgh and Eyemouth and it is proposed that more sessions, including Selkirk will follow. |
| Gypsy Travellers | The council is trying to look at ways in which the needs of the travelling community can be better met in the Borders and a report is coming to council on this issue in November/ December. It is recognised the caravan site at Victoria Park is not the best location for services for travellers and alternative arrangements need to be planned and provided. The site is operated by Live Borders and was made available to travellers during COVID lockdown in response to COVID legislation. There are no plans to compensate local businesses, this would not be an appropriate response to the way in which this equalities group have been accommodated. |
| CAT Team | A review of the CAT team is currently underway. The council currently funds 14 police officer in the Borders to address issues of community concern. |
| Selkirk High School - will new school be a campus, any proposed location | There are currently no plans to replace Selkirk High School. The council is currently replacing Galashiels and Peebles High schools assisted by Scottish Government Funding. The replacement of Hawick High school is also being planned and Selkirk will require the identification of additional resource. If proposals emerge they will be the subject on extensive community consultation. |
| Closure of Banks, ATM's | This is a commercialisation for the banking sector and reflects the move to online banking and cashless transactions. While the council can express concern we have no powers to legislate in this area. |

Overall summary of Issues

Concerns re prescriptions, venues for workshops for art groups etc., CAT team, public toilets, roads, Puffin Crossing, cyclists, need housing for locals - being bought for Air BnBs, Council contact system, affordable office space, Walkerburn village hall, should swimming be mandatory

| You said | We Propose To |
|---|---|
| Concerns about length of time to get prescriptions at Chemists, Haylodge HC | This is not an issue that is within the remit of the council. Suggest this be raised directly with the NHS Borders by the community. |
| Opps to support art groups, venues for workshops, use of St Ronans Well Centre | Such opportunities will have to be developed by the community themselves but may be eligible for a community grant. |
| CAT Team, breakdown in relationship with CC's | The ongoing provision of the CAT team is currently under review and will be considered to be part of the budget process for 23/24. |
| Public toilets - not enough in Innerleithen | The council is struggling with available resources to maintain all services and a number of non statutory service such as toilets in some communities are currently closed. We need to prioritise the facilities we can sustain and invest in improving the condition of fewer remaining facilities. A strategy on public toilet provision is being developed and will be brought to Council shortly |
| Roads - Nursery park road conditions, lack of EV Chargers, parking, Puffin Crossing | The council is developing a new strategy of community enablement so that we can assist communities to undertake more of these types of activities and improvements themselves using the community grants scheme. We want to help communities with start up grants, equipment and expertise to improve the appearance of local areas. The council does not have the resources to fund all the infrastructure required or desired by communities and the roll out of EV charging points must involve the private sector and an understanding that this infrastructure will be on pay to use basis. A strategy is coming forward to council to develop the Regions' approach to EV charging. |
| Concerns re cyclists on road, more could be done on safety | Agreed and with limited resources the council must prioritise its investment in the road network. Safety of cyclists is a priority and the councils' investing through Borderlands and other funding in active travel networks, multi use paths and road safety measures e.g. the 20mph zones to assist with the safety of cyclists. |
| Council contact system | The council is actively working to address the current performance of the council contact system including the number of dropped calls |
| Affordable office space | The council is currently considering how we can work with SOSE to improve the stock of small units and offices for start up businesses and on going activity throughout the region. |
| Village hall in Walkerburn struggling financially | A number of village halls are struggling financially and we need to consider in the current climate whether the total number of halls can be sustained in communities or whether building based service need to be rationalised e.g. into the local school. |
| Area partnerships need to change | Agreed. This needs further discussion with communities. |
| Should swimming lessons be mandatory | The Director of Education is actively considering whether swimming lessons should be provided to pupils in all borders schools. There are significant logistical implications concerning teaching time, tavel and pool availbaility to be considered and addressed. |

TUESDAY 12TH JULY - TWEEDDALE WEST

No. in attendance:

8

Overall summary of Issues

The main concern raised was the Bus Service 101/102, community willing to host Ukraine's, volunteers interested in helping with maintenance of cemeteries etc., roads, Graham Inst

| You said | We Propose To |
|---|--|
| | |
| Bus Service 101/102, not enough seats on buses | This is the subject of an ongoing process to sustain service 101/102. Funding partners have agreed to fund the service to the 31st March and discussions with the community over the future service delivery model are currently underway. |
| Good waste collection service, recycling guidance | Very useful feedback thank you. |
| Hosting Ukraine's - many willing to host | There is a comprehensive process in place to assist Ukrainian refugees arriving in Scotland coordinated by the Director of Social Work and under the guidance of the Scottish Government. The contribution of individuals and communities to the vital relief effort is greatly appreciated. It is up to village groups to work together if they feel there are better ways of coordinating local support activities. Information is available on the Council Website or by contacting the relief team |
| Volunteers interested in helping with grass cutting, care of cemetery, war memorial - resilient communities, work closer with Community Councils, devolved budget | The Council is developing a new strategy of community enablement so that we can assist communities to undertake more of these types of activities themselves using the community grants scheme. We want to help communities with start up grants, equipment and expertise to improve the appearance of local areas. |
| Roads - potholes, 20 mph speed limit, EV Chargers, parking at Drummond Knows | The Council is developing an approach to planned roads maintenance whereby communities will be consulted over priority road repairs in their areas. The 20mph trial is currently the subject of an ongoing public consultation and the results of this will be reported to Council before a final decision is taken. |
| Start up business units | The Council is currently considering how we can work with SOSE to improve the stock of small units and offices for start up businesses and ongoing activity throughout the region. |
| EV Charges | The council does not have the resources to fund all the infrastructure required or desired by communities and the roll out of EV charging points must involve the private sector and an understanding that this infrastructure will be on pay to use basis. A strategy is coming forward to Council to develop the Regions' approach to EV charging. |

JEDBURGH AND DISTRICT ISSUES 9/8/2022

No. in attendance: 11

| |
|--|
| Overall summary of Issues |
| The main issues in Jed were consultation for old high school bldgs, scaffolding, library in campus, bus service 51, general maintenance, sea gulls, Live Borders charges, info re staff working at home, ground near St Johns church |
| |

| You said | We Propose To |
|--|---|
| Standard of maintenance, lack of dialogue with communities, SBC ownership doesn't allow volunteers, vandalism to benches, grass cutting, foot paths not maintained | We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, painting railings etc. The council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot (regrettably) do everything we would like to and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. |
| Development of Old Grammar school buildings/site | Plans are being developed for the old grammar school site |
| Concerns re scaffolding | The redevelopment of the unsafe building at exchange square is progressing and scaffolding will be removed shortly |
| Live Borders charging too much for use of buildings | The charging for sport and leisure facility access is currently being examined to ensure prices are sustainable, fair and consistent across the council's estate. |
| Seagulls are becoming a concern | Gull nuisance is a problem in many communities. The Council will explore the potential for introducing gull proof bins and the public can assist by using gull proof food waste recycling receptacles, where these are provided and by not putting out rubbish which will attract gulls and other animals. |
| Jedburgh not mentioned on Scotrail advertising in Tweedbank | This is perhaps an issue the community council could raise directly with Scotrail. |
| Library in new campus - not accessible for all | We are speaking to community representatives about a community run facility in the town centre |
| Medical centre - issues getting in to centre, is centre closing | This is an issue for NHS Borders |
| Jedburgh Trust - swimming pool expanding | The council is currently looking at ways in which it can support the Jed Leisure Trust along with Live Borders and BREST. All three organisations are finding the current operating environment with increased fuel costs and reduced footfall very difficult. A report setting out a proposed support package will be brought to the council for approval in December following discussion |
| Lots of empty shops | The council is working with SOSE to undertake the development of place plans which will examine a range of issues facing communities including the need to regenerate high streets, improve the appearance of the public realm and adopt a more interventionist approach to dealing with problem buildings. The first 4 sessions are planned for Hawick, Galashiels, Jedburgh and Eyemouth in November and it is proposed that more sessions will follow |
| Council offices at the Council buildings, would like to see report on effectiveness of working from home, outputs, appraisals, as a taxpayer. | The council is keeping this under review. Working from home has significant benefits for staff and the environment through reduced travel to work journeys etc. |

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Berwickshire Funding 2022/23
Area Partnership 09 February 2023

| Neighbourhood Support Fund (NSF) 2022/23 | |
|--|---------------------|
| | £ |
| Opening balance as of 01/04/2022 | £ 86,612.87 |
| Plus Community Fund Underspend 2021/22 | £ 2,620.21 |
| Plus Local Festival Grant Underspend 2021/22 | £ 5,454.11 |
| Plus BBBB underspend 2021/22 | £ 810.00 |
| Plus ring-fenced Horse Time carry forward from 2021/22 | £ 4,500.00 |
| Total available | £ 99,997.19 |
| Less: | |
| NSF applications awarded since 01/04/2022 | £ 62,565.64 |
| NSF applications that are assessed and await decision | £ 121,300.58 |
| Sub-total | £ 183,866.22 |
| Funds remaining if assessed applications are successful | -£ 83,869.03 |
| NSF applications still to be assessed | £ - |
| Potential Overall Position | -£ 83,869.03 |

| Other sources of grant funding - Berwickshire | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Grant Type | Available | Awarded | Remaining |
| Local Festival Grants | £ 14,060.00 | £ 6,925.00 | £ 7,135.00 |
| Annual Support Grants (Community Councils) | £ 13,680.00 | £ 8,640.00 | £ 5,040.00 |
| SBC Small Schemes | £ 96,400.00 | £ 42,944.00 | £ 53,456.00 |
| SBC Enhancement Trust | £ 2,523.23 | £ - | £ 2,523.23 |
| SBC Welfare Trust | £ 12,332.43 | £ 2,404.00 | £ 9,928.43 |
| | £ 138,995.66 | £ 60,913.00 | £ 78,082.66 |

| Summary of applications | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|----------------|--|---------------------|---|--------------|
| No. | Date | Fund | Organisation Name | Amount | Project | Status |
| 1 | 25/04/2022 | N'Hood Support | ReTweed | £ 4,900.00 | Tartans for social/philanthropic good | Awarded |
| 2 | 04/06/2022 | N'Hood Support | Burnmouth Community Council | £ 1,064.00 | Gazebo & BBQ | Awarded |
| 3 | 05/06/22 | N'Hood Support | BAVS | £ 4,500.00 | Berwickshire Alliance | Awarded |
| 4 | 19/05/22 | N'Hood Support | Border Links Ltd | £ 4,500.00 | Fun on Zoom | Unsuccessful |
| 5 | 05/05/22 | N'Hood Support | Birgham Community Development Trust | £ 5,000.00 | Play Park Equipment | Awarded |
| 6 | 31/05/22 | N'Hood Support | Berwickshire Marine Reserve | £ 5,000.00 | Community Outreach Officer salary | Awarded |
| 7 | 28/06/22 | N'Hood Support | Sea The Change | £ 5,000.00 | Nature's Tonic project | Awarded |
| 8 | 27/06/22 | N'Hood Support | Berwickshire Swap | £ 3,924.00 | Van maintenance & running costs | Awarded |
| 9 | 21/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Ayton Heritage | £ 5,000.00 | St Dionysius preservation | Unsuccessful |
| 10 | 25/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Eat Sleep Ride | £ 5,000.00 | Growing Today Will Help You Tomorrow | Awarded |
| 11 | 22/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Gordon Village Hall | £ 3,640.00 | Toilets upgrade | Unsuccessful |
| 12 | 25/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Chirside Development Group | £ 4,000.00 | Soundproofing function room | Awarded |
| 13 | 25/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Roxburgh Berwickshire CAB | £ 5,000.00 | Cost of living project | Unsuccessful |
| 14 | 25/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Interest Link Borders | £ 4,206.00 | Learning Disabilities Befriending Project | Awarded |
| 15 | 27/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Chirside Football Club | £ 5,000.00 | New pavilion | Awarded |
| 16 | 25/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Ayton Gardening Society | £ 847.00 | Community Engagement Initiatives | Awarded |
| 17 | 25/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Frangipane Bakery | £ 4,950.00 | Allanbank Arts exhibition | Unsuccessful |
| 18 | 25/07/22 | N'Hood Support | A Heart For Duns | £ 4,950.00 | "Paint Our Town Red" with Allanbank Arts | Awarded |
| 19 | 25/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Connect Berwickshire Youth Project | £ 5,000.00 | Drop-in sessions | Awarded |
| 20 | 27/07/22 | N'Hood Support | Abundant Borders | £ 4,174.64 | Community Food Growing and Outdoor Cooking | Awarded |
| 21 | 28/09/2022 | N'Hood Support | The Cheyne Gang | £ 3,000.00 | Sing to Breathe at Coldstream | Assessed |
| 22 | 04/10/22 | N'Hood Support | Greenlaw Bowling Club | £ 5,000.00 | Capital purchase for clubhouse extension | Assessed |
| 23 | 14/10/2022 | N'Hood Support | Perfect Harmony | £ 2,700.00 | Bringing Life Through Music | Assessed |
| 24 | 25/10/2022 | N'Hood Support | Chirside Community Good Association | £ 5,000.00 | Tennis Court refurbishment and improvement | Assessed |
| 25 | 29/11/2022 | N'Hood Support | Berwickshire Marine Reserve | £ 5,000.00 | Summer 'Discovery' Activities | Assessed |
| 26 | 29/11/2022 | N'Hood Support | Berwickshire Marine Reserve & Abundant Borders | £ 4,942.80 | Abundant Berwickshire Coast - Seaweed Demonstration Project | Assessed |
| 27 | 22/11/2022 | N'Hood Support | Eyemouth & District Community Trust | £ 5,000.00 | YP Mentorship Programme | Assessed |
| 28 | 29/11/2022 | N'Hood Support | Berwickshire Cookery Club | £ 1,040.00 | Capital purchases and to supplement a 'Hardship Fund' | Assessed |
| 29 | 30/11/2022 | N'Hood Support | Gordon Community Sports Field Group | £ 5,000.00 | Acquisition of Gordon Sports Field | Assessed |
| 30 | 30/11/2022 | N'Hood Support | Borders Pottery CIC | £ 4,829.00 | Mental Health Pottery Support Group | Assessed |
| 31 | 30/11/22 | N'Hood Support | Berwickshire Swap | £ 4,492.80 | Emergency Parcel Service - Project Facilitator Salary | Assessed |
| 32 | 01/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Outside the Box Development Support Ltd | £ 4,482.00 | LINKS Eyemouth | Assessed |
| 33 | 01/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Abundant Borders | £ 3,636.00 | Cooking Plus | Assessed |
| 34 | 01/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Coldstream Heart Rhythm | £ 2,250.00 | Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) Implementation and Training | Assessed |
| 35 | 02/12/22 | N'Hood Support | RBL Coldstream | £ 2,073.60 | Bar refurbishment | Assessed |
| 36 | 02/12/22 | N'Hood Support | The Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service | £ 3,500.00 | About Berwickshire | Assessed |
| 37 | 02/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Border Womens Aid | £ 1,080.00 | Border Womens Aid Crafting Group | Assessed |
| 38 | 02/12/22 | N'Hood Support | DunsPlay Fest | £ 5,000.00 | DunsPlayFest 2023 | Assessed |
| 39 | 02/12/22 | N'Hood Support | A Heart for Duns (AHFD) | £ 5,000.00 | Community Web | Assessed |
| 40 | 03/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Duns Tennis Club | £ 5,000.00 | Replacement of surround netting at Duns Tennis Club | Assessed |
| 41 | 03/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Duns Golf Club | £ 1,350.00 | Introduction to Golf | Assessed |
| 42 | 04/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Whitsome Vill Hall | £ 927.36 | Maintenance & improvements to internal fittings | Assessed |
| 43 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Swinton & Ladykirk CC | £ 499.00 | Maintenance of grass pathways and communal benches | Withdrawn |
| 44 | 04/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Grantshouse Vill Hall | £ 2,700.00 | Contribution to electricity costs | Assessed |
| 45 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Parent Space | £ 3,752.10 | Strengthening Families in Berwickshire | Assessed |
| 46 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Ayton Christmas Lights Group | £ 945.00 | Ayton Christmas Lights | Assessed |
| 47 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Duns Rugby Club | £ 3,500.00 | Growing the Game | Assessed |
| 48 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Duns Football Club | £ 1,000.00 | New Changing Room Roof | Assessed |
| 49 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Friends of Duns Primary | £ 5,000.00 | Play Equipment | Assessed |
| 50 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | East Berwickshire University of the Third Age (ebus) | £ 754.96 | Increase and Include | Assessed |
| 51 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Gavinton Village Hall | £ 3,500.00 | Gavinton Village Hall Community Cinema | Assessed |
| 52 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Cockburnspath Allotment Association SC | £ 1,000.00 | Community Composting Scheme. | Assessed |
| 53 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Allantons Arts AHFD others | £ 3,500.00 | Paint our town red & Whats Art got to do with it | Assessed |
| 54 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Eyemouth Scout Group | £ 754.96 | Marketing for memberships & IT upgrade | Assessed |
| 55 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Cockburnspath Playground Association | £ 5,000.00 | Playpark Refurb | Assessed |
| 56 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Eat Sleep Ride | £ 5,000.00 | Growing Today Will Help Us Tomorrow | Assessed |
| 57 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Learning Space | £ 3,538.00 | | Withdrawn |
| 58 | 05/12/22 | N'Hood Support | Birgham CDT | £ 4,590.00 | Recreation Park Pavilion | Assessed |
| Total | | | | £ 210,993.22 | | |

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Report of Neighbourhood Support Fund Assessment Panel BAP Meeting on Thursday 9th February 2023

Introduction

This paper outlines the recent work undertaken by the Assessment Panel for the Berwickshire Area Partnership, Neighbourhood Support Fund. It gives a brief description of various activities and a review of recent applications. It goes on to make recommendations for consideration by the BAP.

Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund 2022/23

Berwickshire Area Partnership, Neighbourhood Support Fund, Assessment Panel (NSF AP) met for the third full meeting of the financial year, between 1pm and 3pm on Friday 20th January 2023. Approximately £100k was available for distribution through the Neighbourhood Support Fund during 2022/2023. Following the awards made in the first two rounds of funding this year circa £33k remained.

Initially there were 38 applications to this round, however during the process two were withdrawn. The panel were faced with assessing 36 applications, to a value of just over £121k. To put this in context this was more than twice the previously highest number of applications for a single round. It also resulted in a very significant shortfall in the funding available. In summary only between a third and a quarter of applications could be funded, irrespective of their merit.

It is good to know that communities have become more aware of the NSF and have made record numbers of applications. It is however worrying that many deserving applicants will be disappointed that their strong applications did not receive support. It is hoped that these record numbers of quality applications will be recognised when setting the NSF budget for next year.

Changes in the Guidance Notes

Following round two of the assessment process, in September 2022, further clarification was made to the NSF Guidance Notes. It now states that:

- *The fund provides support and assistance with the development of community-based projects for voluntary and community groups that are active in their local area. We wish to encourage applications with clearly defined outcomes that can be delivered within stated timescales.*

- *Funding can be used for a variety of purposes (see guidance notes). It is less likely that the Neighbourhood Support Fund will be used to support ongoing activity and general staff support, unless there are very compelling justifications for doing so.*

Changes in the Application Form

Earlier in the year some minor changes to the application form were introduced, to simplify it and streamline the assessment of submissions. These changes have been largely successful. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to introduce an on-line version of the new version of the BAP form this year, but we are hopeful that this will be available soon.

Additional Panel Members

We are pleased that two new members have joined the Assessment Panel this year: Kathy Huffman and Jim Hettrick. Unfortunately, Anne McNeill, who has been key to the development and implementation of our assessment process, has decided to step down. We all want to thank Anne for invaluable contribution to our work over the past 2 years.

In view of the need for four voting members for the panel to be quorate, there is always a need to recruit additional members and attain a full complement of panel members. Anyone interested in joining the panel should contact Gillian Jardine GJardine@scotborders.gov.uk or James Purves JPurves@scotborders.gov.uk for further information.

Attaining full delegated powers for the Assessment Panel

At its meeting on 4th March 2021 the BAP agreed to the following recommendation: “We recommend the creation of a sub-subcommittee of the BAP with full delegated powers to undertake the assessment of applications and subsequently make awards.”

At the BAP meeting 9th June 2022 our recommendation that “the Neighbourhood Support Fund – Assessment Panel receives full delegated powers to make and communicate its decisions to applicants” was again endorsed by the BAP.

We would like to uncouple the work of the Assessment Panel and the BAP and move to three equally spaced application periods on an annual basis. We could then publish these dates well in advance and deal with applications more timeously.

Assessment of Applications

I have outlined below the assessment process:

- The Assessment Panel members involved were Keith Dickinson (Chair), Anne McNeil, Andrew Mitchell, Kathy Huffman, Jim Hettrick and three councillors: John Greenwell, Mark Rowley and James Anderson.
- Recognising the need for transparency, panel members made declarations of interest related to a number of applications.
- Prior to the meeting SBC officers checked that applications complied with the published Eligibility Criteria.
- In view of the record number of applications, each was initially scored and ranked by three panel members.
- Where there was an identified difference between the initial three rankings, a fourth member assessed and ranked the application.
- Applications were blind marked, according to the published criteria and SBC officers tabulated and circulated all marks and rankings prior to our meeting.
- Initially a group of applications that were highly supported by all who had assessed them were considered. After due consideration all were considered worthy of support and of high priority.
- A second group of applications, that were broadly supported, were considered and provisional recommendations made.
- Before final recommendations were made panel members were given the opportunity to consider in detail any of the remaining applications.
- There were clearly applications that were considered fundable but considered to be of a lower priority and they could not be supported due to the funding constraints.
- The volume of applications, this funding round, tested the process and the panel. However, although the assessment task was demanding, we moved relatively smoothly to a consensus and agreement on our recommendations.

The minutes of the assessment panel meeting can be seen in **Appendix 1** below, which includes a brief description of applications considered and some individual feedback from our deliberations. Our recommendations are summarised in **Appendix 2**.

Summary of Recommendations

- 1. It is recommended that BAP approve the awards detailed in Appendix 2**

APPENDIX 1

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL BERWICKSHIRE COMMUNITY FUND ASSESSMENT PANEL

MINUTES of Meeting of BERWICKSHIRE
COMMUNITY FUND ASSESSMENT
PANEL held via Microsoft Teams on
Friday 20th January, 1pm

Present:- Keith Dickinson (Chair), Anne McNeil, Kathy Huffman, Jim Hettrick, Cllr Anderson, Cllr Greenwell,

Apologies Rachel Parker, Andrew Mitchell, Cllr Rowley

In Attendance:- Community Engagement Officer James Purves, Community Co-ordinator Gillian Jardine

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the content to be covered during the meeting. The Chair confirmed the withdrawal of two applications from this round of funding.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSESSMENT PANEL

The Chair confirmed that AM is stepping back from her role on the panel and thanked AM for her contribution in helping establish the panel and the process of assessing applications.

3. PROCESS OF APPLICATION ASSESSMENT FOR ROUND 3

The Chair outlined the approach that had been devised to manage the assessment of 38 applications and ensure that the appropriate level of assessment was maintained. All applications were initially scored and ranked by three panel members. Where there was an identified difference between rankings, a fourth member assessed and ranked the application.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Panel members had previously confirmed any interest in applications and marking was assigned to panel members to accommodate this.

5. FUNDING REQUESTED AND FUNDING AVAILABLE

SBC confirmed that 38 applications had been received, but two had been withdrawn. 36 applications with a total request of £121,300 would be considered. A budget of £32,931.55 was available. This did not include ring-fenced funding for Horse Time which had been granted funding in 2021/22 on the condition of a successful evaluation of another project they had received funding for. The panel did not have the time to consider Horse Time's evaluation due to the date of its submission. The Chair proposed that the evaluation for Horse Time and a second grant be considered at the next meeting.

6 OVERALL REVIEW OF MARKS AND RANKINGS OF APPLICATIONS

The Chair shared an overview of application rankings based on the panel's scoring. The ranking was used to show the level of support for each application

and provide a starting point for discussing the applications. Initially a group of applications that were highly supported by all who had assessed them, were considered. After due consideration all were considered worthy of support and to be of high priority. A second group of applications that were broadly supported were considered. However, before final recommendations were made panel members were given the opportunity to propose that any of the remaining, lower ranked applications, should be further considered in detail. The following section provides some detail on the applications that are recommended for support. Appendix 2 shows the total list of applications assessed and the funding recommendations.

7 PROJECT ASSESSMENTS

GORDON COMMUNITY SPORTSFIELD

An application from Gordon Community Sports field requesting £5000.00 was received to help acquire and manage the sports field in Gordon, which is currently privately owned. They will develop its use as the hub for outdoor, sporting and community activities in Gordon.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£5000.00**. The panel were supportive of the aims of the group and commented on the level of community support this project has and the long term legacy. Granting them an award would provide the applicant with full project costs allowing them to complete their project.

BORDERS POTTERY

An application was made, requesting £4829.00 to buy equipment that will enable the applicants to offer growth of numbers and allow access to the pottery classes for people with mobility difficulties.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£4829.00**. There was a view that this model has potential to develop in to a social enterprise business and generate income from the pieces being produced which the panel were supportive of.

ABUNDANT BORDERS

An application was made, requesting £3636.00 for a project which will work with people in East Berwickshire to reduce poverty and food insecurity by teaching skills required to make healthy, inexpensive meals in fuel efficient ways by using, for example, slow cookers.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£3636.00**. The impact this project will have, and the contribution it will make, resulted in the application being scored highly by the panel who considered Abundant Borders to be delivering excellent work in the Berwickshire area.

COLDSTREAM HEART RHYTHM

An application was made, requesting **£2250.00**, to buy a defibrillator, training materials and consumables to promote health and save lives in Coldstream community.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£2250.00**. This project scored highly due to the evidence of community backing, support from health practitioners, the group's long term plans for maintaining the defibs, the planned roll out of training and the importance of having these assets in a community.

BORDERS WOMEN'S AID

An application from Borders Women's Aid requesting £1080.00 was received to enable groups accessing their service to attend wellbeing groups, to relieve isolation, gain peer support and learn new skills

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£1080.00**. The panel felt this was a strong application from an organisation with a proven track record of delivery and that this project was based on a model successfully delivered elsewhere.

A HEART FOR DUNS

An application was made, requesting £5000.00 to develop a community website to complement their Town trail and include an events calendar and social media presence.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£5000.00**. AHFD has a wide reach and the panel were of the view that this is a sensible project to be supporting which would provide value for money. It was commented that the impact AHFD has on the Duns community is visible.

PARENT SPACE

An application was made, requesting **£3752.10** to give parents across Berwickshire more access to quality advice, information and support along with one-to-one support.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£3752.10**. The panel were supportive of the capacity building and 1:1 support that this project will support and commented on the fact demand for this service is increasing. There was reflection that courses are always well managed and well attended with continued support for parents who participate.

AYTON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

An application was made, requesting £945.00 to help continue the provision of Christmas lights in Ayton village.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£945.00**. There was discussion amongst the panel on whether there were other way the group could raise funding but overall, there was support for this project.

DUNS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

An application was made, requesting £3500.00 to fund more kit and storage to enable more families and children to participate.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£849.45** which is the balance of the NSF. This was a well written application from a club which has good uptake from young people from a wide geographical area. The application scored lower than the other applications as the presentation of their priorities could have been stronger.

DUNS FOOTBALL CLUB

An application was made, requesting £1000.00 for guttering and flashings to finish off the club's new roof.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£1000.00**. For a modest sum this will allow for the completion of the project. The local business community has invested time, money and materials in to the club and the panel were happy to also contribute to realise the community benefit this project will provide.

BIRGHAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRUST

An application was made, requesting £4590.00 to replace an existing small pavilion in Birgham's recreation park to ensure a safe and protected seating area.

Decision NOTED that:-

It was agreed to recommend that the Berwickshire Area Partnership award a grant of **£4590.00**. There was discussion amongst the panel on the community impact of this project but on the whole the panel were supportive of the overall aims of the project and the encouragement this provided for outdoor activity and community engagement.

8 DECISIONS AND REPORT TO AREA PARTNERSHIP

Consideration was given to how to present the panel's recommendations given the volume of applications received and that providing detailed feedback on all applications would not be possible.

9 MEETING OF THE ASSESSMENT PANEL TO REVIEW 2022/23 FUND

The panel are confident in the assessment process that has been developed following minor adjustments that have been made this financial year. The volume of applications this funding round tested the process and the panel are happy with the outcome. The panel has no recommendations to make to the Area Partnership for any further changes to the application and assessment process.

Appendix 2

Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund - Recommendations February 2023

| Ref Number | Project Title | Sum Requested | Total Awarded |
|----------------|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| | Total | £121,300.58 | £32,931.55 |
| NSF2223/BER/22 | The Cheyne Gang | £3,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/23 | Greenlaw Bowling Club | £5,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/24 | Perfect Harmony | £2,700.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/25 | Chirnside Common Good Association | £5,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/26 | Berwickshire Marine Reserve | £5,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/27 | Berwickshire Marine Reserve & Abundant Borders | £4,942.80 | |
| NSF2223/BER/28 | Eyemouth & District Community Trust | £5,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/29 | Berwickshire Cookery Club | £1,040.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/30 | Gordon Community Sports Field Group | £5,000.00 | £5,000.00 |
| NSF2223/BER/31 | Borders Pottery CIC | £4,829.00 | £4,829.00 |
| NSF2223/BER/32 | Berwickshire Swap | £4,492.80 | |
| NSF2223/BER/33 | Outside the Box Development Support Ltd | £4,482.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/34 | Abundant Borders | £3,636.00 | £3,636.00 |
| NSF2223/BER/35 | Coldstream Heart Rhythm | £2,250.00 | £2,250.00 |
| NSF2223/BER/36 | Royal British Legion Coldstream | £2,073.60 | |
| NSF2223/BER/37 | The Berwickshire Association for Voluntary Service | £3,500.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/38 | Border Womens Aid | £1,080.00 | £1,080.00 |
| NSF2223/BER/39 | DunsPlay Fest | £5,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/40 | A Heart for Duns (AHFD) | £5,000.00 | £5,000.00 |
| NSF2223/BER/41 | Duns Tennis Club | £5,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/42 | Duns Golf Club | £1,350.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/43 | Whitsome Vill Hall | £927.36 | |
| NSF2223/BER/45 | Grantshouse Vill Hall | £2,700.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/46 | Parent Space | £3,752.10 | £3,752.10 |
| NSF2223/BER/47 | Ayton Christmas Lights Group | £945.00 | £945.00 |
| NSF2223/BER/48 | Duns Rugby Club | £3,500.00 | £849.45 |
| NSF2223/BER/49 | Duns Football Club | £1,000.00 | £1,000.00 |
| NSF2223/BER/50 | Friends Duns Primary | £5,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/51 | East Berwickshire University of Third Age (ebu3a) | £754.96 | |
| NSF2223/BER/52 | Gavinton Village Hall | £3,500.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/53 | Cockburnspath Allotment Association SCIO | £1,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/54 | Allanbank Arts AHFD others | £3,500.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/55 | Eyemouth Scout Group | £754.96 | |
| NSF2223/BER/56 | Cockburnspath Playground Association | £5,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/57 | Eat Sleep Ride | £5,000.00 | |
| NSF2223/BER/59 | Birgham CDT | £4,590.00 | £4,590.00 |

SBC Cost of Living support

SBC has agreed a range of measures totalling £1.2m to support communities affected by the cost of living crisis. One of these measures is the creation of the Warm and Well Fund to support voluntary, community and charity organisations to provide a warm space for those struggling to heat their homes during the winter months. Working in partnership with The Bridge and BAVS the intention is to provide a dignified approach to ensuring help reaches communities and individuals who require additional assistance.

In Berwickshire, SBC Warm and Well funding of £18,541 is being distributed through BAVS who also secured match funding of £25,680 from Lottery. Warm and Well spaces who have received funding to date from SBC or Lottery include:

| Organisation | Project |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Leitholm Village Hall | Warm hub |
| Coldstream British Legion | Winter lunches |
| Ayton Resilience Group | Community café and food delivery |
| Reston Village Hall | Warm Space - Mondays |
| Chirnside Development group | Warm spaces - Wed soup lunch |
| Duns Food Bank | Warm spaces - Equipment |
| St Abbs Hub | Friday lunch |
| Duns Golf Club | Duns Golf club lunches |
| Birgham Warm Hub | Community Lunches |

Energy Training

As part of the Cost of Living support, CAB and BAVS organised and delivered an energy information session to help community volunteers and staff have supportive energy conversations with people who are using the warm spaces or who are accessing community services. The training provides information on the financial sources available to heat homes and how to signpost / refer people for assistance. Budget is available to support energy training across the Borders so additional sessions can be offered to those who are interested.

Anti-Poverty Strategy – Cost of Living Support

Approved by Council on 25 August 2022

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Additional Support Package | £1.2m |
| Energy & Debt Advice: | |
| Extend existing arrangements with organisations such as CAB, Changeworks etc. to provide additional resources to assist with referrals, energy advice, money advice, signposting and budgeting. | £0.150m |
| Direct Payment Awards: | |
| Warm clothing payment of £100 to each child entitled to either Free School Meals or Clothing Grants (approx. 2350 children) | £0.235m |
| Top up Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) funding | £0.050m |
| Further top up of Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) payments | £0.100m |
| Increased take up support: | |
| Additional resources to be used to support & process increased take up of benefits | £0.050m |
| Total for immediate allocation | £0.585m |
| Balance to enable further targeted support in response to need and demand | £0.615m |

Additional Information

Current consultations

Place Making and Community Engagement Sign Up

The way we are engaging with our residents is changing - and we want you to have your say

Place making is a process of community engagement where the opinions and desires of the community are used to inform the future of the places we live, work and play - and by getting involved and telling us what matters to you, we can make sure the voices of all Scottish Borders residents are heard.

Sign up to receive updates from Scottish Borders Council on community engagement events in your areas, to find out about active consultations, funding opportunities, and who to contact when you have an amazing idea to benefit your neighbourhood.

[Have Your Say - Place making and Community Engagement Sign Up - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

SBC 2023/24 Budget Survey

Borders residents are being urged by cross-party politicians to complete a new survey and help shape the next Council budget, due to be set in February 2023.

The survey also provides Borderers with the opportunity to provide feedback on a number of other areas, including public transport, health and social care and the development of local plans within communities.

Closes 31 January 2023

[2023/24 Budget survey - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

SBC Council Plan 2023 Draft

SBC are inviting comments on the draft Council Plan (April 2023). The contents of the plan are informed by the Council's Summer Tour as well as the Place Making workshops undertaken last year. Comments will inform the final draft of the Council Plan to be presented to Council on February 2023

[SBC Council Plan 2023 -Draft - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

Food Conversation

The last meeting of the Food Conversation group took place on Friday 18th November. The meeting continued the discussions and planning for responding to the impact the cost of living crisis is having on food access as well as longer term strategies to support food growing and food access.

Community Choices

The e-learning module is now available for SBC staff to complete. It is designed to increase knowledge, understanding and awareness of how departments within SBC can work with the community to make decisions on budget spend.

Community Empowerment:

Currently, there are no formal Participation Requests being considered within the Berwickshire area. SBC is currently working with and advising groups on requests for 5 asset transfer requests.

For information about the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: [Parts of the Act | Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

Place Making

A place based approach is about understanding the potential of a place and coordinating action to improve outcomes, with community participation at the heart of the process. For information, tools and resources on place based approaches visit [Our Place](#)

Area Partnerships' information pack:

[Berwickshire Area Partnership | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

[Community engagement, planning and ownership | Area Partnership information pack | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

Community Councils:

Scottish Community Councils Latest News, including information about funding opportunities and national consultations:

[Community Council News](#)

Scottish Borders Council Meetings

[Browse meetings - Scottish Borders Council - Scottish Borders Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Cost of Living Support

[Financial support and advice | Cost of Living Crisis support | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

Debt Advice:

[Citizens Advice Bureau](#)



Download the NHS
Borders Money Worries
App here

NHS Money Worries App – download from Google Play or the App Store

Covid-19 vaccination programme

<https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

NHS Borders website for current updates:

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/coronavirus/>

Business support

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business>

<https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

General Funding:

<https://fundingscotland.com/>

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/>

[Community grants and funding | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

[Neighbourhood Support Fund | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

[SBC Enhancement & Welfare Trust](#)

NHS Borders Wellbeing Service:

<http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/our-services/general-services/wellbeing-service/>

NHS Borders Wellbeing Point:

www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/wellbeingpoint

<https://www.rcot.co.uk/conserving-energy>

This includes pacing, fatigue management and some ideas about restarting gentle exercise

<https://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk/>

This covers most aspects, including information from physiotherapy and occupational therapy websites

<https://www.chss.org.uk/advice-line-nurses/>

Phone or email to access their support/advi