

is out of date

Community Councils and the Planning System Guidance May 2018- we welcome this brief although disappointed that this was published in 2018 and this is the first sight of this document.

The document "Community Councils and the Planning system" is an excellent and extremely useful piece of work.

- It would be useful if it included a short section that detailed all the sub-fixes to the planning reference numbers, e.g., PPP, FUL, LBC, etc.
- Nowhere in the document are "Place Making" or "Town Action" Plans mentioned.

Local Place Plans are a new type of plan introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, which gives communities the opportunity to create proposals for the development and use of land in their place¹²³⁴. The core focus of these plans should be on the development and use of land, such as housing land allocation or the design of new public green space¹. Local Place Plans are community-led plans that set out a community's aspirations for its future development⁴⁵. Once registered by the planning authority, they are taken into account in the preparation of the relevant local development plan⁵. The aim of these plans is to enhance engagement in development planning and empower communities to play a proactive role in defining the future of their places³⁵. The Scottish Government is yet to provide guidance on how the development of Place Plans will be carried out⁴

I note that it is now proposed that the onus will be on our Community Council to check council planning lists to see whether we would wish to comment. I would make the following points:

1. My understanding of the planning process is that the Community Council is a statutory consultee in planning matters and as such the council should continue to make any applications for our area known to us.
2. As volunteers, already committing many hours to deliver a service to our community and to the Scottish Borders Council, it is unfair to place this additional burden on us.
3. Such is the complexity and amount of paperwork involved in many of the current planning applications there is a need for Community Councils to be supported through the process.