

# Community-led Planning Update

May 2024



This month our update is jam packed with useful information, clearly summarised to help you get a quick overview with links for delving deeper. Keep reading to hear about SBC's hot-off-the-press registration guidance for Local Place Plans, the annual SURF community regeneration awards, Scottish Government's new guidance on local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods, our next peer support webinar and our regular feature reviewing a registered Local Place Plan.

## Local Place Plan registration guidance from SBC

SBC Planning have just released guidance on the registration process for Local Place Plans (LPPs). Notably it states that LPPs must be registered by Spring 2025 in order to be taken into account in the preparation of the next Local Development Plan (LDP). LPPs can be "material considerations" in planning decisions once registered at any time, but to be incorporated into the LDP itself this window exists when SBC Planning are actively gathering input.

We are still waiting for further legislation from Scottish Government on how a registered LPP might make a case to amend an already adopted LDP and I have submitted a consultation response recommending that this process is made as straightforward as possible for communities.

[SBC guidance is available on our website here.](#)

## SURF community regeneration awards

Scotland's Regeneration Forum (SURF) host annual awards for community-led regeneration initiatives. Last year Engergise Galashiels Trust won a prize for their Vibrant Gala Project. It would be amazing to see many more of the fantastic community-led initiatives in the Scottish Borders recognised through this scheme, which launches on 6 June and is open for applications until 2 September. Find out all about it here: [surf.scot/surf-awards/](https://surf.scot/surf-awards/).

## Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods planning guidance

This guidance from Scottish Government, published 25 April 2024, is designed to give clarity and support to planning authorities, communities, businesses and anyone involved in helping

to deliver on policy 15 of the NPF4 (National Planning Framework), which sets out the priority for local living. Aligning with this guidance strengthens the case for Local Place Plans to influence the Local Development Plan and to attract funding for delivery.

Local living is the opportunity for people to have their daily needs met within a reasonable distance of their home. In rural communities, connectivity *between* settlements is a key part of local living, e.g. public transport and active travel routes. At the heart of the policy is local flexibility in what this looks like, informed by local communities.

The guidance introduces the “[Local Living Framework](#)”, which is based on the [Place Standard Tool](#), so if your group has been using this as a basis for community engagements you are already considering the key aspects of local living in your community-led planning. This guidance unpacks the concept and gives some practical examples of what might contribute to living well locally.

You can [read the guidance here](#).

### Peer support webinars

Recordings from the presentations at April’s peer support webinar on Registration of Local Place Plans and Community Engagement Tools are now available on our website here: <https://borderstsi.org.uk/clp-network/>. The next session is on Thursday 6 June (6-8pm online) focusing on a theme of identifying suitable project proposals following on from community priorities which have emerged through engagements and surveys, [find out more and register here](#).

### Local Place Plan of the month

[Crail Local Place Plan](#) sets out the community’s aspirations for the sustainable development of their small rural harbour town in Fife, developed by Crail Community Partnership, a constituted body representing several local voluntary groups, and Community Council combined. The community groups were supported by various consultants at different stages and through various funding streams, including their Common Good Fund.



[Attribution-Andy Hawkins](#)

This LPP is a reworking of a recent Community Action Plan to meet requirements for registration with Fife Council and combines the ability to feed into spatial planning with community action.

They take an interesting approach to presenting evidence of their community engagements, with a summary in the body of the LPP and further details in an appendix, thus reducing the number of pages in the (already fairly lengthy) LPP itself. I particularly like the graphic summary on P. 14!

A key driver behind the LPP appears to be proposals for a large housing development on the outskirts of the town. This has provoked concern amongst the community that such a development may not contribute to the sustainable development of the town, but rather become a commuter zone for St. Andrews which is disconnected from the town centre and does not provide suitable housing for local people.

The document is a high-level framework to guide development which aligns with the community's vision for Crail, and the proposed actions it sets out are broad brush, structured under a set of five priority themes. This is an intentional approach to allow for flexibility in delivery guided by a set of principles.

A map is used to clearly present key proposals on P.7 in a spatial format, in alignment with requirements for registration as a Local Place Plan. Proposals for action include traffic calming measures, additional recycling facilities, harbour improvements, Community Hall improvements, active travel routes, green corridors, coastal path improvements, upgrades to public toilets, parking and town centre regeneration – and that's not even an exhaustive list!

There is a clear intention for community oversight of delivery, whether projects are taken forward by community groups, or through influencing the Local Development Plan, statutory service delivery or private sector developments and businesses. In their own words, this LPP "represents the start of Crail's community empowerment journey over the next decade, bringing together the Scottish Government's aspirations for community empowerment, planning and placemaking at a very local level" (P.11).

[You can read all our LPP reviews here.](#)

### **Have your say on our support!**

We are now over 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](#).

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

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