



Community Engagement Newsletter

March 2022

Scottish Borders Council have recently appointed five Community Engagement Officers (CEOs) to the Communities and Partnership team. This resource is a great addition to the team and has increased our capacity to work with local communities to develop successful spaces.

The CEOs are actively contacting local communities to support groups, organisations and residents to engage and be part of the conversation and changes that people would like to make in their area. It is a key outcome in Scottish Borders Council's Plan, Working Together - Improving Lives to have empowered, vibrant communities where people support each other and take responsibility for their local area.

To keep residents up to date with community planning and community activity, the five Community Engagement Officers will be circulating a regular e-bulletin with updates on activities from across the five Localities.

Keep reading to find out more about the new CEOs and how you can contact them.



Community Engagement Officer Berwickshire – James Purves

James is the Community Engagement Officer for Berwickshire. James has worked with Scottish Borders Council since 2004, as a Community Support worker and mediator with Homelessness Services, as mediator with the Safer Communities Team dealing with Neighbourhood Disputes throughout the Scottish Borders and covered the Gypsy Traveller Liaison officer role for the Scottish Borders. Prior to that James ran his own business for over 20 years.



Berwickshire Overview

Since coming into the Community Engagement officer role in October, I have been engaging with local voluntary & community groups and other organisations across the area to increase participation and involvement in local planning and funds.

I am especially keen to engage with community groups who are currently not in contact with the Council and would welcome invitations to visit groups and their projects and see what community activities are being delivered within the Berwickshire area.

Since starting in the role, I have joined the NHS Whole Systems Approach, Eyemouth Gateway to Good Health where the aim is to look at ways of supporting the local community to become healthier and fitter, with a particular focus on children, young people and health inequalities generally. As a keen runner myself, I am also working with local enthusiasts to bring a weekly Sunday morning junior parkrun to Eyemouth which will be the only junior parkrun for 4 years to 14 years, in the Scottish Borders. In my community engagement role, I can help with communication between the community and council services.

I am also looking forward to meeting up with several local groups to discuss their community growing plans.

James Purves Community Engagement Officer

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Funding Awarded

Fund	Opening Balance	Awarded	
Build Back a Better Borders (BBBB) Recovery Fund	£87,783.00	£87,783.00	100%
Community Fund	£57,260	£54,639.79	95%
Community Councils Annual Support Grants	£13,680	£9,765	71%
Local Festival Grants Scheme	£7,030	£0	0%
Federation of Village Halls	£13,502	£13,502	100%
Community Enhancement Trust	£2,082.49	£2,038	97%
Community Welfare Trust	£10,203.76	£2,500	24%
Total	£179,541.25	£170,227.79	95%



Community Engagement Officer Cheviot – David Peebles

David Peebles is the Community Engagement officer for Cheviot. David joined the Communities and Partnerships Team at Scottish Borders Council in November 2021 after working for over 25 years in Community and Urban Regeneration projects in Birmingham, West Midlands.

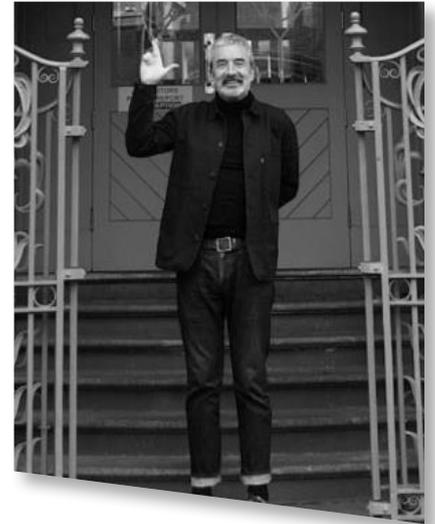
Cheviot Overview

Since November 2021 I have engaged with approximately 30 groups across Cheviot to support the development of funding applications, community initiatives and local community planning. Those engaged with have included Community Councils, Third Sector and National organisations. I have been given a warm reception by all those who I have met so far, for which I am grateful.

Within the Cheviot Locality, there are so many dynamic organisations, I am keen to meet up with as many as possible over the coming weeks and months. This is an exciting time for the Borders with opportunities for community participation including Borderlands, Place Making and Participatory Budgeting available. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with groups and discuss how they can get involved.

I am currently taking forward a Mental Health Focus through with Cheviot Community Partners. This is a group of community, third sector and public sector organisations that meet fortnightly to share what they are doing and explore specific issues in the area and how we can work together to address them. I am in the process of familiarising myself with the range of arts, crafts and creative groups within Cheviot to help make links between groups and engage potential service users.

I look forward to making new contacts and speaking to other groups across Cheviot in the very near future.



David Peebles
Community Engagement Officer

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Funding Awarded

Fund	Opening Balance	Awarded	
Build Back a Better Borders (BBBB) Recovery Fund	£79,926.00	£46,257.70	53%
Community Fund	£54,888.50	£17,098.20	32%
Community Councils Annual Support Grants	£10,470.00	£8,040.00	74%
Local Festival Grants Scheme	£8,337.50	£5,384.50	65%
Federation of Village Halls	£9,140.00	£9,140.00	100%
Community Enhancement Trust	£110.52	£0	0%
Community Welfare Trust	£2,890.50	£739.60	26%
Total	£165,763.02	£85,920.40	52%



Community Engagement Officer Introduction – Scott McKail

Scott joined the Communities and Partnerships team from the Local Area Coordination service at SBC (Scottish Borders Council). The Local Area Coordination service aims to support individuals to reach their potential whatever that may mean for them personally.

Teviot & Liddesdale Overview

I have been learning about Teviot & Liddesdale as it is a new area for me. I have been reaching out to as many groups and individuals as I can. I have engaged with 28 groups so far trying to introduce myself and learn from the people who know what is needed on the ground. I have been made to feel welcome and I have been both impressed and inspired, by the work being carried out or planned.

The range of projects I have been talking to and trying to help has been fascinating, including Hawick Flood Defence scheme, Hawick Active Travel Network, Hawick Pump track, Burnfoot Community Futures, Hornshole Greenway, Lindean Rugby club, Escape Youth services, Alchemy film, Future Hawick, Town of a Thousand Trails, the Men's shed and others.

As well as local groups I have been working with other partners to look at opportunities in the Teviot & Liddesdale area, including Social Security Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, SOSE (South of Scotland Enterprise), The Bridge, and Volunteer Centre Borders.



Scott McKail
Community Engagement Officer

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Funding Awarded

Fund	Opening Balance	Awarded	
Build Back a Better Borders (BBBB) Recovery Fund	£98,003.00	£97,624.10	99%
Community Fund	£47,799.20	£31,419.12	65%
Community Councils Annual Support Grants	£6,370.00	£5,705.20	90%
Local Festival Grants Scheme	£4,650.00	£3,025.00	64%
Federation of Village Halls	£4,729.00	£4,729.00	100%
Community Enhancement Trust	£7,537.01	£4,105.90	55%
Community Welfare Trust	£2,069.99	£1,825.00	90%
Total	£171,158.20	£148,433.32	87%



Community Engagement Officer Introduction – Erin Coltman

Erin has worked for Scottish Borders Council since December 2020. In his previous role as the Grants Administrator for the Communities & Partnership Team in SBC, Erin assisted with funding applications, assessments, and payments for the Community Fund, BBBB Recovery Fund and Community Councils. Previous to his role in Scottish Borders Council, Erin was a Customer & Trading Manager in the retail sector and has over 10 years' experience in the events sector as a Delegate Coordinator.



Erin John Coltman
Community Engagement Officer

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Eildon Overview

My role as the Community Engagement Officer for the Eildon area began in October 2021 and since then I have had the pleasure of meeting a considerable number of community groups, with more recent meetings taking place face-to-face throughout the locality.

I work closely with key partners in the community and whilst I am aware of some of the key priority areas within Eildon currently, I am always eager to hear how we can work together to increase effective engagement amongst local people, community groups and other organisations at a local area level and get up to speed with all that is happening within the locality.

I have engaged with approximately 40 community groups across Eildon. These engagements have ranged from simple introductory conversations, potential funding opportunities for groups and individuals, guidance through SBC and external funding applications, small community-focussed projects all the way through to successful five-figure applications to our internal funding pots and community consultations ahead of major events in the Scottish Borders. I am currently involved in the early planning stages to deliver community cooking classes across Eildon in partnership with a variety of different community groups and I am excited to build on the existing "Low & Slow" pilot project that was originally delivered in the Teviot & Liddesdale area as the feedback from participants has been very positive!

I am always keen to meet up with community groups to have a chat about their short, medium, and long-term plans so if you feel this is something that would benefit your group or a group that you are in contact with, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we can arrange a meeting (face-to-face or virtual) soon!

Funding Awarded

Fund	Opening Balance	Awarded	
Build Back a Better Borders (BBBB) Recovery Fund	£153,633	£149,610	97.38%
Community Fund	£99,473	£99,473	100.00%
Community Councils Annual Support Grants	£10,525	£8,725	82.90%
Local Festival Grants Scheme	£14,200	£10,700	75.35%
Federation of Village Halls	£14,470	£14,470	100.00%
Community Enhancement Trust	£3,047	£885	29.05%
Community Welfare Trust	£9,502	£5,892	62.01%
Total	£304,850	£289,755	95%



Community Engagement Officer Introduction – Hannah Lacon

Hannah joins the Communities and Partnerships team from Community Learning and Development at SBC where she effectively helped facilitate the Young Persons Guarantee, helping to promote opportunities for young people aged between 16 and 24 for education, employment and training. Previously, Hannah ran her own business and served as a College Lecturer at Borders College.

Tweeddale Overview

A key aspect of my role is to reach out, engage and provide a voice for community groups that have not been reached before.

I have been active in familiarising myself with the community groups across the Tweeddale locality since starting my post. I have met with several groups and organisations including the Peeblesshire Foodbank, Dementia Friendly Peebles, Peebles Access Panel, Tweeddale Youth Action and Peebles CAN. I have been involved in community initiatives such as the Anti- Social Behaviour group established with Peebles Community Council, Live Borders and Tweeddale Youth Action to attempt to tackle the issues of difficult behaviour in the Peebles area. I have also facilitated a conversation with Tweeddale Youth Action around Place Making which I was able to share with the Area Partnership in December. I also have plans to be involved in some participatory budgeting events being held with high school students around the provision of soft drinks on campus and will be supporting several community groups to help tackle food poverty.

I am on hand to assist groups in applying for funding; from concept to overseeing and processing payments for applications to the Build Back a Better Borders Recovery Fund, Tweeddale Community Fund and the recently launched Queens Platinum Jubilee Fund.

I am looking forward to attending the Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting on the 29th March @ 7pm where we will be hearing the thoughts of the Tweeddale Assessment Panel and more from Dementia Friendly Peebles.



Hannah Lacon
Community Engagement Officer

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Funding Awarded

Fund	Opening Balance	Awarded	
Build Back a Better Borders (BBBB) Recovery Fund	£80,655	£80,444.82	99%
Community Fund	£57,843.50	£49,686.90	85%
Community Councils Annual Support Grants	£8,655	£4,965	57%
Local Festival Grants Scheme	£6,712.50	£0	–
Federation of Village Halls	£8,233	£8,233	100%
Community Enhancement Trust	£248.78	£248.78	100%
Community Welfare Trust	£3,405.88	£2,782.62	81%
Total	£165,753.66	£146,361.12	88%



Dates for your diary

Place Making Workshops:

22 March – Tweeddale

23 March - Eildon

7 April – Berwickshire

26 April - Teviot & Liddesdale

27 April – Cheviot

Sessions will take place in the evenings although exact start times are to be confirmed. Please contact the Community Engagement Officers for information. Places are limited to 40 per session.

Team email contact details

For Place Making and general enquiries:

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For funding enquiries:

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