

# PLACE MAKING WORKSHOP TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE

## 26 APRIL 2022

### SUMMARY NOTE

#### 1. WHAT IS PLACE MAKING?

- Place making, is a way to engage and see what people want, what's working and what's not, and making sure not to assume what people want.
- Making things better and spreading the benefits.
- Meeting the needs of the community.
- A community plan to overcome barriers & challenges, requiring more joined-up services.
- People want to feel involved in their plan/community and want to know how they can influence what happens.
- Place making has moved on from being just about the physical environment
- Volunteering is important to galvanise people's opinions and enhance community engagement empowers people and helps improve places. Many people give up their time to volunteer in their community.
- Sometimes volunteers doing things for their community are subject to knock backs.
- Discussion around rural-town scales and challenges it presents e.g. transport and disconnect.
- Community deciding how they shape the places they live in.
- Early impression of place making was it is a planning tool. As the process has evolved it seems more about needs, connectivity as well as buildings.
- Current climate and issues are unique in each area. Resources and each locality has different issues, must account for local needs.
- Consider scale of approach, looking at strategic planning as well as local needs, and joining plans up, local, regional and national.
- Lots of the themes are based on cities, not rural communities.
- Hawick is made up of different communities, not necessarily a single community.
- Place making should be bottom-up, and regional land use policy not relevant.
- Local issues, timber Lorries, windfarms. Got to take account of local community view.
- There will have to be an enabling process to support communities to engage.
- Place plans are about communities, but there has to be awareness of regional aspects of issues including regional land use, flood defenses. Vital that this is informed by communities.
- Holistic approach is needed.
- Critical that place making is led by local communities
- Important to reach other people hard to reach people for their opinions.
- Working with young people to add value and community wealth building.
- Challenges arise all the time but there needs to be something in it for everyone to get involved.
- Often volunteers don't look for reward or glorification but want to be involved and feel part of the community and work together to achieve something positive.

## 2. HIGH LEVEL PRINCIPLES

### General Comments

- Strong feeling that principles needed to be agreed locally and that one size doesn't fit all.
- 1-7 seems to be in a muddle, and may need to be reordered.
- Net Zero - Carbon offset has impacted on price of land, and has impacted on local people being able to utilize the land. This may feature in Southdean place plans.
- Co-production must be fundamental.
- Principles need to be in language that most people understand. Observed that the attendees are not community. Funding processes are becoming so detailed that people are put off. Keep coming back to money and power is vital but the language must be accessible.
- Keep it simple as place making is already confusing for people. Agreement amongst all, needs to be simpler. NHS has the same issue, and tries to ensure accessible language.
- Acknowledge that this draft is a starting point, but it must be taken forward by the community.
- SBC must consult but sometimes it seems like a tick box. This is the engagement stage. The online consultation did not work, and now it must be taken to the communities so it is sensible.
- Themes – energy, growing, transport
- National Standards for Community Engagement are good and designed for community engagement.
- This had to be started by Government or it would not have happened.
- Adopt other principles of community engagement, previously used. Has to be something the community has signed off.
- The demographics are different, and the solution will need to reflect this, 30% rural population. T&L largest town has large proportion of wider population.
- Process about reflecting what the community wants, and it may feel top down but the approach is to develop an action plan and channel the resources, and therefore is it helpful to offer a framework, and ultimately this will be plugging into national frameworks. The tone can be set around what are the priorities and actions. Outcomes focused and this can be connected back to the policies and framework.
- Most projects can be fitted into this year's fund but there needs to be a longer term view as well as understanding wellbeing. Getting the money is not that hard.
- T&L differs from other Areas and may have its own principles. It is important that communities have ownership of the principles.
- Feels like these are being imposed on those in Teviot and Liddesdale. No one fit all policy solution. Communities in Teviot and Liddesdale have different priorities, scales and challenges and these need to be recognised.
- Feeling that this is a ticking box exercise and place planning isn't about that.
- Can't be prescriptive in principles. Feeling that principles are not needed.

### Specific Comments

#### *Principle 3 - Simplify Processes*

- Simplify processes has to be a priority and is a major barrier to participation.
- Funding processes are becoming so detailed that people are put off.
- This process needs to be simplified. 3 should be first, then 6 (plans should be community-led).

- Agreement that simplifying the process is a positive principle and well supported. Its felt that is often the same people that do all the paperwork, and can be time consuming for volunteers e.g. funding applications.

***Principle 6 - Community Place Plans should be community-led and based on Community Council boundaries or combination of Community Council boundaries.***

- This is the main point of contention there is a clear desire to let community's define the boundaries of their place plans to reflect the different geographies and issues.

***Principle 9 – Inclusivity***

- Principles 9 and 10 (Equity) should be intertwined through all the principles – equality and equal access.

### **3. GETTING STARTED – WHERE DO WE BEGIN**

- We *are* starting, and first thing is identifying the communities.
- Need to include rural communities as well as towns.
- The process should account for all the different communities.
- Consultation with the community has to be the starting point - Start by asking people
- Each community has its own needs. Hawick and Burnfoot may be thought to have different ideas but they may have more similarities in specific areas.
- The rural aspect is interesting, does every rural community need a place plan, or do communities come together and have joined place plans? CC's under review and will this feed into how to approach place plans? There are some obvious potential link-ups.
- Understand the approach of other localities which have started up working groups for this.
- Having a clear purpose will be essential as people will have to give their time. There are lots of people working and this adds a different dynamic.
- Important to give people a profile and facts on their place and what will happen if they don't get involved and help change their place for the better.
- The key is galvanising the community – all not just the usual suspects. The power of using well presented data on how communities are changing was emphasised. (i.e. school role decline and threat to school, age profile, local jobs)
- Key not to leave rural communities behind.
- Working groups suggested as a good way forward as has been set up in other localities.