

Community-led Planning Update

April 2024



Have your say on our support!

We are now halfway through our [pilot project](#), providing support and funding to groups involved in community-led planning in Berwickshire and Cheviot. We would love to hear from anyone in the pilot area about how we are doing with the project and what we can do differently going forward. Please take a few minutes to fill in our [mid-project review survey](#).

We are planning a focus group session to review the project direction and to ensure that the planning for the remainder of the project and beyond reflects what we are hearing from communities as much as possible. If you are interested in being part of this session, please contact beth@borderscommunityaction.org.uk by Monday 6 May.

Training

Did you know that we can provide tailored training to your group?

- Meaningful Community Engagement training is available for your team through Borders Community Action, delivered by local consultant Anne McNeill.
- We can also provide training on basic data analysis to assist you in drawing out community priorities from the results gathered through your community engagements.

We are keen to be responsive to your group's needs and develop training which you would find useful as you develop your community-led plan. Get in touch to find out more: beth@borderscommunityaction.org.uk

Local Place Plan of the month

[Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Community Place Plan](#) covers a rural area consisting of three villages with a total population of 787 at 2011 census. As such it provides a useful example for our more rural community council areas in the Scottish Borders, of which there are many!



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This Local Place Plan builds on the previous work of a Community Action Plan for the area and combines aspirations for each village into in one plan, but with clearly colour coded sections for each village.

Two out of three of the villages undertook and funded their own engagements as consultants were only funded for one of the villages. They used their own online adapted version of the [Place Standard Tool](#), then combined their findings with their Community Action Plan. Through this process they identified four 'focus groups' to engage with further: residents, businesses, young families, and young people. This process is very much what several groups in the Borders are going through.

A highlight for me is the clear presentation of representative comments from each focus group for each community priority theme, followed by a map plotting relevant proposals for action identified for that theme.

The final pages set out overarching priorities for the whole area spanning the three villages, such as improved public transport, health and social care services and addressing the issue of housing being sold as second homes and the resulting lack of affordable housing for locals.

And finally...

Check out our [community-led planning webpage](#) which is packed with resources and tools to support you and links to previous updates.

Beth

Capacity Building Lead - Community-led Planning

Berwickshire and Cheviot