

# PLACE MAKING WORKSHOP CHEVIOT 27 APRIL 2022

## SUMMARY NOTES

### 1. WHAT IS PLACE MAKING?

#### **The Focus of Place Making**

- Functionality of a place rather than the buildings and physical infrastructure, how people use their towns and villages and how they move between them. How do these places make you feel? Are they well maintained, safe, inspiring?

#### **The Name “Place Making”**

- ‘Place making’ is an uninspiring title – why has this been used? Doesn’t mean anything on its own – need to inspire the public to get them to engage
- ‘The place where you live and the place where you work’ may be better- more descriptive language should be used
- Kith and kin – place and family (community) what makes you feel like you belong, if you don’t feel like you belong you are unlikely to engage, how to help make people feel like they belong

#### **Involving People**

- Need to be more proactive in getting everyone in the Borders involved in the process
- How do we get young people involved?

#### **The Approach**

- Better collaboration between citizens and local authority – area partnerships flawed in this respect as local authority led – citizen panels (community councils) would be better way to deliver this to allow better community empowerment. Area partnerships and community councils as they current stand are incompatible.
- Area Partnership gives small rural community councils a voice– area partnerships give forum for smaller community councils to have input as wouldn’t have resources or abilities to do this sort of thing (e.g produce local place plans) otherwise – weighed down by jargon and feelings of inadequacy and don’t always feel they have skills needed to do these things
- How can community councils contribute to place making?
- Necessary but not sufficient – communities have historically not been able to make decisions about what happens in their communities, now power given back to them but this isn’t enough, it needs to go beyond
- Need to recognize the diversity of communities
- Need more hands-on and creative approach.
- Need large, medium and small approach to areas – One size doesn’t fit all.
- Respect within communities is essential.
- East Lothian area partnerships – representatives from lots of different groups/viewpoints are included and they are the ones who make the decisions. Community have ability to vote on what happens/what is important to them in their communities
- Need more public interventions, with walking workshops, big maps to draw on.

## 2. HIGH LEVEL PRINCIPLES

### General Points

- Too many principles
- Simplify the language
- No mention of funding in the principles – being clear on funding sources could be key to achieve bottom up ideas – participatory budgeting (at least 1% council budget to be spent by community) allowing community to decide how that funding is spent rather than council approving how they want it to be spent
- Matter of resources are missing from principles
- Need to go to where the people are, rather than them coming to us
- Where do people go for support to help them engage with the community
- Needs more in person engagement rather than online engagement
- Need more front line staff within the council to feed back
- A disconnect between the council and the public.
- Need to inspire people rather than giving them a list

### Comments on the 13 Principles

- Principles 3 & 4 high priority (simplifying processes and working with and supporting communities at earliest opportunity) – in reference to inclusion of young people – how young people could fit in to process. How do we get people into schools to involve students from primary/secondary etc. and get young people's ideas out there and included. Inclusion in these workshops? Specific events in schools? Ensure they know/feel their involvement is meaningful.
- Should focus on principle 5 (accelerating action)
- Prioritise 12 (mutual trust, respect and transparency)
- Principle 9 (Inclusivity) should be at core of this – need to include people from schools, businesses etc. otherwise will only get small part of the picture. Need to ensure young people have a voice as have lots of views. Difficult to achieve but essential to success

## 3. PRIORITY COMMUNITIES

### General Points

- Identify small, medium, large communities
- Capital investments – capital easy to get, however revenue sources are difficult to get - consideration of financial sustainability
- Who owns it in each community – CC boundary as base area, who represents it – to coordinate activity
- Projects – starting point LDP as is, do community agree with it
- How do we manage to get inclusivity – leverage of social media etc. to reach people who would otherwise be switched off to this – if don't know what the 'bottom' are saying how can it be a bottom-up process
- Missing from capital investment – mention of international drive towards electric vehicles, manifesto commitment to EPCC by 2030
- Recognition for achievement