

Community-led Planning Update

June 2024



This month we focus on Kirkconnel and Kelloholm's community-led plan and pull out some of the interesting approaches taken in the presentation of this registered Local Place Plan from Dumfries and Galloway. We also have an update to share from SBC Planning on their guidance which was issued last month and all the latest on our peer support network. Keep reading to find out more...

Local Place Plan registration guidance from SBC – an update

A revised version of this guidance, which we shared with you last month, has been issued by SBC Planning (the updated version is available on our website [here](#)). The document has been updated to clarify that Local Place Plans (LPPs) can be registered *at any time* and will still be considered when preparing the next Local Development Plan (LDP) even if they are submitted after the Evidence Report stage.

The altered sections are highlighted below:

How SBC will use registered LPPs

*As set out above, in order for LPPs to be taken into account in the preparation of the next Local Development Plan, the planning authority is inviting community bodies to prepare LPPs **with an indicative deadline** of Spring 2025.*

*This date is set in advance of the estimated timescale for the finalisation of the Evidence Report and Gate Check process. It is anticipated that LPPs will be prepared, validated and registered in time to inform the Evidence Report. **However, LPPs can be submitted for validation at any time**, and the planning authority must take all registered LPPs into account when preparing and amending the LDP.*

Peer support webinars

The theme for our **June session** was about moving from community priorities to identifying suitable projects to include in a community-led plan. If you missed the session you can catch up with any of the presentations by watching the recordings which are available on our website [here](#).

Our **next session is on Thursday 15th August** (online 6-8pm). We will have a presentation from SBC on the various funding pots which they have available for community-led projects. Other

presentations will be announced shortly. Details and a booking link will be available on our website [here](#) shortly.

We have also received several requests for an in-person get together, which I hope to be able to organise for August too. I will send details round the community-led planning email list for both events, if you don't receive these and would like to just drop me an email (beth@borderscommunityaction.org.uk).

Local Place Plan of the month



Attribution: Richard Webb

Kirkcubbin and Kelloholm Parish Place Plan is in two parts, which can be found on the [Dumfries and Galloway Council register of Local Place Plans](#). Central to the plan is energy: the decline of coal industry has had a major impact on the local economy and employment and the focus of this plan is on green energy as a driver to re-invigorate the local economy and benefit the community.

This LPP is a delivery focused and ambitious plan, with a strong thread of community-led action in its delivery plan. It also demonstrates a high level of partnership working with notable involvement from South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE), Dumfries and Galloway Council, the Health & Social Care Partnership, Buccleuch Estates, Wheatley Homes and other organisations, alongside their Development Trust.

As this LPP was produced in part as a requirement for accessing Borderlands investment funding (available to predetermined towns across the South of Scotland and Northern

England as part of the [Borderlands Place Programme](#)) it has additional requirements to a regular LPP and so might be more complex than is needed for other communities, especially those with no town within the boundary of their plan. However, it is a helpful example of a community-led plan which could be used to attract significant funds from any source.

Borderlands Place Plans are primarily economic documents which identify projects to attract investment. Although it isn't a requirement for them to be registered with the Local Planning Authority as LPPs, it makes sense to incorporate the requirements for spatial planning at the same time and that is the approach being encouraged across the Borderlands Towns in the Scottish Borders. Some of the project funding will be sought through the Borderlands Place Programme, others from other sources.

Although it is long (each part is over 50 pages!) the clear presentation makes navigation straightforward. I recommend checking out Appendix 3 (P.42 of part 2) which is a very helpful summary table of the action plan, setting out the various projects and how they link with the strategic aims of the plan.

Another notable element is the list of other plans, such as the Local Development Plan and housing strategies, which were considered in their LPP development (Appendix 2: P. 41 pf part 2).

I'm always on the lookout for how evidence of community engagement is presented in LPPs. In this one, the details are saved for an appendix (part 2, P. 34), listing the engagement events and other methods used, and the findings, then using word clouds to present the aspects most frequently mentioned. The headline findings are presented at the end of part 1 (P. 50). However, I think the most useful way the evidence is presented is in the quotes and figures which are peppered throughout part 1 as evidence for the selection of each investment theme.

The only maps used in this LPP are the boundary map on P.6 and an overview map of the proposed projects or sites of community interest on P.45 of part 1.

Finally, I really like the use of case studies of relevant projects and practical solutions from around the UK which are used to demonstrate that the proposals presented have precedent elsewhere and that the groups involved in delivery are keen to learn from them.

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

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

Beth Landon

Capacity Building Lead - Community-led Planning

Berwickshire and Cheviot Pilot