

## Community-led planning blog

December 2023

### Peer support network



Our community-led planning peer support network will have its first gathering online on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024**, 6:30 – 8pm. This network is for anyone in the Scottish Borders who is involved in a community-led planning core team (e.g. Town Team) or group such as a Community Council or Development Trust which is leading the process locally. It will be an opportunity to increase awareness of other community-led plans across the Borders which may link with yours and to discuss relevant hot

topics, such as using the Place Standard Tool, ideas for community engagements or what you need to capture from these engagements for presentation in your Local Place Plan. You can register for the network and submit your key issues or questions in advance so we can tailor the first session via this link:

[Register here!](#)

We are also looking for anyone which would be happy to do a 10-minute spotlight, to enable more in-depth peer learning. You can also use the linked form to let us know if you would like to do this.

### Place Standard Tool workshop

On 30 November I attended an event hosted by [SURF](#) (Scotland's Regeneration Forum) and Public Health Scotland on the Place Standard Tool (PST). This was a chance to hear updates on the tool and to input into the Place Standard Tool Delivery Plan 2024-28.



My two key takeaways from the session were firstly that the tool is primarily intended for use in structuring community conversations about place, but there is an awareness of the need for development of the online tool if it is to be used for data collection and analysis. In the meantime, I am working on methods for data analysis based on use of the online group tool and would be happy to share insights on this with groups.

Secondly, that I think the climate lens version should be integrated with the main tool, as the climate emergency is too urgent to see this as an optional extra and local measures to address climate change should be integrated into all planning. This would also ensure Local Place Plans based on PST engagement will align with the [NPF4](#) (the current version of the National

Planning Framework) and therefore make a stronger case to influence statutory planning and attract funding. I put this recommendation forward and felt it had been listened to.

### Local Place Plan of the month



This month I would like to highlight the [Local Place Plan for Stromness](#). This is a great example of a well-presented plan, with a map-based approach throughout. Pages 13 – 16 are a good place to look if your group is at the community engagement planning phase, so you can get tips on the kind of information to collect for presentation in your plan, such as photos of engagement sessions, hits on relevant social media posts, numbers at each event etc.

Scottish Borders Council have put together the following webpage with information and links to guidance for the presentation of your Local Place Plan [here](#) and their planning officers are engaging with groups across the Borders to support with this.

### Mapping tools workshop

SBC are hosting an online workshop on different mapping tools, with a presentation from Parish Online, on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. You can find out more on the Place Programme webpages and [register here](#).



Wishing you all a well-earned break over the festive season and looking forward to working with you in the New Year 😊

Beth Landon

Capacity Building Lead - Community-led Planning

Berwickshire and Cheviot