

# Public Document Pack

## Eildon Area Partnership



MINUTE of Meeting of the EILDON AREA PARTNERSHIP held in The Corn Exchange, Melrose on Thursday, 10 May 2018 at 6.30 pm

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- Present:- Councillors G. Edgar (Chairman), S. Aitchison, A. Anderson, K. Drum, E. Jardine, T. Miers, D. Parker, C. Penman, H. Scott and E. Thornton-Nicol
- In attendance:- Colin Banks (Locality Development Co-ordinator), Fiona Colton (Museum, Galleries & Archives Manager – Live Borders), Mike Jaffray (Group Manager - Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Inspector Tony Hodges (Deputy Local Area Commander - Police Scotland), Norrie Tait (Team Leader CLDS Youth Learning SBC), Democratic Services Officer (F. Walling).
- Also present:- 32 partner and Community Councils representatives, officers and members of the public

### 1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Councillor Edgar, Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Corn Exchange, Melrose for a meeting of the Eildon Area Partnership.

### 2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 8 MARCH 2018**

The minute of the meeting of Eildon Area Partnership held on 8 March 2018 had been circulated which included a summary of the discussion output as an appendix. Colin Banks, Locality Development Co-ordinator, referred to the general concerns, issues, challenges and opportunities raised in relation to the theme of that meeting: Our Economy Skills and Learning. He added that the feedback summary was also available on the SBC website.

### 3. **THEME: OUR QUALITY OF LIFE**

The Chairman referred to the main item on the agenda – discussion around the theme 'Our Quality of Life' - and introduced the key speakers who each gave a brief summary of the work, relevant to the theme, being carried out by their organisation/section.

- 3.1 Inspector Tony Hodges highlighted the commitment of Police Scotland as identified in the Local Police Plan 2017-20 for Scottish Borders. Following a consultation process there were seven Local Police Priorities identified which linked to the themes within the Scottish Borders Community Plan:- domestic abuse; road safety; violent crime; anti-social behaviour; drugs and alcohol misuse; protecting people (including child protection); and acquisitive crime (incorporating rural crime, doorstep crime, housebreakings and thefts). Police had strong links to the Council's Safer Communities team with proactive campaigns such as Drivewise Borders and Crucial Crew. Inspector Hodges also drew attention to the recent launch of the new seven-strong Community Action Policing Team, partly funded by an investment of £282,000 from Scottish Borders Council, who would provide a dedicated community resource which would specifically target issues such as anti-social behaviour and on-street parking.

- 3.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Group Manager, Michael Jaffray, made reference to the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Scottish Borders which was included in the paperwork provided on the tables. In particular he drew attention to the focus on helping people feel safer in their homes and on the roads. The service would work with local communities to improve outcomes, reduce inequalities and to build community resilience against extreme weather events such as flooding. Action Plans were being developed to address key priority areas in the Scottish Borders. Mr Jaffray referred in particular to the aim to reduce unwanted fire alarm signals, where there was no fire but an automated fire alarm system was activated. This currently accounted for over 65% of emergency response activity across the Scottish Borders. Mr Jaffray concluded by emphasising that the service wanted to work closely with communities and would welcome comments from local residents.
- 3.3 Museum, Galleries and Archives Manager, Fiona Colton, provided information about the services managed by Live Borders relating to archives, art and live theatre. There were three museums and galleries within the Eildon area. Live Borders were keen to have input from young people in respect of heritage culture and worked closely with schools. Current work with communities was diverse and included input to the Great Tapestry project, tourism partnerships, programmes with young parents and babies, and provision of reminiscence resources to those suffering from dementia. Ms Colton added that the service produced over 50 exhibits and over 30 events each year and she was keen to hear from any organisation wishing to be involved.
- 3.4 Norrie Tait, from Scottish Borders Council, was in attendance to talk about the work of the Community Learning and Development Service and in particular the work being carried out with 11 – 25 year olds. There were 3 Learning Communities in the Eildon area based around the secondary schools. The development of the learning communities enabled all key stakeholders to plan and work together to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people. Work was being carried out in schools and in particular with looked after and accommodated children and young people who may be failing to reach their full potential. Mr Tait referred to the need for social spaces for young people and in particular suggestions made at the previous Eildon Area Partnership meeting that High Schools could open up to provide community spaces. He confirmed that the schools do this to an extent but this needs to be explored in more detail. There were youth clubs in the main towns within Eildon but these were generally attended by younger age groups. He asked those present to contact the team if assistance was needed to develop ideas for young people within the community. Mr Tait concluded with information about a Music Festival which was being planned, with the help of young people, to take place in August of this year.
- 3.5 Following the introductory talks, officers joined Elected Members, partners and members of the public at their tables for a discussion of the main issues relating to “Our Quality of Life” in the Eildon Area. A pack of information was provided at each table to aid the discussion as were post-it notes to record the emerging points. Following this first discussion period and a short break each group returned to their tables where they were asked by the Chairman to focus on prioritising the key issues raised and to discuss and identify ways of taking these forward within the Eildon area. A summary of the output of the discussions is provided as an appendix to this minute.

#### 4. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEME AND QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECTS**

There had been circulated copies of a note by the Service Director Assets & Infrastructure seeking approval from Eildon Area Partnership Elected Members for delegated powers for future applications for Small Scheme and Quality of Life projects within the Eildon Area. The note explained that Elected Members, Community Councils and the public could request potential Small Scheme or Quality of Life projects by contacting the Eildon Neighbourhood Area Manager direct. To ensure applications were dealt with timeously - it was recommended that Members agreed to delegate authority to the Service Director Assets & Infrastructure to approve future applications in 2018/19, subject to the following:

- (a) Application(s) for projects to be carried out from Small Scheme and Quality of Life budgets would be received, assessed and costed by Council Officers;
- (b) Officers would then send details of the project(s) to Elected Members within the Eildon area along with a recommendation for their consideration;
- (c) Elected Members would advise appropriate Council Officers of their support or otherwise for a particular project – support would be required from a majority of Elected Members within Eildon for a project to proceed;
- (d) Should support by the majority of Members not be given for a project, this application would be refused; and
- (e) Details of projects funded from Small Scheme and Quality of Life budgets would be presented to the Eildon Area Partnership as part of any future updates on Grants and Funding.

**AGREED to delegate authority to the Service Director Assets & Infrastructure to allocate funds for Neighbourhood Small Schemes and Quality of Life projects in 2018/19, subject to consultation with all ten Eildon Members and approval by at least five Eildon Members.**

5. **NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and advised that arrangements for the next meeting, on 13 September 2018, would be confirmed.

*The meeting concluded at 8.35 pm*

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## Discussion Output: Quality of Life (10<sup>th</sup> May 2018)

Summary/Area of Discussion:

### Community Spaces & Activities

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 25<sup>th</sup> January meeting):*

- Leisure facilities for 14-17 year olds, High Schools open in the evening?
- Pre pub age group, very little to do. Where are the social centres for 14-17 year olds?
- Young people want a cultural festival for the Year of the Young People, 2018 to help with equality and diversity
- Possible Cherry Blossom festival to try to encourage visitors in Spring.
- More benches, each one having a Facebook page
- Red tape around Community Empowerment Act and grant funding, puts people off and assets can become detrimental to a community group
- Perceptions of youth clubs - not all young people go there – see them as a place for people who hang around on streets and get into trouble
- Need more places for young people to go – not all go to youth clubs
- One stop shop
- Social events that are not too expensive – accessible transport to attend events
- Economy – money isn't always the answer – lots of things to do in the Borders that doesn't cost money
- New outdoor/play facilities – outdoor gyms for adults
- Need a place for young people to go that's cheap – a place that has live bands – underage discussions etc.
- Youth Clubs – social workers on site; mental health workers; peer support; someone to talk to who is not a parent
- Need town WiFi (free that works) – nothing to do if come out into town for young people – hang around in Interchange and Tesco
- No consultation with young people about the new play park in Galashiels or others – also has an age restriction
- Teenagers giving up hobbies; learning/habits from parents (language, etc.); support for young people to address above (generational); keeping to traditions/culture i.e. real times, etc. ; lack of values; assumption of 'quiet areas' is it so?
- More awareness/access for youth services; how do we update changing services, contacts, availability etc.; transport – reliability on parents – co-ordination of services/shifts/bus timetables; don't want 'supervised' activity by youth workers
- Social workers and Mental Health workers to be based in youth clubs or similar but need to have experience of such an environment
- Expensive cinema tickets – not knowing where events are – safe spaces
- Safe spaces: outside connected; building based; multi-purpose; youth workers; social workers; mental health workers

*"Priority" & "Solutions/Actions" Post-its:*

- Community identity
- Open day/event to bring people together – in Gala to energise Gala
- Free WiFi in towns!
- Community Hub
- Safe spaces for people – central – accessible – free (incl WiFi) – all ages (intergenerational)

*Key Areas for Eildon*

- **Social, safe spaces for young people, incl. WiFi**

- Intergenerational opportunities, incl. skills transfer

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Rurality – Isolation – Transport**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 25<sup>th</sup> January meeting):*

- Rural villages need lunch clubs, community to provide lunches? Resources kept to a minimum will reduce overheads
- Rural poverty; fuel poverty; lack of access to funds; transport services; ‘connected’
- Transport (for older, younger, everyone) for; doctor hospital; shopping; social events
- Public transport – especially rural to link up villages
- Availability of public transport – depending where you are – limited leisure facilities – rural loneliness – stricter regulations around voluntary working – transporting and working with children and vulnerable groups
- Transport – areas of significant deprivation
- I have a bus pass but there is no bus – a connection to the bus that does not cost me anything
- Rurality- isolation- transport – access
- Transport – providing additional financial support for young people
- No co-ordination between buses & trains – not enough public transport – too expensive
- Cycle/walking tracks off road
- Local transport provision beyond scope of public transport
- Better Broadband
- Improve mobile coverage
- Transport – bus service – could be better although better than some localities – Border Bus app helpful
- Actions – young people much more interactive with each other due to social media – must take a lead
- Being able to stay in my own home and being cared for there- being able to go out to different things to keep me connected

*“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:*

- Isolation
- Transport – isolation – more linked up services;
- Transport – opportunities for people to access – provide services to people to get home after school etc.
- Central transport hub to co-ordinate transport needs (e.g. Gala Wheels)
- Reliable transport service – time & stops – operator policy
- Improve verges on cycle/walking tracks – could CPO unpaid work assist?
- Microwave broadband to improve speed (use in other areas)
- Transport: bus pass – cannot get to bus; Young Scot discount on return tickets; connected transport; being able to attend after-school and evening events
- Transport: scope the issues; negotiate with providers; community bus; community car; speak to the people – don’t assume

*Key Areas for Eildon*

- **Review of Transport Provision (including public and community transport) to:**
  - Tackle rural isolation
  - Remove barriers to employment (through poor connectivity, timetabling)
  - Access Health services
  - Enhance transport opportunities for young people

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Provision of Services & Communications**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 25<sup>th</sup> January meeting):*

- Great opportunities need communicated
- Communications platform to promote and raise awareness of events, clubs and facilities especially for those socially excluded. There is a lot going on and people don't know about it!
- Diverse area – each has different challenges – e.g. Langlee and Heriot – one size cannot fit all
- Flexibility of Services – future proofing, adapting to change
- Communication – promotion of services – activities – events etc.
- Prioritise service provision – strike the right balance
- Target funding to most deprived areas/groups – tackle inequalities
- Better use of community grants – advertising where money is spent
- Uniforms put young people off – they don't feel they are the right people to talk to – young people have bad perception of police
- Needs to be better relationship between young people and those in authority (Police etc) – mutual respect needed – more visibility – community police
- Gala – community participation an issue – big community – little linkage across- same faces – apathy
- Eildon – quite a broad spectrum of communities – lack of communication – signposting
- Documented newsletter eg for 'what's on'; who to tell; ASIST training for service partners? Support school; barrier between school/home; 'support from home' doesn't always work – who can be this link?; what age does this start – should it be earlier?; external trips- no money – benefits
- Communications – operations in silos – share the new amongst partner agencies – campaign for under-age drinking in festivals should be all year round

*“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:*

- Communication
- Each locality has 'Quality of Life' budget – quick wins – how to access/publicise what is being invested in
- Priority – Tackling Inequalities – target funding accordingly
- Priorities greatly differ across the vast array of communities in the Eildon Locality
- Priorities: Advertise avenues of community funding to the populace; more engagement with local people about what they would like to see in the way of improvements

*Key Areas for Eildon*

- **Exploring better ways of communicating:**
  - What's on (events, clubs, facilities etc.) and signposting
  - Grants and funding, and where it is being invested, and how it can be directed by local communities

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Partnership working & sharing best practice**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 25<sup>th</sup> January meeting):*

- Opportunities – numerous youth organisations; voluntary groups for various sectors of the population; develop community transport networks; more co-operative working between housing associations, SBC & voluntary groups; more community funding is available
- Opportunity – Tapestry Building – bring in other collections; celebrate the good quality of life in the Borders
- What innovative practices are here elsewhere to tackle some of these issues: parking (decriminalising); transport
- Opportunity – enhance partnership working; exchanges eg museum to build up economies of scale; colleges – Borders and Dumfries & Galloway; Higher Education
- Co-location; sharing facilities; community hubs
- Consultation – co-production- ownership – decision-making – empowerment
- Consultation – getting people involved – doing it well – ownership
- Peer Education works better than adults preaching – less access to drugs and alcohol
- Community mapping & voluntary organisations – where is best practice – stimulate civic engagement – Volunteer Centre Borders opportunity

*“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:*

- Proper Consultation
- Not always about money or resources; collaboration – walk the talk of partnership;
- People falling through net – collaborative working from local level up – communication – partnerships – multi-agency meetings - still happens but doesn't filter through

*Key Areas for Eildon*

- **Consultation and engagement, particularly co-production**
- **True partnership working, drawing on good practice in and out with the Borders, and a focus on collaboration**
  - **Community mapping?**

Summary/Area of Discussion:

**Tourism & Identity**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 25<sup>th</sup> January meeting):*

- Later opening hours, places to go, what is in the Borders to encourage longer stays?
- Walk around town? Signage but no guides
- Tourism, need to sell it, identify different aspects in each town and village to promote



- Identity - heritage
- We need 'digital info boards' in each town/locality – info on 'what's on'
- Place – Borders is beautiful – must be promoted and marketed – no 'one' point of contact
- Place – lots of 'Cultural' projects across Borders – vision to link it all together – Borders Bus to assist (open top bus)

*"Priority" & "Solutions/Actions" Post-its:*

- Ghost Story/trail in Gala – UFO hotspot (not marketed) – Bonkill/Traquair/White Lady
- Inspiring people – showcase success – wall of fame – talking the Borders up
- Promotion of community identity – make the most of our heritage, identity, history

*Key Areas for Eildon*

- **Developing a strong identity for the Borders and the communities within**
  - **Are we making the most of our heritage?**

**Summary/Area of Discussion:**

**Employability, Skills and Entrepreneurialism**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 25<sup>th</sup> January meeting):*

- Showcase opportunities for local crafts/businesses; mixed business opportunities retail/café/exhibition
- Non-school based activities and opportunities- skills development – employability
- Entrepreneurship – business mentoring – small micro business development
- Borders College/Heriot Watt don't encourage/harness young peoples' textile courses/HND - Heriot Watt not open to new ideas/initiatives – both don't speak!
- Being able to afford to live a reasonable life – a wage that covers costs & leaves some for enjoyment

*"Priority" & "Solutions/Actions" Post-its:*

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*Key Areas for Eildon*

- **Opportunities for mixed business space, e.g. retail and start-ups (micro businesses)**

**Summary/Area of Discussion:**

**Young People**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 25<sup>th</sup> January meeting):*

- Don't know what the quality of life is like for young people as not at the meeting
- Ask young people what would bring them back
- How do we keep our young people in the area or attract them back
- Teviot Togs; equipping young people for attending trips with gear, clothing etc (also at Rowlands) to access opportunities without stigma; young people supporting parents, accessing benefits; increase aspiration & ambition in young people; parent pressure too, prams, babies etc; Jed School

- mixing ages could be easier – less barriers
- Mental Health – support for young people – no intervention – frustrated services (school staff), speed of engagement, lack of – how young is too young? – lack of understanding – mental health & illness – growing confidence – see me – earlier interventions – responsibility to look after themselves – young people and adults – social media pressures – mental health first aid training – training/learning network
- Many seem to want to leave Borders to find ‘better’ opportunities; young sports people have been discovered – must continue this for future
- Young people – often out & about – stereotyped if ‘hanging about’ - hard to reach young people – often don’t engage in youth clubs
- Facilities for young people – motivation – costs – accessibility

*“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:*

- Retain or Recoup our young people
- Mental Health in young people – all ages – what’s caused people to be affected? – educating all groups/communities in mental health
- Mental health – what is the cause? - how do we find out? Support & encouragement for young people/parents’ siblings; more recognition of young carers
- Food at schools an issue: not enough space for all pupils to eat at school; not enough/or any healthy foods at school; so young people go downtown and some cause trouble
- Involving younger people – respecting their opinion/view

*Key Areas for Eildon*

- What is the Eildon/Borders’ Offer to Young People?**
- Mental Health**
- Better consultation and engagement of their views**

**Summary/Area of Discussion:**

**Other points of note**

*Post-it Notes (incl. from 25<sup>th</sup> January meeting):*

- Crime is mixed, concern with housebreakings and acquisitive crime
- Quality of Life means: be happy; being with friends; having fun; getting a good job; being safe
- Fake IDs an issue – smoking an issue – bad driving an issue – lots of accidents
- Actions – Borders must be more ‘cohesive’ & ‘collaborative’ instead of rivals
- Crime – size of Eildon area enormous – more police required – how do public access services of CAT team and can they?
- Reduce speeding in local towns – start & end of school day (Pop-up Bob)
- NHS Scotland/ Borders is so much better than England; our services are good but diminishing due to funding and investment
- Sports – not enough ‘diversity’ – often rugby/hockey – not enough to harness other talent

*“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:*

- Communities to communicate with CAT team over local issues – Single Point of Contact?
- Tackling the Drugs & Alcohol issue; less accessibility
- Mental Health – educate all groups & communities in mental health issues & illness; collaborative working – multi-agency meetings at local level to

feed up
<i>Key Areas for Eildon</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>

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