

Current SBC Consultations

Tweedbank to Eyemouth Active Travel Route – Closes 31 March 2022

Scottish Borders Council has received funding from the South of Scotland Enterprise for a feasibility study of a new 53km active travel route (for walking, cycling and wheeling) between the existing Tweedbank Railway Station and the new Reston Station.

The route is to be based generally on the alignment of the former railway line that originally linked the stations and runs through the heart of the region connecting towns and villages such as Earlston, Greenlaw, Duns and Chirnside.

[Tweedbank to Eyemouth Active Travel Route - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

Common Good Consultation 2022 – Closes 31 March 2022

This consultation seeks your views on the Common Good registers for the former Burghs of the Scottish Borders.

All former Burghs have a 'Common Good' which comprises the land, buildings, art, artefacts and funds which were owned and managed by the Burgh Council on behalf of the residents of the Burgh. The Burgh system was extinguished in 1975 but the assets owned by the Burgh at that date continue to be owned by the Common Good, which is administered by Councillors who sit as Common Good Trustees.

We are seeking your views on whether you think any additional assets should be included on these registers, and if so, why. You may also have further information on the assets noted. Or you may think that an item on the register is not Common Good.

[Common Good Consultation 2022 - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

SBC Building Authorisation Form

We continue to live with the threat of COVID-19, highlighted by the number of new cases in the Scottish Borders in recent weeks.

As a result, our absolute priority remains the safety of the public and staff, including external groups who previously accessed Council buildings for service provision and meetings.

This authorisation form has been created for external groups such as third sector organisations, community or volunteer groups who deem themselves to be an essential service which require access to a Council building to deliver this service.

[Authorisation form for organisations/groups requesting Council building access - Scottish Borders Council - Citizen Space](#)

Community Information

Place Making

Over the past year, the Eildon Area Partnership has had a range of discussions around how communities could be more actively involved in shaping their own futures through a Place Making approach.

Simply put, Place Making is about communities working together to develop plans that express local needs and ambitions and about working together with service providers to find ways to achieve those plans. You can find out more by clicking on the link to the national Our Place site; <https://www.ourplace.scot/>

Scottish Borders Council is committed to enabling Place Making for communities that want to take this approach and Area Partnerships have a key role to play in developing, overseeing and prioritising arrangements in their local communities.

To help develop this approach in the Eildon area, the Area Partnership is holding a facilitated workshop to:

- Develop a shared understanding of Place Making – what it is, how it works in our communities, how people can be involved and how it can benefit them.
- Agree the role of the Eildon Area Partnership in overseeing Place Making
- Identify communities that want to be involved in this process and where early Place Making activity should be focussed

The workshops will be facilitated by Petra Biberbach, Chief Executive of Planning Advice Scotland (PAS) .

[Place Making Workshop - Eildon Tickets, Wed 23 Mar 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Tenant Grant Fund

A Tenant Grant Fund has been set up to help tenants who are at risk of becoming homeless because they've fallen behind with rent payments during COVID-19.

Applications will be assessed to ensure that support is provided to households at greatest risk of becoming homeless.

Eligibility

If you're a tenant and have struggled financially as a direct result of the pandemic you should apply before 31 March 2022.

Your rent arrears must have built up between 23 March 2020 and 9 August 2021, and your landlord should have carried out steps to resolve the issue with you.

We'll make full or partial payments if your application is successful, and for a maximum period of 12 months between the above dates.

How to apply

Tenants can [apply online](#).

There's information you'll need to hand to be able to submit your application, which is detailed at the beginning of the form.

If you need support with your application you can ask your landlord or a member of your family or a friend. You can also contact your local [Citizen's Advice Bureau](#) for support.

Information for landlords

Payment will be made directly to you to reduce your tenant's arrears. As a condition of the payment you must agree to end any ongoing proceedings.

Private landlords must be registered on the [Scottish Landlord Register](#).

[Financial support | COVID-19 Financial Assistance | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

What Matters Hub?

Eildon has reintroduced our What Matters Hub in Galashiels at Café Recharge at 58 Island Street, Galashiels TD1 1NU every Tuesday between 1-4pm

What is the Hub?

The Hub is a place where clients can meet:

- People from community groups and voluntary organisations from across the Borders
- People from the council such as social workers and occupational therapists

How can the Hub Help?

We Can:

- Help to get you information and advice quickly to remain in your own home and get involved in your community.
 - Help you to find support you need to stay independent, such as equipment, transport or help at home.
 - Provide advice for carers about support available in your area
 - Provide information about what is happening in your local area and where you could meet new people.
 - Provide information about volunteering opportunities.
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New on-demand transport booking service launched

A new on-demand transport service mobile application has been launched to provide Borderers in the Ettrick Valley and Bonchester Bridge areas with better access to public and shared transport.

'Go Borders' will begin operating on the existing 910 Hawick – Bonchester Bridge and 911/912 Ettrick Valley - Hawick/Galashiels services to provide increased and more convenient access to public transport.

The service will enable residents in areas which are not serviced by public transport routes access to on-demand transport through the 'Go Borders' smart phone app or the existing telephony service.

The specially-created mobile application shows real-time updates and allows users to view and book journeys in the matter of a few clicks whilst also tracking the vehicle along its route by viewing live arrival information.

Payment will then be made in the traditional way via cash or concessionary card on board the bus when passengers begin their journey.

The service has been created in partnership with [Moovit](#), an Intel company, and leading 'Mobility as a Service' solutions provider. The Go Borders app is powered by

Moovit's technology, and the transport service is powered by Moovit On-Demand solution.

Gordon Edgar, Executive Member for Infrastructure, Travel and Transport, said: "Given the rural nature of so many of our communities in the Scottish Borders, the traditional forms of public transport struggle to meet the diverse travel needs of our residents.

"Go Borders will provide unprecedented flexibility and offer greater convenience for residents, especially those living in some of the most remote locations where there are little or no public transport services at present.

"I think this is an extremely positive development and look forward to exploring how services like this can be expanded geographically to other areas of the region."

Yovav Meydad, Moovit's Chief Growth and Marketing Officer, said: "We are excited to partner with Scottish Borders Council and power this new mobility offering for Scottish Borders residents for greater access to transport and shorter walk and wait times.

"Complementary to traditional modes of transport, Moovit On-Demand can help residents get around more efficiently and gain more transparency into their ride."

The Go Borders app is available to download on the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Passengers without a smartphone who are unable to use the Go Borders DRT app can also phone the Council on 01835 826753 to book their bus.

Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities

The [Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities](https://www.sclld.org.uk/) (SCLD) has launched a new app, 'Human Rights Town', designed to help people with learning disabilities to understand their human rights.

<https://www.sclld.org.uk/welcome-to-human-rights-town/>

Volunteer Centre Borders

WE CARE: WE VOLUNTEER

**VOLUNTEER
CENTRE BORDERS**



Get involved in Volunteering.

www.vcborders.org.uk
enquiries@vcborders.org.uk
or call us on
01896754041.

Community Ownership Fund

You may be aware that the UK Government has launched a new £150 million Community Ownership Fund. This will provide funding over four years to support community groups to take ownership of assets and amenities at risk of being lost. From the summer onwards, voluntary and community groups can bid for up to £250,000 (up to £1M for sport projects) at 50% match funding to help them purchase or take over important assets and run them for the benefit of the local community.

The intention is to help ensure key assets within a community are not lost. The UK Government has not published a definite list of eligible assets as they want to hear what matters to communities but the fund could support community ownership proposals including:

- sporting and leisure facilities
- cinemas and theatres
- music venues
- museums
- galleries
- parks
- pubs
- post office buildings
- shops

Applicants will need to be able to demonstrate the value of the asset to local people and the sustainability of the project as well as the risk of losing the amenity without community intervention.

The Fund will run until 2024/25 and there will be at least 8 bidding rounds in total. Key dates are as follows:

- 30th July - online portal opens for submission of applications
- 13 August 2021 – deadline for submitting applications to the first bidding round
- December 2021 – round 2 will open
- May 2022 – round 3 will open

The first round is primarily focused on capital costs with an expectation that development funding will be available from round 2 onwards. The UK Government intends to update the fund's prospectus and guidance notes for round 2 in the autumn based on their learning from round 1.

For more details, please see the [Community Ownership Fund prospectus](#). A copy of the application form is attached.

Locality Plan and Action Plans

[Eildon Locality Plan | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

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

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

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

Information Pack on Community Empowerment for Area Partnerships:

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20015/your_council/472/area_partnerships/7

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Currently, there are no formal Participation Requests or formal Asset Transfer requests being considered within the Eildon area. Information about the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 is available on the Council's website: [Parts of the Act | Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015 | Scottish Borders Council \(scotborders.gov.uk\)](#)

	Section 4: Further Support
20.	Useful Links below Debt Advice: Citizens Advice Bureau Salvation Army NHS Money Worries App – download from Google Play or the App Store

Business support:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/covid19business

www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot

General Funding:

<https://fundingscotland.com/>

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

[SBC Community Fund](#)

[SBC Enhancement & Welfare Trust](#)

[Sustainable Development Fund](#)

Heating & energy:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/affordablewarmth

Covid-19:

www.scotborders.gov.uk/coronavirus

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

Health & Wellbeing:

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

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

Community Empowerment:

https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20062/strategies_plans_and_policies/357/community_empowerment_scotland_act_2015

Scottish Community Council Newsletter:

<http://www.communitycouncils.scot/>