

Discussion Output: General Concerns, Issues, Challenges or Opportunities (20th February 2018)

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Economy, Skills and Learning

- Borders needs to be promoted, social media and media need to be more positive
- Grow your own talent and invest in keeping it
- Attract high value business to the area
- Need to take full advantage of the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency, bring to the Borders what the Highlands have had
- Broadband connectivity needs improved, poor connectivity
- Tourism – great opportunities to build on some of the investment within the area, distilleries, park, leisure and historical sites. A great opportunity for young people to access the Tourism job market. Needs to diversify
- Focus on the high street in Hawick – make it a thriving place to visit and do business
- Increase opportunities for apprenticeships and recognition of achievements, focus on the young workforce
- Fewer people working as an older population
- Emphasis to bring larger industries back to Hawick, knitwear industry has gone
- Unusually high number of micro businesses, no large building or engineering companies for apprentices
- Shortage of skilled tradesmen
- Difficult to get an apprenticeship, more would keep younger people in the area. Breakdown of Modern Apprenticeship figures?
- More practical skills need to be taught in school for those who aren't as academic
- Lack of infrastructure and wind turbines puts industries off
- Young people leave and don't come back
- Why forestry? Not bringing jobs and lorries cracking up roads. Low wage economy and not consistent employer
- Hawick High pushing apprenticeships but where are they? Only push traditional ones
- Chain reaction – economy affects health, poverty, neighbourhood and community
- Do college courses provide jobs at the end?
- Restricted employment and low wage economy
- What is there for young people in the job market?
- Young people not training in the right areas to match the job market
- Lack of skills and difficulty trying to recruit appropriate skill set
- Rubbish at communicating with young people!! Ask young people what they want, go to them to ask
- Lack of economic opportunity
- Borders College – range of courses – a stepping stone for those who don't have qualifications
- Denholm Primary – lack of capacity
- Breakdown of economy and employment industries in Teviot and Liddesdale needed
- Newcastleton – over capacity for nursery provision
- Great role models need to come back and talk to pupils about their journey

- Tourism being damaged by wind farms, Dark sky opportunities?
- Raise the aspirations of young people
- At what point do pupils lose respect in transition
- Zero hour contracts and low paid jobs
- What is missing for young people careers wise and is access to high school careers advice blocked?
- If offering qualifications then a progression track is needed
- Lack of entrepreneurialism, lack of investment and rural needs to be local
- Quality of jobs
- Secure future and ensure sustainability of development trusts
- Focus free/low cost childcare in the lower income areas, lack of affordable childcare
- 3rd sector delivers a wide range of services
- Pupils should be shown all options available not target only the ones going to University
- Poor connectivity, impacts on economy as a barrier to industry
- Forestation instead of agricultural and arable farming

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Health, Care & Wellbeing

- Drink and drugs an issue for health, all age groups, cultural change is needed and festivals don't help
- Ageing population
- Significant health issues, mental health is a massive issue only 20% of police incidents are crime related
- Isolation can make people ill, need to try and get more people together
- LGBT – support group too far for some to travel and no transport, isolation and rural area
- Mental Health stats for Hawick? Lack of mental health services
- Mental health support for young people? Do they know?
- Pressure on young people to do well creates a negative mental health. Not taken seriously unless suicide?
- Community Hospital underutilised? Not staffed by GP's in the evening
- Social care – people leaving care service due to time pressures (5 min appointments)
- Anonymous survey for young people regarding mental health
- Denholm – Good prescription service (Crosby's) dropped at Post Office
- Connectivity – live links from patients to health providers?
- Difficult to get appointments
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services need overhaul, can be over 24 weeks for an appointment
- Teviot Leisure Centre and Live Borders – a positive for Hawick
- Marked trails in and around Hawick – 3 grades, red, blue and yellow
- Care in the community is good in Teviot & Liddesdale

- Break the cycle of deprivation, poverty and bad behaviour
- Invest time in working with the children/young people and the parents
- Ageing population – look at this as an opportunity rather than a negative
- Intergenerational opportunities
- Rural isolation – lack of social network for those who are vulnerable, huge dependencies on others

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Quality of Life

- Need to increase peoples aspirations
- Lack of families who own or have access to cars
- What does Council Tax pay for? Can it be reviewed/increased?
- Maximise our fantastic assets, mills, clean water and quality of life
- Demographic changes – peaks and troughs. Connectivity brings people in
- What's to keep the younger generation here?
- Creative solution to develop a remembrance garden in Wilton Cemetery
- Safe area, no graffiti and clean
- Alcohol and drug related crime
- Friendly welcoming town
- Education on anti-social behaviour, involve parents what the challenges are and consequences
- Parenting classes
- Wind turbines, too many and too big, small roads to convey equipment
- Attractive to older people setting up a business

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Our Place

- Housing – Newcastleton, the conservation status having an impact
- Borders National Park – opportunity for the area
- Old fashioned design of shops (front loading only, no back entrances) deters big companies from occupying shops
- Housing – what opportunities for young people and families, wrong housing going in and affordable? Housing types an issue, single storey needed for the elderly, which would free up housing for families
- Countryside is an asset, how do we make the most of it? Instead it is being damaged
- Newcastleton – flood prevention scheme, issue as a good housing opportunity. Electricity infrastructure, maximum capacity not high
- Newcastleton - Better relationships cross border both Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria and Carlisle
- Denholm's Local development plan – more housing and infrastructure needs improving at the same time

- More consultation on tree planting and timber lorries are an issue
- Shop property owners need to make better use of premises so they don't remain empty
- Electronic noticeboards around the town, particularly at the mart street bus stops
- Internet has had a negative impact
- Need to market the Borders as a whole
- Housing – fuel poverty, energy efficient, heating, and isolation. Issue of old housing stock, warm homes bill
- Windfarms – local discussion required
- Digital connectivity is an issue
- Review of school estate, will it disadvantage rural areas?
- State of High Street is sad, charity shops and for sale signs
- If people have to walk from a central car park, then covered canopy areas
- Too many large supermarkets, jobs will be displaced
- Take steps to increase footfall on the High Street
- Universal benefits advisor needed to alert people to what they can apply for, they can help older people change energy providers and save money
- Extra support needed to carry out life skills
- Create an 'app' for young people to access to gain information on life skills, finances etc
- Basic financial advice

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Transport

- Transport and infrastructure limit young people getting Saturday jobs, isolated town
- Accessibility – transport, need to focus on these across the locality. Should be a theme?
- Train would be beneficial, create opportunity for south of Scotland
- Bus services poor in rural areas causing isolation for older people
- Communities could try to get own bus but too much red tape to get funding, voluntary sector should be involved
- Lack of transport in rural areas, too much focus on commercial, no bus service from schools to rural areas, Langholm school transport has to be paid for
- Not great public transport
- Lack of effective transport from Teviot & Liddesdale to Borders General Hospital. Liaison with transport providers required
- South Dean, no public transport just a bus stop
- Potholes!
- Road maintenance