

The Jedburgh Children and Teenagers Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Introduction

At the end of September 2023, A Place in Childhood worked with children and young people to create a **Neighbourhood plan for Jedburgh, Scottish Borders**. The purpose of the engagement was to establish an understanding of what children and young people felt about their place, what they needed, and what would be their priorities for change. This plan contributes to part of a wider Children and Teenagers' 20-minute neighbourhood project funded by [Paths for All's Smarter Choices, Smart Places programme](#) and match funded by participating Local Authorities and their associated partners.

The project seeks to create 5 Children and Teenager 20-minute neighbourhood plans across Scotland, for use by decision-makers to inform and prioritise interventions that deliver cohesive places and reduce unsustainable travel.

The purpose of the engagement was:

- To develop an informed understanding of what young people like and dislike about Jedburgh;
- Understand how they move around and through Jedburgh;
- Identify any barriers to movement; and
- Identify opportunities to improve the neighbourhood.

APiC worked with approximately 40 local children and teenagers from Jedburgh Grammar primaries and secondary classes and all participants were aged between 6-16.

The second stage of this project is this 1.5 hour Showcase Event and workshop at Jedburgh Grammar in Winter 2023 (anticipated December).

Some of the children and teenagers involved in the project will present their plans to key stakeholders in the Council and beyond, who influence them to make some of the priorities identified in the plan happen.

APiC will support the pupils who wish to present their plan to the stakeholders and facilitate discussions between pupils and adults to explore potential opportunities. This stage aims to support everyone in understanding what priorities children and teenagers have for their place and see if there is "low-hanging fruit" or other priorities that align with long-term council ambitions for the Jedburgh area. It also aligns with incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots Law and will support pupils in understanding how change can happen (including why some changes might not be easy or possible).

This document outlines each of the two plans created so far by children and teenagers and the overarching priorities identified by the engagements to date and identifies potential links to your work areas. **It is important to note at this stage that the plans are in draft as participating pupils are finalising their content through consultation with the wider student body therefore the content may be subject to amendments.**

Following the Showcase Event, the plans will be consolidated into one document which can contribute to multiple departmental and third-party decisions relating to place, community, and economic development.

Key Overarching Themes Across the Children and Teenagers' Priorities for Change and relevant stakeholders

Below is a summary of the priorities grouped into themes, with some initial Council and Community stakeholders who we felt would be beneficial to attend the Showcase Event. This is not an exhaustive list and should serve as the beginning of a conversation about who we want to invite to the Showcase event.

Environmental Priorities

- Protecting and enhancing nature at all opportunities across the town
- Treating Each Other and our Environment Well
- More Local Recycling and Reusing of Materials
- **Key stakeholders to invite include:** Towns Team, Open/Greenspace and Park Management, Town Planning

Community-based Priorities

- Opportunities to grow food.
- More town events and community events and better promotion of opportunities available.
- Improving access for everyone to play opportunities, with special attention required on the play and hanging out needs of teenagers.
- More Activities and Events at the Town Hall
- Greater Community Police Presence
- Improve Access to Drs Appointments
- **Key stakeholders to include:** Towns Team, Community Planning, Open/Greenspace, Education, School Estates, Early Learning and Childcare, Community Policing

Transport-based Priorities

- Extend the Borders Railway to Jedburgh
- **Key stakeholders to include:** Towns Team, Transport, Roads, Active Travel

Housing-based Priorities

- More Housing Options for People with Disabilities and Large Families
- **Key stakeholders to include:** Towns Team, Housing, Care Policy, Town Planning

Participation Priorities

- Setup a Youth Council / Assembly to present the views of Young People across the Scottish Borders
- Redevelop the Old Jedburgh Grammar School Site with Young People's Input
- **Key stakeholders to include:** Towns Team, Community Development, Councillors, Town Planning, Policy teams

Play and Recreation-based Priorities

- More Opportunities for Older Children (age 10+) and Young People to Have Fun
- More Local Facilities for Young People
- **Key stakeholders to include:** Towns Team, Community Development, Community Council, Councillors

Local Facilities

- More Help for Small Businesses
- Increase the Number of Shops, Cafes, and another supermarket in Jedburgh
- Encourage Volunteering and Increase Job Opportunities for Young People
- **Key stakeholders to include:** Towns Team, Community Development, Economic Development, Town Planning, Estates, Community Councils, Councillors

Jedburgh Grammar Primary Pupils: Experiential Maps and Priorities Lists

Jedburgh Children: What we think of the local area

Key	What's Important / Good?	What's Missing / Could be Better?	Things to Change	
				
				
				

Overall we feel that Jedburgh is a good place to live and go to school in. There are lots of important tourist sites, and the area is really beautiful. It also feels quite safe, as long as we're careful about where we go and who we speak to. Taking everything we looked at on our walk and from talking about how Jedburgh could be a better place to live, we feel that there are a few things which could be done to make it even better.

We then decided which we thought were the most important, and these became our priorities. You can read these below in the rough order of importance. We might need to talk about and vote on these a little bit more to make sure they're in the right order!

OUR PRIORITIES:

- **Protect and Increase our Nature** - We love all the trees, water, and animals around. We don't want that to change, and we would quite like some more trees, bird houses, and potentially a dog park too.
- **Treating Each Other and our Environment Well** - We need people to throw away and / or recycle their litter to protect our environment. We think more bins would help with this. We also need people to respect each other more by not breaking things, graffitiing, or making other people feel scared (e.g. jumping out at them). A public water fountain could also reduce plastic waste and help people's health, as long as we could make sure it couldn't be tampered with (some of us worry that it could be poisoned and become unsafe).
- **More Opportunities for Older Children (age 10+) and Young People to Have Fun** - Jed Fun Park is great, but it is mostly for younger children. High Park is also fantastic, but there's not so much for teenagers to do there. We also think the school playground could have more things to swing and climb on for upper primary age pupils. The opportunity to play basketball more often would also be great.
- **More Activities and Events at the Town Hall** - We love the events in Jedburgh, and getting to see shows and festivals at the town hall. We think it could be used more, and would make the town more popular for people to visit.
- **Increase the Number of Shops, Cafes, and another Supermarket in Jedburgh** - We think it would be good to have more places to go in the town, so we don't have to go elsewhere to shop for things like clothes. Places that are affordable and friendly to young people to eat at would be really welcome. At the same time, Jedburgh is quite small, so we don't think it needs to be lots more shops, and they don't need to be in the town centre.

- **More Places and Opportunities to Grow Food** - We think we think we could grow more local food and sell it locally. This could also include local beehives for honey (as long as we made the beehives really safe and didn't have them too close to the town centre where people wander around). We could also make more local materials such as wool and leather and create a local tartan. Some of us would also like to learn about responsible local fishing (though some people want to fish for interest, and not for food).
- **Extend the Borders Railway to Jedburgh** - We would find it really helpful to get a train to Edinburgh rather than a bus and a train, as this takes a really long time. We used to also have a direct bus to Edinburgh, but now there's the train to Tweedbank we don't anymore. This is a big issue for people who don't have cars.
- **More Local Food Growing Space** - Many of us already grow and raise food at home, but we think that there could be more opportunities for growing, as we have a lot of greenspace.
- **Consider Generating Local Electricity** - Some of us think there could be opportunities for more local wind and solar power.

Jedburgh Grammar Secondary Pupils: Experiential Maps and Priorities Lists

Jedburgh Teenagers: What we think of the local area

Key **What's Important / Good?** **What's Missing / Could be Better?** **Things to Change**

What's Important / Good? (Green callouts):

- Jedburgh has a good community and most of us feel pretty safe here.
- Jedburgh has some good golf courses that some of us enjoy playing at.
- We have a lot of wonderful nature and woodland that we would like to see protected!
- Some covered seating spaces in the Co-op Garden would be good for when it rains.
- We really enjoy the Dail Right Hand Ball competition, and the other community events in the town centre.
- There aren't a lot of shops or cafes around at the moment. We have to go elsewhere to get a lot of what we want.
- Some of us would like to see more opportunities for young people to work directly with the Council.
- High Park has excellent views, and is very good for seeing the historic sites of Jedburgh. It's also fantastic for walking, and the new play park is really good for younger children.
- The Riverside Rugby Pitch is really good quality.
- Jedburgh has some good golf courses that some of us enjoy playing at.
- There are a lot of shops around our school that make it hard for people with mobility issues, babies, or pushchairs and prams to use. A ramp alongside the shops would at least help people get bikes and pushchairs up and down.
- The school canteen serves very good food and we can get some bits of opportunities to very young people, maybe help and help.
- Some of the great things about the place were the open air and the views, and the fact that we can see the town from the school.
- The play equipment in Spade Park isn't very new, and there aren't many places to sit.
- There can be some antisocial behaviour at the Riverside Rugby Pitch, and we've had some people who've been drinking and it's not good for the school and the town.

What's Missing / Could be Better? (Orange callouts):

- We would like to see a bigger and more affordable supermarket in Jedburgh, so people don't have to travel so far to get what they need.
- We would like to see bus links improved across the Scottish Borders so we can get to other places more easily without being driven.
- We would like more opportunities as young people to work directly with the Council.
- There aren't affordable or teen-centred clothes shops in Jedburgh.
- There aren't a lot of shops around our school that make it hard for people with mobility issues, babies, or pushchairs and prams to use. A ramp alongside the shops would at least help people get bikes and pushchairs up and down.
- The school canteen serves very good food and we can get some bits of opportunities to very young people, maybe help and help.
- Some of the great things about the place were the open air and the views, and the fact that we can see the town from the school.
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- There can be some antisocial behaviour at the Riverside Rugby Pitch, and we've had some people who've been drinking and it's not good for the school and the town.

Things to Change (Pink callouts):

- Jedburgh can feel a bit less safe for girls, especially after dark.
- We could have more bike tracks and a bike park in Jedburgh.
- We need to see more covered seating spaces in the Co-op Garden.
- There aren't a lot of shops or cafes around at the moment. We have to go elsewhere to get a lot of what we want.
- There can be some antisocial behaviour at the Riverside Rugby Pitch, and we've had some people who've been drinking and it's not good for the school and the town.

Surrounding Photos:

- Top left: A street scene in Jedburgh.
- Top middle: A stone building, likely a school or town hall.
- Top right: A river flowing through a wooded area.
- Middle left: A large stone tower, possibly a castle or church tower.
- Middle right: A group of people standing outdoors.
- Bottom left: A modern building, possibly a school or community center.
- Bottom middle: A playground with colorful equipment.
- Bottom right: A large open field, possibly a sports field or park.

Overall we feel that Jedburgh is a good place to live and go to school in. There are lots of important tourist sites, and the area is really beautiful. However, taking everything we looked at on our walk and from talking about how Jedburgh could be a better place to live, we feel that there are a few things which could be done to improve the area.

We then decided which we thought were the most important, and these became our priorities. You can read these below in the rough order of importance. We might need to talk about and vote on these a little bit more to make sure they're in the right order!

OUR PRIORITIES:

- **Setup a Youth Council / Assembly to present the views of Young People across the Scottish Borders** - We want to be more included in the local decision-making that happens, and to represent our views more directly. We think there could be a mechanism setup that draws from all schools. For example, we're concerned that the skatepark has been talked about for a long time, but never seems to happen.
- **Encourage Volunteering and Increase Job Opportunities for Young People** - We think there is good opportunity to make Jedburgh a more positive environment for young people, and for us to be involved in direct action. More job opportunities would also increase our ability to stay in the town as we get older.
- **More Local Facilities for Young People** - We think there could be more places for young people to exercise and get support to do so. For example, larger gyms that can support our specific needs, exercise classes aimed at our age group, and weightlifting support for people who are new to it. Cycle trails and lanes across the area, a nice youth-friendly cafe to hangout in (especially in Winter), shops that appeal to teenagers (such as clothes and sports shops), more entertainment options (such as events space or a cinema), and having the school pitches unlocked at weekends and during holidays would increase the amount that young people get out and about.
- **Cheaper Food Options** - A lot of places to eat in Jedburgh are expensive so young and vulnerable people can't eat out very much, and need to travel to try and get cheaper food (which is also expensive and difficult without a car). An example might be to attract a budget supermarket in, such as Lidl (though not all of us agree a big brand is the solution).
- **More Housing Options for People with Disabilities and Large Families** - Some people don't have housing that meets their needs, and it has a big impact on people's quality of life.
- **Redevelop the Old Jedburgh Grammar School Site with Young People's Input** - We think it's a fantastic opportunity to improve local facilities, and we have lots of ideas.

- **Build to Benefit the Community** - ask local people what would improve the town, and work together to make sure everyone gets what they need.
- **More Help for Small Businesses** - Many of us like that Jedburgh has lots of local businesses, and we're worried that they don't get as much support as they could from the council to stay running.
- **More Local Food Growing Space** - Many of us already grow and raise food at home, but we think that there could be more opportunities for growing, as we have a lot of greenspace.
- **More Local Recycling and Reusing of Materials** - This is important as we transition to a greener future.
- **Greater Community Police Presence** - Jedburgh is pretty safe, but when there are police in one area of the borders, they're not in the other places. Knowing that there are some more police around helps us feel safe.
- **Improve Access to Drs Appointments** - Many people have to wait a long time to see a GP, and we think it should be easier.