

# Community-led Planning Update

July 2024



This month we have an invitation for the peer support network to be a voice for communities, details about our upcoming Community-led Planning Peer Support Network session on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August and a review of our Local Place Plan of the month, Ardgour. Keep reading to find out more...

## Opportunity to be a voice for communities!

There have recently been some changes to the way the **Community Planning Partnership (CPP)** operates in the Scottish Borders. The CPP's function is to take a place-based approach to planning vital services in our communities. The partners are statutory organisations such as SBC, NHS Borders, Borders College, South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE), Integrated Health and Social Care, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Police Scotland plus non-statutory partners such as housing associations, Live Borders and Borders Community Action (representing the local third sector), among others.

Until now the CPP has been led by SBC, but the changes mean that its oversight Board will be operating as a separate entity going forward.

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a duty on the CPP to produce a [Community Plan](#), a joined-up plan for service delivery. This plan has four themes:

- Theme 1 – Poverty
- Theme 2 – Learning, Skill & Economy
- Theme 3 – Good Health & Wellbeing
- Theme 4 - Place, Community & Connectivity

Subgroups are being formed now to represent each theme with partners leading each of them. **Borders Community Action will be leading the delivery group for Theme 4: Place, Community & Connectivity in this instance, therefore we are looking for a representative from the community-led planning peer support network to be part of this group.** It has been recognised that some priorities crossover themes, consequently the way subgroups are organised and represented is likely to change as it develops. On this occasion, we are looking for one representative of our network to join the subgroup, this can rotate between those involved once the group is established. If you are interested or would like to know more, please get in touch with [beth@borderscommunityaction.org.uk](mailto:beth@borderscommunityaction.org.uk)

## Peer support network

Our **next session is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August** (online 6-8pm). [You can book a place here.](#)

The themes for this network session are **project funding, Council budgets and plans** which may (or will in some cases) interact with your Local Place Plan. We have four sections to the evening, three presentations with Q&As and one which will be an even more interactive session in which you will have a chance to input into the next Council budget.

- Prof. Jane Bower, Chair of the Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park (SCIO), will present their bid for a National Park in the heart of the Southern Uplands, if the bid is still live by then.
- Shona Haddow (Economic Development) and Gillian Jardine (Communities and Partnerships) will be joining us from Scottish Borders Council (SBC), to give an overview of all the funds which the council hold for distribution to communities as grants, particularly those which might be suitable for community-led projects which form part of a Local Place Plan or Community Action Plan.
- There will be an interactive session in which you can voice the priorities that your communities have for the places you live, which will feed into SBC's planning for their next annual budget.
- Debbie Armstrong (SBC Planning) will give a presentation on the Local Development Plan and the National Planning Framework (NPF4), both of which LPPs must "have regard" to, helping us to become more familiar with these plans.

## Local Place Plan of the month

[Ardgour Local Place Plan](#) was highlighted to me recently by one someone from one of the more rural community council areas in the Borders. They had found it a useful example for their area, so I thought I'd check it out too.



Attribution: [Phillip Capper](#)

Ardgour Community Council area covers the west side of Loch Linnhe, near Fort William and had a population of only 436 in 2020 (roughly 200 households), the size of community which many of us in the Borders can identify with.

The LPP was led by the Community Council and Development Trust working together and steered by a local "sounding board" with wider community representation. It was financially

supported by Highland Council, DTAS and others. They had specialist input from an architect, landscape planner and a planning consultant.

At 37 pages (rather than over 100 as some have been!) it is a relatively compact LPP. It starts by clearly stating the purpose of the plan, which takes a combined approach of influencing spatial planning, informing statutory service delivery and community action.

It is first “rooted in the community”, but also reflective of wider plans such as the Local Development Plan and National Planning Framework ([NPF4](#)), as required for registration as an LPP. This is clearly set out early in the document, with a very helpful graphic illustration on P.7.

I like the way it specifically states the kind of things which would give it credence to funders, public bodies and other delivery partners. For example, that their community engagements were carried out in line with the [National Standards for Community Engagement](#). It also clearly sets out how the community priority areas align with Scottish Government [National Outcomes](#), using a simple table (P. 15), something which is facilitated by using the Place Standard Tool as a framework for community engagements. For a quick guide on the link between the Place Standard Tool, the National Outcomes and the NPF4 check out [this article](#) I wrote last year.

There are many other inspired features in this LPP, but I’d like to highlight just two more.

Firstly, I really like the “making it happen” section (P. 31 – 33), which is specific about who will need to be involved in delivery, including local third sector groups, local businesses, public bodies, their enterprise agency (Highlands and Islands Enterprise, which is equivalent to South of Scotland Enterprise, SoSE), housing associations, UK and Scottish Government and NGOs such as NatureScot, Paths for All and Sustrans (and that’s not even the full list!).

Secondly, it includes a table which separates out those proposals which relate to the use of land and buildings, in addition to their indication on the maps (P.34 and 35). LPPs can form material considerations in planning applications and a concise presentation of such proposals will give maximum opportunity for them to be impactful.

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

**And finally**, do check out our [community-led planning webpage](#) which is regularly updated with relevant information, resources and tools to support you and your community.

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