

Reference (official use)



## Petitions – submission form

If you wish to submit a petition for consideration by the Petitions Committee, please complete the form below. You are advised to refer to the Guidance Questions and Answer sheet provided.

### Details of Principal Petitioner

Please enter the name and contact details of the person raising the petition. *The Principal Petitioner must be on the Register of Electors for the Scottish Borders Council area.*

<b>Name:</b>	Brian McCrow
<b>Address:</b>	1 Cardrona Way, Cardrona
<b>Postcode:</b>	EH45 9LD
<b>Telephone no:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

### Title of Petition and Petition Statement

Please enter the title of the Petition and a statement to cover the main subject of the Petition or the action you would like the Council to take.

**Title: The Great Tapestry of Scotland building**

**Statement (no more than 250 words):**

**We believe that the decision made by Scottish Borders Council to fund a building in Tweedbank to house the Great Tapestry of Scotland is an unacceptable use of our Council budget at a time when essential services are being cut. As residents and tax payers of Scottish Borders Council, we therefore request our elected members to overturn the decision to spend £3.5M in this manner**

**Further information.**

Please enter below any measures already taken, or persons/organisations approached to attempt to resolve the issues. Attach additional sheets to this form if required but please note that this information must be limited to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.

*Additional sheets provided*

**Presentation of petition to the Committee.**

Please indicate below if you would like the opportunity to make a statement at the meeting of the Petitions Committee when your petition is considered. Whether or not you will be invited to do so will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

\*I do wish the opportunity to make a brief statement about the petition.

\*

Name of deputy .....

Contact details .....

Signature of deputy.....

\* please delete as appropriate

**Signature of Principal Petitioner.**

If you are satisfied your petition meets all the requirements as stated in the Guidance Questions and Answers please add your signature and date below.

Signature of Principal Petitioner.....

Date..... 14/9/15 .....

**Accompanying signatures.**

Your petition must be accompanied by at least 10 signatures in total, from persons aged 16 and over, resident in the Scottish Borders. The signatures must be from a minimum of 3 separate addresses.

*Please be aware that if the petition is on the agenda for a meeting of the Petitions Committee the names and addresses, but not signatures, of all signatories will be published on the Council website.*

	Name	Address	Signature
1	FAY H. McCROW	1 Cardrona Way Cardrona EH45 9LD	
2	CATHERINE CUMMINGS	7 Mains Farm Steading Cardrona, Peebles EH45 9HL	
3	J. R. Lyon	14 The Green Cardrona Peebles EH45 9LR	
4	Jim Hawker	14 The Green, Cardrona EH45 9LR	
5	DAVID ROWE	2 Croft Gardens Peebles EH45 9DG	
6	A. Rowe	Chambers Terrace Peebles EH45 9BQ	
7	G Lamb	16 Mark Street Lane Peebles EH45 8EL	
8	L Fraser	44 GEORGE ST PEEBLES EH45 8DN	

9	JIM M <sup>C</sup> AUSLIN	7 Dukehaugh, Peebles EH45 9DN	
10	CHRISTINE COVELL	Crickhollow, Springwood Drive, Peebles EH45 9HA	

*Attach additional sheets of signatures if you wish.*

**Please submit this form and any additional sheets to:-**

Clerk to the Council, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown  
St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA,

or email to:

[committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk)

Total No. signatures 4,440

## Great Tapestry building petition

We have attached the following signed document with 2,514 signatures obtained from across the Borders over a 4 week period plus a print-out from the website – Change.org – petition with 1,932 signatures and a selection from the over 1,000 individual comments. Thus the total signatures for this petition is 4,440.

These petitions were supported by the Press across the Borders plus interviews with Radio Borders and BBC Scotland. The petitions were presented on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 to Cllr Jim Brown but we were informed subsequently that they would not be accepted as they didn't have the full addresses only the post codes. We are now presenting this petition in the SBC format with the above paperwork as supporting evidence.

The case for SBC to overturn the decision on the spend on the Tapestry building has been printed over the intervening months in the local Press but we have had no response from SBC. The general feeling from the Borders residents is that the £3.5M spend by SBC on this new building in these times of austerity could be better spent on roads, education, social work, health.

The feasibility study for this new building has also come in for considerable criticism e.g.

- no serious investigation of alternative and cheaper sites,
- no polling of prospective visitors to establish the need in the short and long term whereas only a macro-data study was the basis of the feasibility study,
- the risk is seen to be too high versus the poor level of anticipated profits in the longer term and
- the architects have designed a signature building costing twice the square footage cost of, say, the Abbotsford visitor centre.
- the need for and the costs of converting the building for other uses if the Tapestry project fails.
- The Tapestry has been seen by 320,000 Scots in their locality (circa 10% of the population) at no cost so will they pay for travel and an entrance fee.
- Will the tourist numbers be sufficient to support the enterprise
- The Tapestry Trustees charter is to make the tapestry ('The Great Scottish Tapestry') *available for viewing* at public museums or other public bodies of similar status at no cost to the public. This seems to clash with the need to charge at this new building to make the enterprise viable.

Many of the comments from residents talk about a vanity project rather than one meeting a calculated business need.

There are concerns that SBC will have to meet the £3.5M from borrowing as the site location will not attract public funding e.g. HLF and hence residents will be paying off this debt over the next 30 years.

We would therefore ask our elected members to overturn the decision to spend £3.5M on this building. If they decide not to do so, they should as a bare minimum:

- review the basis of the feasibility study
- undertake polling surveys of prospective visitors to test their willingness to purchase a return rail ticket @ circa £15 per person plus an entrance fee of £10 per person
- review the financial case to determine if and when a reasonable profit level can be achieved
- review the risk factors
- conduct public consultations to obtain residents views on the business case and their willingness to be committed to paying for this building over the next 30 years.
- Consider alternative sites in the Borders e.g. Galashiels based Scottish Centre of Textiles where a simpler and cheaper multi-use building could be constructed with access to public funds e.g. HLF