

COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

Autumn 2025 Newsletter

In this issue:

- Team Volunteering
- Supporting Burnfoot Community Futures
- Live Borders Engagement
- Community Conversations
- Peebles High School
- Challenge Poverty Week
- New Local Development Plan
- Further information for Support

Welcome to the Autumn Edition of the Communities and Partnerships team newsletter

The team has been as busy as ever with lots of meaningful engagements over the Autumn months. Here is a look at what we have been up to!



Team Volunteering 2025

On the 11th of September the Communities and Partnerships team took part in a days volunteering as part of our allocated staff volunteer time. We hiked the challenging route to the Three Brethren cairns picking litter along the way.

After our hike we stopped by Bannerfield in Selkirk to pick litter around the housing estate and the local park.



Supporting Burnfoot Community Futures

After a period of financial difficulties the C&P Team have been supporting the recovery over the last 18months in a variety of ways-

- Increasing the Board members bringing a diverse range of skills and knowledge
- 9 successful funding grants secured including 2 multi year grants increasing the sustainability of the building and organisation
- Hired a Hub Manager, a Development Officer and a new Finance Officer who will undertake business planning and identify ways to diversify income streams for the Hub and its activities
- Supported BCF as the lead applicant and the Anti Social Behavioural Group to submit a partnership funding application to the Cashback for Communities fund, for a multi agency programme of Burnfoot-Wide activity, aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour among young people...fingers crossed!
- Continued valued community groups and launched new initiatives based on feedback from the community. These include Lunch Club, Warm Spaces, Youth Club, Sew and Sews, Foodshare Provision, Garden Workshops, Cooking Workshops, Preparing for Winter Days, Gentle Exercise, Soft Play Family Fun Days and Afternoon Tea Sessions
- Supported the development of a new Veterinary Practice



Burnfoot Community Futures have also received multiple awards through SBC's Greener Gateway Awards, had 2,675 volunteer hours contributed, distributed 4,714 Foodshare bags and organised 8 community based events and bus trips.

“Over the past year, our organisation has been greatly supported by our community partners - both strategically and operationally - in delivering our core service and ensuring our long term sustainability. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing collaboration, without which our progress would not have been possible”

Carly Jeffrey Burnfoot Hub Manager
Burnfoot Community Futures

What a difference a year makes!

With the organisation now on a more sustainable footing the staff team have been able to concentrate on their working in the community including Burnfoot Problem Solving Partnership, and a programme of activities during Challenge Poverty Week.

We look forward to the continued working with Carly and her team at Burnfoot Community Futures making Burnfoot an even better place to live!

Live Borders Engagement

The Communities and Partnerships Team provided valuable support with the engagement process around the Live Borders Sports, Leisure and Culture Review. Working alongside the Transformations Team we helped to facilitate discussions around the future use of community spaces providing an important platform for community members to share their views.

During the process we

- Engaged with 791 people from across the Scottish Borders
- Have supported 210 drop in sessions
- Helped to facilitate 21 focus group sessions with key stakeholders such as management committees, Community Councils and Development Trusts
- Helped to generate 1,917 online survey responses
- Supported with 800 suggestion box responses



Community Conversations Talk Now, Shape Tomorrow!

This year's Community Conversations kicked off on Monday 29th September at Berwickshire High School. The team have been out in force with a full programme of engagement sessions which included supermarket pop ups, round table discussions, focus groups with protected characteristics and an online session with Community Council chairs from across the Scottish Borders.

- 5 locality conversations including Berwickshire High School, Melrose Corn Exchange, Jedburgh Town Hall, Peebles Burgh Hall and Burnfoot Community Hub
- Supermarket engagement sessions at Morrisons in Hawick, Tesco in Peebles, Sainsburys in Kelso and Asda in Galashiels
- Focus group sessions with voices less heard including Dynamic Community Fusions, Borders Women's Aid, Borders in Recovery and English for Speaker of Other Languages
- CLD Colleagues took the lead on engagement with young people to ensure their voices were also heard



Conversation was focused around the community's priorities as we plan for the Council Plan and Budget for 2026/27



Grand Opening of the new Peebles High School!

On Tuesday 11th November hundreds of pupils and staff came together to celebrate the completion of the new Peebles High School building. The £61 million state of the art facility opened its doors on Tuesday welcoming the students to their new school!

Communities and Partnerships provided supported with the engagement and links to the community with colleagues from Hub South East Scotland and BAM Construction. Good to see a culmination of work which started in 2023 now come to completion!



Challenge Poverty Week 6th—12th October



In support of this years Challenge Poverty Week we held three partnership information events at Burnfoot Community Hub, Philiphaugh Community Centre and Langlee Community Centre. It was great to share each event with organisations such as SBC Employability Services, NHS Borders, Eildon Housing, Waverley Housing Sustainable Borders and so many more! Thank you to everyone who came along to share the support they offer locally to our communities. We also attended Splash Lunch Club in Eyemouth to chat about support available.



Challenge Poverty Week also saw the introduction of Scottish Borders Councils new [Family Support Directory](#) . The directory provides an overview of local and national support services available to families.



Communities Encouraged to Develop Local Place Plans

Scottish Borders Council are in the early stages of preparing a new Local Development Plan and are calling on communities to develop local place plans to help influence this important document.

Local Place Plans are community–led plans that outline local priorities for development and use of land. These will help influence the next Local Development Plan which will set out Borders wide land use proposals and planning policies, helping to guide future development and inform planning decisions.

As a council we are expecting to adopt the new Local Development Plan in Summer 2030. To allow times for Local Place Plans to be registered and be considered as part of the next Local Development Plan they need to be submitted by the end of September 2027.

To date nine Local Place Plans have been validated and registered in the Borders including Peebles, Hawick, West Linton and Smailholm.

[Communities encouraged to develop Local Place Plans to help shape their futures | Scottish Borders Council](#)



Where to Access Support

- Citizens Advice Bureau [Get advice | Citizens Advice Scotland](#)

0800 028 1456 Scottish Citizens Advice Helpline to speak with an adviser at your local Citizens Advice Bureau.

- Seasonal Flu Vaccine Programme nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/flu-vaccination-programme/

0800 030 8013 national vaccination helpline

- NHS Inform [Scottish health information you can trust | NHS inform](#)
- NHS Borders Wellbeing Service [Self Help Information](#) support for people wishing to improve their lives in one or more of the following areas- smoking cessation, emotional wellbeing, being more active and eating more healthily.
- NHS Borders Money Worries App nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/moneyworries a digital directory with information about support services available Nationally and locally in the Scottish Borders
- Scottish Borders Council [Benefits and grants – Scottish Borders Council](#) for help with accessing benefits and assessing what support you may be entitled to

0300 100 1800 Monday—Thursday 8.45am—5pm, Friday 8.45am—4pm

Funding Support for Community Projects

- Borders Community Action [BCA Funding - Borders TSI](#)
- Funding Scotland [Funding Scotland](#)
- Expression of Interest [Expressions of Interest \(EOI\) | Grant funding for community projects | Scottish Borders Council](#)
- National Lottery Community Fund [Home | The National Lottery Community Fund](#)



Thank you for reading we hope you enjoyed our Autumn Newsletter! If you would like support with a community project or have any enquiries around any of our work featured in the newsletter please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We can be reached on

Freya.Gillon@scotborders.gov.uk Eildon officer
Hannah.Lacon@scotborders.gov.uk Tweeddale officer
Roddy.Martin@scotborders.gov.uk Cheviot officer
Sanka.Martei@scotborders.gov.uk Berwickshire officer
Sarah.Culverwell@scotborders.gov.uk Teviot & Liddesdale Officer

