

**Note from Susan Swan, on behalf of the Borders Third Sector Partnership**

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**Borders Third Sector Partnership Conference on Community Empowerment – request for comments from Community Planning Partners**

*The Third Sector in the Borders participated in the consultation process for the Community Empowerment Bill, which as you are aware, will reach its final parliamentary stage this month. Borders Third Sector Partnership have discussed the importance of this Bill to our sector, and with this in mind, have decided to make this the focus of a conference to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August at Tweed Horizons, 10am – 3pm.*

*I have been asked to write to gauge Community Planning Partners' views on what you would consider to be important aspects for inclusion. We are taking into account that there may be changes to the legislation before the Bill is passed, which will inform our final agenda, but we have a draft agenda for the day which goes as follows;*

*Conference on Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill - Aim – to raise awareness of the new legislation and to encourage public involvement in the various new powers that it gives to communities.*

- *Welcome & introduction*
- *Keynote speaker to underline the Scottish Government's driver for change to empower communities and explain background to the Act, vision for the future. (Speaker to be confirmed)*
- *Presentation on various elements of the new Act; to give Third Sector view on the Act, opportunities it offers, how local communities and Third Sector Organisations benefit (Speaker to be confirmed)*
- *Presentation on the Borders perspective (Speaker to be confirmed)*
- *Q&A panel with Chair, 3 speakers from above sessions*
- *Workshops 1 hour long, on Community Planning, Participation in Service Delivery, Asset Transfer, Community Right to Buy and Allotments*
- *Lunch*
- *BTSP Presentation on how we can help*
- *Workshop repeat*
- *Plenary session*

*I have been asked to contact our Community Planning Partners to see if there is anything in particular that you would like included in the agenda for the day, as well as any staff who would like to participate. All CPP partners will be invited and given the opportunity to showcase their support for the implementation of the Bill. It would also be very valuable to have SBC input, particularly for the presentation on the Borders perspective and the Q&A which follows it. We have an allocation of money from the Community Planning Improvement Programme which has been ring-fenced for a community conference, but would be pleased if our Partners were also able to contribute financially to the event.*

Susan Swan