

# Duns Local Place Plan May 2025



*A Heart for Duns*



Version: V1.1

Prepared by: A Heart for Duns in partnership with Duns Community Council and Duns Community-led Planning Town Team

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## Foreword

This document is more than a simple list of residents' requests. **It is a plan for the future, voiced by the people of Duns.** Here we demonstrate our ambition to see ourselves, our families, and our neighbours, flourish in an inclusive, sustainable and thriving market town.

**This Local Place Plan outlines the things we have that we value, the challenges we face but seek to overcome, and the evidence of locally agreed priorities for addressing those challenges.**

This plan recognises that Duns offers a great quality of life to many people, but some members of the community feel less able to participate in all that Duns offers. In this version you will find a recurring theme of building cross-generational equity through several small but impactful improvements.

While achieving equity is foundational to our vision, we also see aspirational growth as essential for sustaining and building on the gains made through the smaller projects. Larger, more ambitious elements of this plan include opportunities for Dingers<sup>1</sup> to flourish, attracting newcomers to lay down roots in Duns, and growing Duns as a tourist destination.

We acknowledge that willpower and volunteerism will only take us so far, and so this document is also **an invitation to local government and to development partners** to join with us and through working together, fulfil your goals for improving health, wellbeing and sustainable growth in Scottish Borders communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Dingers –collective name for long-term and newly adopted residents of Duns - from the town motto – “Duns Dings A”

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## Introduction

An ancient market town steeped in historical significance, Duns is a place with great community spirit, several dedicated volunteer teams, and ambition for the future. Over the last 2 years, a Duns “Town Team”, facilitated by [A Heart for Duns](https://www.ahheartforduns.org/)<sup>2</sup>, asked community members to say what they value about Duns and what they would prioritise to make Duns an increasingly inclusive and thriving place in the future. This Local Place Plan (LPP) presents a community-led plan for maintaining and developing the sense of “place” in Duns.

### The good stuff ...

People in Duns said they love the town park and the Duns Castle grounds. We are proud of our history, our buildings, our community swimming pool, our Square, Reiver’s Week and the Jim Clark Rally, among other things. The Keep Duns Blooming Marvellous team got special recognition for their tireless efforts.

### Accessing Duns ...

With so much to offer, people need better information and signs to know what they can do in Duns.

Attractions, amenities and pathways need to be well maintained, publicised, and more accessible for residents, for people in nearby villages, and for visitors from further afield.

### Developing Duns ...

People want Duns to flourish as a multi-generational town where families thrive together, and where people can grow old with dignity near to their loved ones.

Top concerns include limited public transport, lack of informal activities for young people, opportunities for housing, careers and adult education, and a call to rejuvenate neglected town spaces.

## Purpose

The Duns Local Place Plan aims to promote sustainable, community-led development in Duns. In registering this LPP, we aim to influence how Scottish Borders Council implements developments from the [Local Development Plan \(LDP\)](#)<sup>3</sup> that affect Duns and District, and to feed into the next LDP.

A Heart for Duns is a community development trust serving Duns and District and is a [community-owned body](#)<sup>4</sup> authorised to submit this LPP to Scottish Borders Council (SBC).

### Additional uses for the LPP

Place-based proposals are likely to involve several stakeholders in addition to SBC, **so we also invite service providers , investors, and other development agencies to use this Local Place Plan** to understand community opinion when preparing plans or responding to proposals that affect community life in Duns and the surrounding area.

**Community members may also wish to use this Plan** as an evidence base to support locally led initiatives **when applying for finance or funding.**

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ahheartforduns.org/> accessed 30 Dec 2024

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/plans-guidance/local-development-plan> accessed 30 Dec 2024

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/6/section/19> accessed 30 Dec 2024

## Local Place Plan Area Map

This plan applies to the Duns Community Council area outlined in the map below.

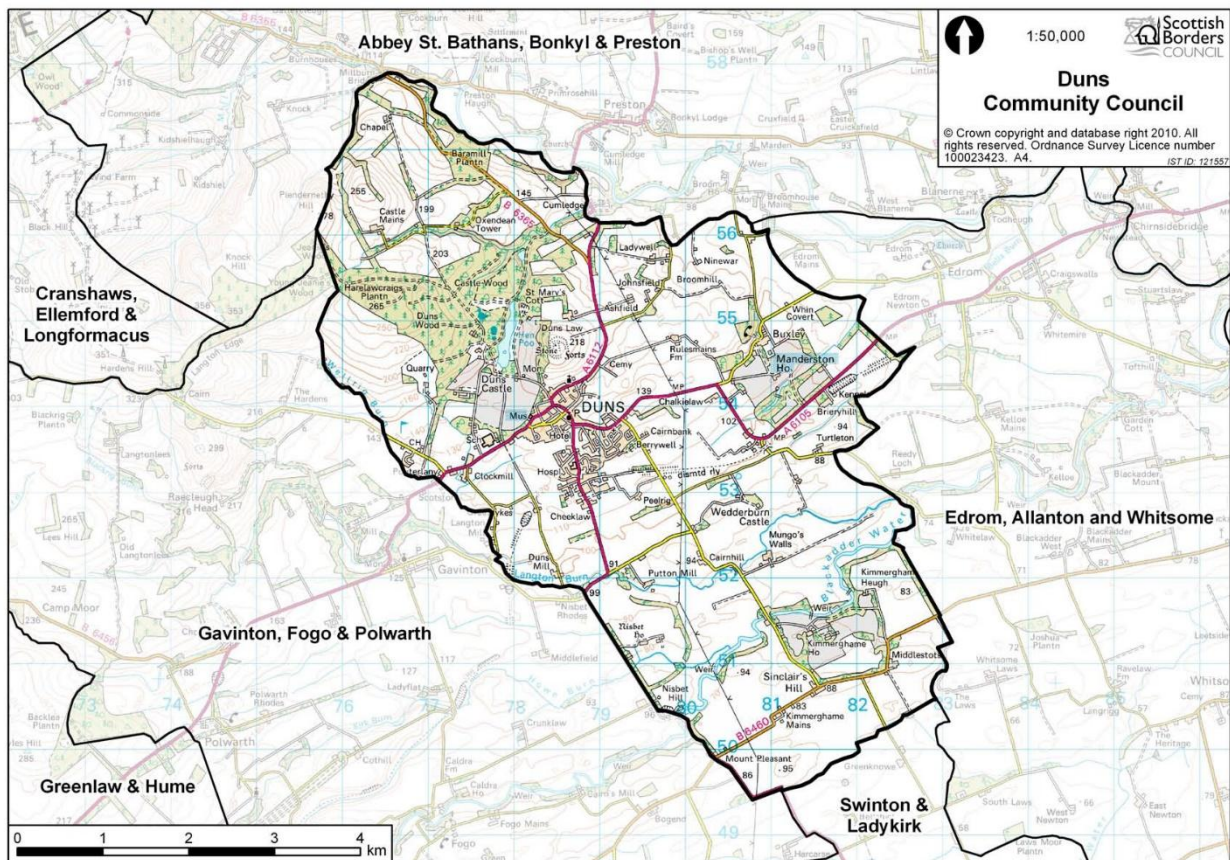


Figure 1. Duns Community Council area map. Accessed: <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/990/duns>

### Duns and District

As Duns provides services and employment for people in the Duns and District area, we also invited feedback from the 5 neighbouring community council areas:

- Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston
- Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus
- Edrom, Allanton and Whitsome
- Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth
- Swinton and Ladykirk

Feedback on shared concerns are included in the community priorities and project proposals section. Each of these areas may develop their own Local Place Plans which should be consulted alongside this one when implementing developments that affect the wider area.

Duns is the second largest settlement in Berwickshire. Developments in other communities that affect all of Berwickshire will impact Duns, and vice versa. This is particularly the case with transportation, traffic-free routes, and tourism. This LPP should be consulted when considering such wider impact developments. (See Figure 2 below.)



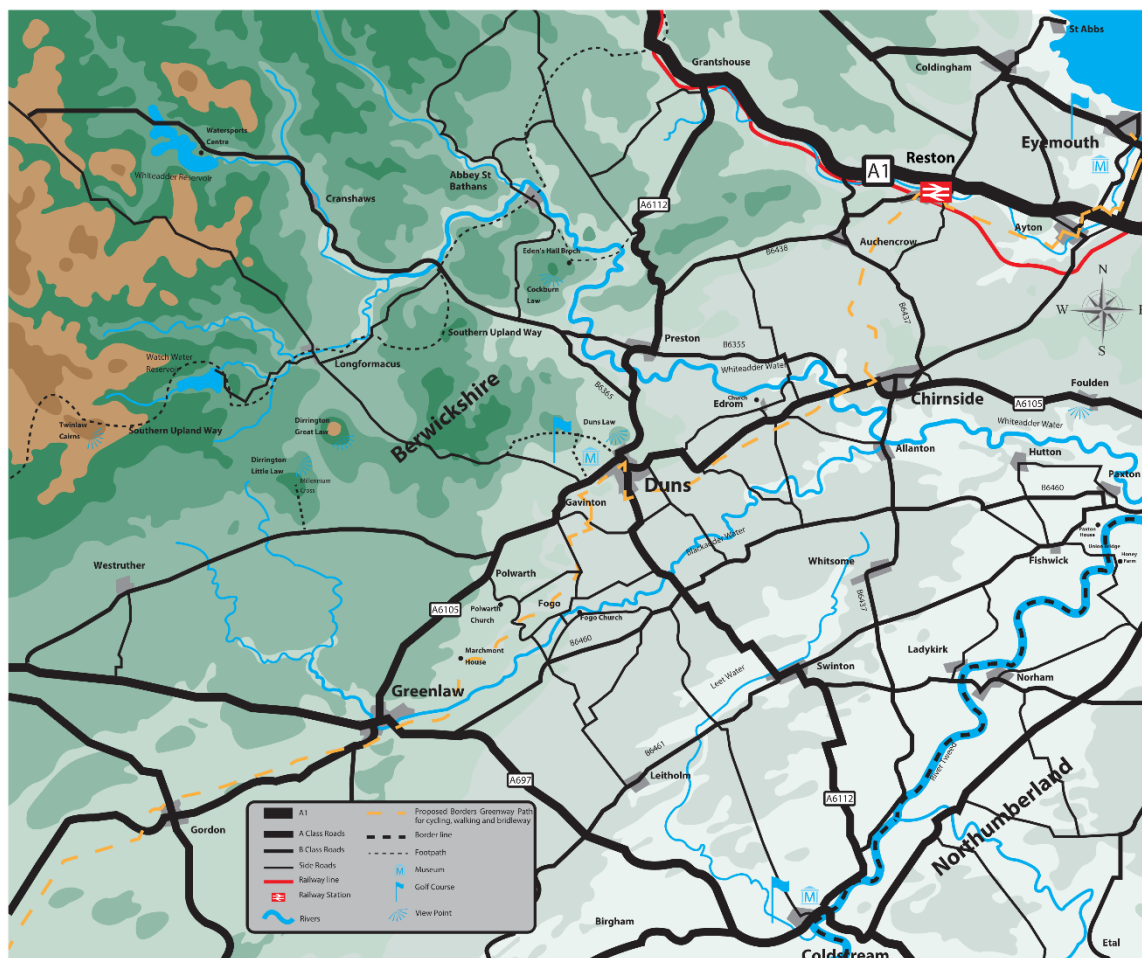


Figure 2 Duns and surrounding area, showing Reston Station and proposed Borders Greenway

## Duns – Our place in context

Duns is a pleasant Border town built around an open Market Square. The town centre contains many older buildings with distinctive features contributing further to the sense of place. Duns Law and the designed landscape grounds of Duns Castle form a natural border to the North and provide valuable access to natural space. A “mire” or bog runs from East to West through the south of the town feeding a pleasant wetland area accessed by the popular “boardwalk”, but also the cause of flooding challenges.

### Population

Duns is a growing town – As in many parts of the UK, there is a growing population of older people, but there has also been an increase in the number of young families between 2011 and [the census in 2022](#)<sup>5</sup>. The mid-career working age group. 35-49, is the only age group to decrease over the period.

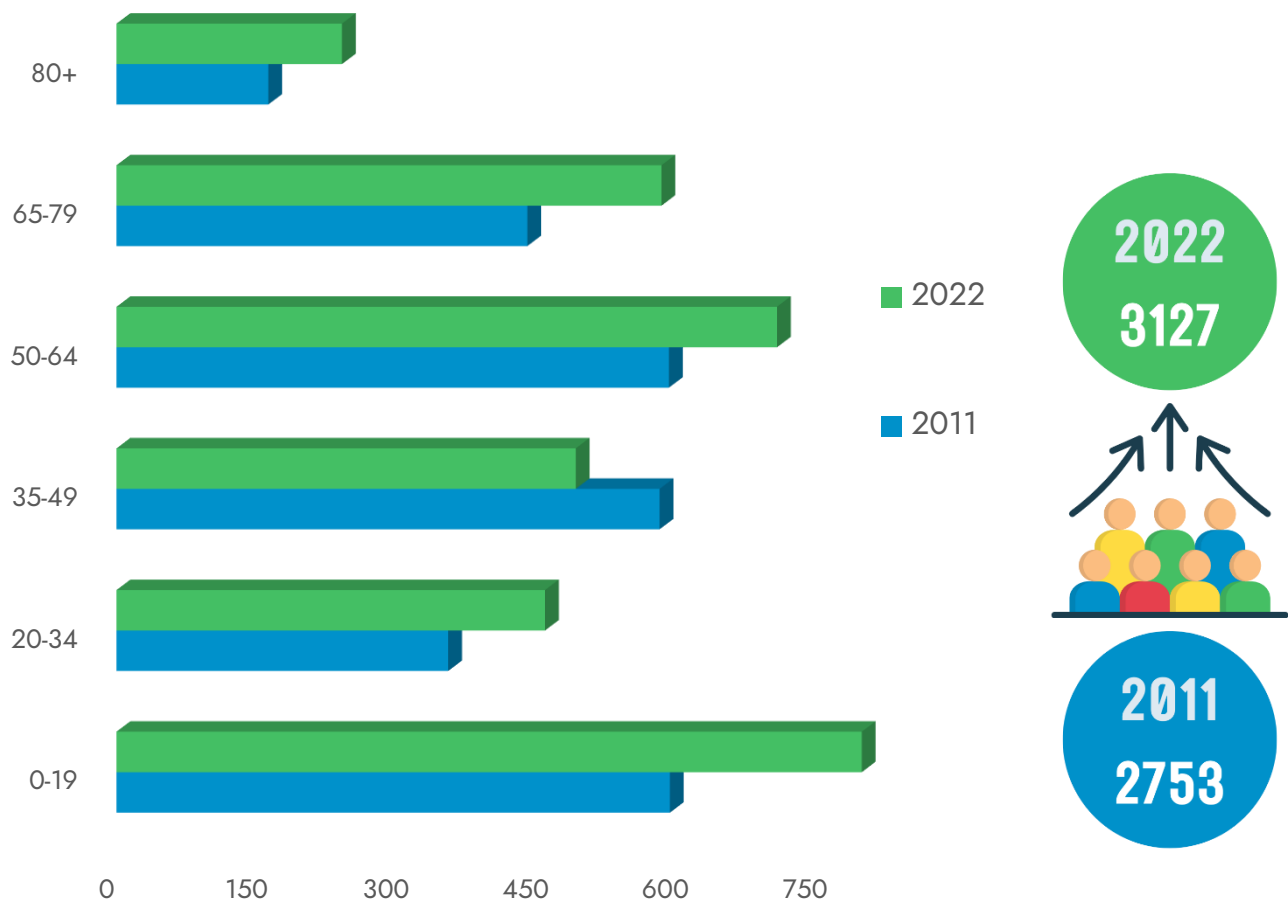


Figure 3 Population changes vs age group in Duns, 2011 - 2022

A full socio-demographic profile for Duns can be found at:

<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/11611/is-outcomes-profile-2022-duns>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/> Population figures refer to geographic settlement, Duns.



## Historical Duns

A Scottish town close to the English border, Duns has had a turbulent history, with many armies passing through. Duns came into its own as a market town in the 18th and 19th centuries. Based in the rich, fertile lowland area between the Lammermuirs and the Cheviots, it attracted many rich merchants to the area to build grand houses and estates.

The town motto, **Duns Dings A'** may have been derived from events in 1377 when an invading army camped in Duns. Local people are said to have shaken rattles, which caused the invaders' horses to bolt. 'Ding' means to 'deal blows', or 'beat or strike'.

As with other Border towns, Duns has its annual Summer Festival. Each July a young man and woman are chosen to be the Reiver and the Reiver's Lass. The titles come from the Border Reivers, who were raiders along the Anglo-Scottish border from the late 13th century to the beginning of the 17th century.

(adapted from the [Duns Town Trail](#)<sup>6</sup> and from [SBC LDP Vol 2](#)<sup>7</sup>)

## Duns for today

Duns is a business and employment centre. There are several small independent shops, a garden centre, veterinary practices, and an industrial estate supporting agricultural, renewable energy, food production and construction businesses, several garages and associated repair shops.

Other small businesses include cafés and restaurants, barbers and hairdressers, architects, accountants, and estate agents. Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders are significant employers in Duns.

## Visitor Attractions

**Events** such as the Berwickshire Show, the Jim Clark Rally, Duns Playfest, Tour of Britain, and the Berwickshire Charity Truck Run create a local buzz and draw in visitors from Berwickshire and further afield.

**Tourism** businesses within Duns such as the Jim Clark Museum and Duns Castle provide focal points for day visitors and people holidaying in the area.

Duns could build on these diverse historical, sporting, and market town identities to create a more comprehensive range of visitor offerings that encourage people to make Duns a hub for their visit. (See also [Scotland Starts Here website](#))<sup>8</sup>

## Recreation

People in Duns value the local opportunities for **natural recreation** and for **sports**. Behind the primary school there is a community-owned swimming pool, a football club and a rugby club with outdoor pitches. In the park, in addition to the circular pathway, there is a new children's playpark, a bowling club, and tennis club.

Keep Duns Blooming Marvellous planted and maintains several flower beds around the town. There is a dedicated [Flower Trail](#)<sup>9</sup>, or you can admire the flower beds as you walk the [Town Trail](#)<sup>10</sup>, a walking route connecting 31 historically significant buildings in the town.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://town-trail.ahartforduns.org/about/> accessed Jan 2025

<sup>7</sup> p295 of LDP2, Vol2. <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1656/adopted-ldp2-volume-2>

<sup>8</sup> <https://scotlandstartshere.com/point-of-interest/duns/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://kdbm.org/beds/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://town-trail.ahartforduns.org/trail>

## Housing

Duns has a mix of social and private housing. Most housing completed recently in Duns has been built by registered social landlords (RSLs)<sup>11</sup> although there have also been some high-end and middle-income private developments. SBC have allocated significant areas of Duns for new housing in the LDP<sup>12</sup> but these have still to be developed. Several of these allocations have challenging conditions attached as Duns is built on drained marshland (Figure 10 on p28).

## Key Service Provision

Duns offers 14 of the 15 key services defined by SBC<sup>13</sup>:

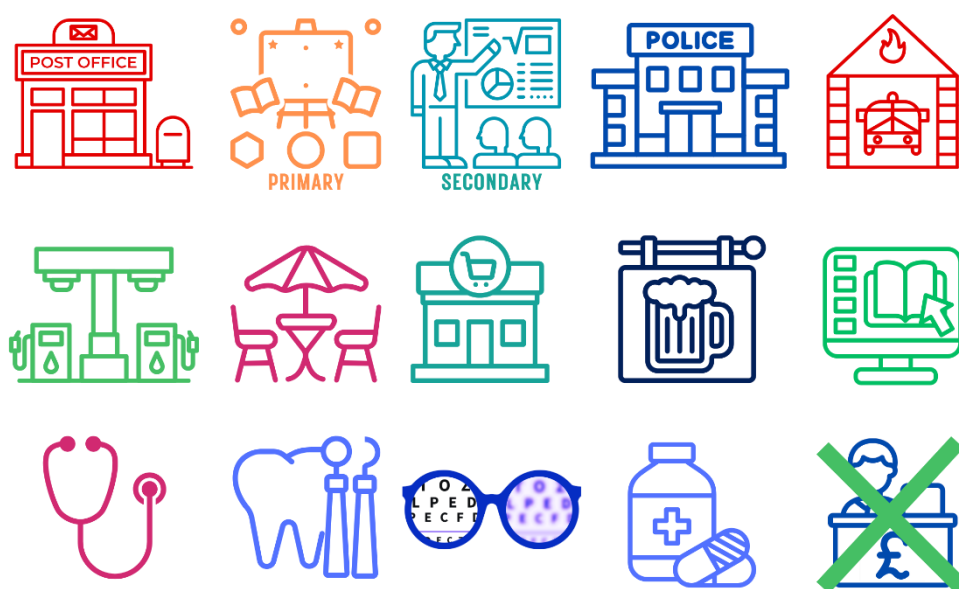


Figure 4. Key services are: post office, primary school, secondary school, police station, fire station, petrol stations, cafes & restaurants, supermarket, pub/hotel, library, GP practice, dentist, optician, pharmacy and bank. Banking is now provided by visiting mobile units.

## Additional Services

Duns also offers a variety of additional health, wellbeing and community building services through the Volunteer Hall, Southfield Community Centre, a Youth Centre, 3 churches, pre-school education, assisted living, a local social work office, and a recycling centre.

Duns has a lively volunteering scene providing services such as the food bank, youth organisations, education for seniors, community lunches and more. (See Appendix 2

Community Connections Matrix).

<sup>11</sup> p18 of LDP2, Vol1. <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1655/adopted-ldp2-volume-1>

<sup>12</sup> p295-301 of LDP2, Vol2. <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1656/adopted-ldp2-volume-2>

<sup>13</sup> Defined in [https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/291/village\\_services\\_audit](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/291/village_services_audit) accessed 2 Jan 2025

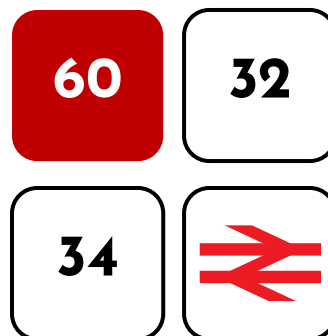
## Connectivity

Duns sits at the crossroads of two A-roads connecting the A1 (Grantshouse) in the North with Coldstream to the South and Berwick-on-Tweed to the East and Galashiels via Greenlaw to the West.

**Borders Buses** offers a regular East-West bus route (60) through Duns from Berwick to Galashiels. There are two bus routes offering 3 or 4 services per day from Duns, one to Berwick via Paxton and Swinton (32), the other to Coldstream (34). These services connect Duns town centre with the Medical Centre at the Knoll.

**The new railway station** at Reston offers a limited selection of trains with direct connections to Edinburgh in the North or Newcastle to the south. Reston is approximately a 20-minute drive from Duns. There is currently no scheduled bus service from Duns to Reston. Alternative access to the rail network is via the number 60 bus to either Berwick-on-Tweed or Galashiels.

**Community Transport.** A Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service is also available during off-peak times to connect to outlying villages and farms from Duns and could be used to travel to Reston railway station. The DRT cannot be used to travel to a destination served by any of the above scheduled bus services.



**Broadband services** have been limited to copper connections to properties for most of Duns, however, a new fibre to the premises (FTTP) service is in the process of being rolled out at the time of writing this plan

# National and Local Planning Frameworks



## National Planning Context

The national planning policy in effect at the time of publishing this plan is the [National Planning Framework 4 \(NPF4\)](#)<sup>14</sup>.

### Spatial Principles:

Five of the six spatial principles behind the NPF4 offer opportunities for Duns to pursue proposals outlined in the later stages of the LPP. The sixth principle, Rebalanced Development reflects a situational reality – Duns is *already* a good place to live and work, so other towns receive more attention when it comes to development. When seeking funds for otherwise well-deserving projects in Duns, careful planning will be needed.

**Just transition** – Community-led planning

**Conserving and recycling assets** – Reusing old buildings

**Local Living** – Public transport, jobs, education

**Compact Urban growth** – Compact growth defined by geography

**Rural revitalisation** – South of Scotland spatial priority to increase rural population.

### National policies addressed by Duns community-led proposals:

#### **Sustainable Places**

1. Tackling the climate and nature crisis
2. Climate mitigation and adaptation
3. Biodiversity
5. Soils (Prime agricultural land)
6. Forestry, woodland and trees (Park developments – tree survey and replanting)
7. Historic Assets and places
9. Brownfield, vacant and derelict land and empty buildings
9. Energy
10. Zero waste (re-using buildings)
11. Sustainable Transport

#### **Liveable Places**

12. Design, quality and place
13. Local living and 20 minute neighbourhoods
14. Quality Homes
15. Rural homes
16. Infrastructure first
17. Heat and cooling (indirect)
18. Blue and green infrastructure
19. Play, recreation and sport
20. Flood risk and water management
21. Health and safety
22. Digital infrastructure

#### **Productive Places**

25. Community wealth building
26. Business and industry
27. City, town, local and commercial centres
28. Retail
29. Rural development
30. Tourism
31. Culture and creativity

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/> accessed 30 Dec 2024.

## National Developments which affect Duns

Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure

Circular Economy Materials Management Facilities

National Walking, Wheeling, Cycling and Horse Riding Network



Duns is a settlement within the Edinburgh City Region and is included in the Eastern Strategic Development Area of the Scottish Borders, which means it should be a focus for retail, commercial and strategic opportunities, including improved connectivity with Edinburgh and Newcastle.



## Scottish Borders Context

The local government planning policy in effect at the time of publishing this plan is the SBC [Local Development Plan 2 \(LDP2\)](#).<sup>15</sup>

LDP2 policies of particular importance to the Duns Local Place Plan are:

**Placemaking:** PMD1 - PMD5

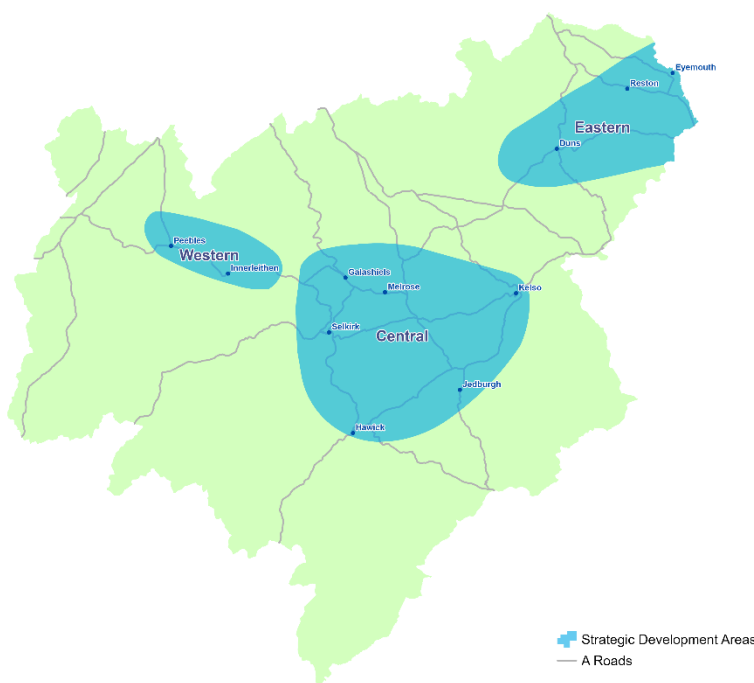
**Economic Development:** ED3, ED7

**Housing Development:** HD1-HD6

**Environment:** EP10-EP13, EP15

**Infrastructure:** IS1, IS4, IS7, IS8, IS9,

**Settlements:** Duns profile (p295-301)



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Figure 5 Scottish Borders Spatial Strategy (LDP2, p19)

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/plans-guidance/local-development-plan> accessed 30 Dec 2024

## Berwickshire Locality Context

The Duns Local Place Plan closely reflects feedback and proposals outlined in the Berwickshire Area Partnership [Locality Plan](#),<sup>16</sup> especially in the following key areas:

### Economy Skills and Learning –

- Connectivity
- Employment & Learning Opportunities

### Environment and Place –

- Leisure facilities for young people
- Affordable Housing



Figure 6 Berwickshire Flag (Public Domain, 2023)

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<sup>16</sup> <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/7598/berwickshire-locality-action-plan>

# Community Engagement

## Background and Methods

A Heart for Duns began community engagement activities in early 2023 to raise awareness about the Local Place Plan process, and to invite community members to form a Town Team. The purpose of the consultation process was to provide community members with the opportunity to say what they value about Duns (see previous section) and to say what kind of community they would like Duns to be in the future.

The Duns Town Team consisted of people from different community groups (see Appendix 2 for a mapping of community groups and entities in Duns). Much of the community engagement took place in group settings facilitated by A Heart for Duns through connections made possible by the Town Team. All engagement activities with individuals and groups were based on [the Place Standard Tool](#)<sup>17</sup>. The Place Standard Tool asks questions about a broad range of community experiences and concerns including connectivity, opportunities for economic, educational, recreational, and social activities, promotion of cultural identity and “felt” safeness. Questionnaires were adapted or simplified depending on audience. With Duns Primary School children, the [Place Standard Tool for Children](#)<sup>18</sup> was used. Some groups opted to complete paper questionnaires together, and other groups submitted individual questionnaires.

In August 2024, we published [an online version of the questionnaire](#)<sup>19</sup> and promoted the link via social media and through flyers distributed to businesses and public places in Duns, leading to a slightly more random source of data.

Our community engagement process and LPP drafting received welcome support, particularly in the latter stages through [Borders Community Action’s community-led planning support pilot](#).<sup>20</sup> The pilot provided access to training and peer support, regular advice on process technicalities, helpful reviews of existing LPPs from other communities, and funding towards a project support worker.



As Duns is a services and amenities hub for surrounding villages, estates and farms, we wanted to engage with people who use Duns for work or services, but do not live in Duns. Several neighbouring villages are doing their own Place Planning processes so we did not visit outlying places for engagement activities but promoted our survey in places where local visitors to Duns would see it. For example, we placed flyers in the doctor’s surgery waiting room, at the swimming pool and with some local businesses.

Prior to July 2024, a Heart for Duns volunteers had engaged with around 200 people:

- 69 at Senior Citizens events – 9 individual questionnaires plus 10 group questionnaires (6 people per group).
- 20 individual questionnaires from Springfield Residents, Friends of Duns Primary School and other individuals.

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<sup>17</sup> Place Standard Tool and user guides accessed via <https://www.ourplace.scot/tool/place-standard-guide>, Dec 2024.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.ourplace.scot/place-standard-tool-children-and-young-people> accessed Dec 2024.

<sup>19</sup> <https://forms.office.com/r/c4YaYk0BCD>. Link provided for information only. New submissions via this form are not being analysed.

<sup>20</sup> <https://borderstsi.org.uk/clp/> accessed 21 Jan 2025



- 28 children at Duns Primary School in 4 groups of 7.
- 24 people of mixed ages at a public meeting, representing a mix of ages, and including people with disabilities.
- 36+ people at a Business Forum event, responding as 12 groups of 3 or more.
- 23 individual questionnaires returned by people attending a Coronation Lunch in the Market Square.

Following July 2024, with the support of online tools, additional group discussions and some ad hoc conversations at public events, we engaged with approximately 100 more people.

- 42 online questionnaires from a mix of age groups
- 23 individual paper questionnaires, some completed with Town Team volunteers at a Greener Duns event in the Square and at the Duns Show. Others returned their forms directly to the Volunteer Hall.
- 6 pupils and 2 adults at Berwickshire High School completing a graphic mapping exercise based loosely on the Place Standard tool
- 12 residents plus 2 staff members at Longfield Assisted Living
- Presentation to Duns Historical Society
- 10 -15 ad hoc conversations with representatives of community organisations with specific interest in the outcomes of the survey.

As our engagement included a mix of individual questionnaires and group events, and the participants were largely accessed proactively rather than randomly, the group of 300 or so participants could not be treated as a statistically representative sample. However, by end of October 2024, we found that each new response provided less and less new information or ideas and there was a need to progress the Local Place Plan or risk consultation fatigue. Some people had been contacted more than once through different channels, and early responders wanted to see the process lead to action. Although we had not connected with every group on the Community Mapping Matrix, the Town Team assessed that we had managed to engage with a reasonable representation of the demographic of Duns, and had successfully used multiple channels and methods to engage specifically with people in more vulnerable situations or minority groups, in accordance with the [National Standards for Community Engagement](https://www.scdc.org.uk/what/national-standards).<sup>21</sup>

A second round of consultation took place over period of 4 weeks in November, to get feedback on our initial analysis of the survey data.

- 2 Public Events (9 people participated over two evenings)
- Stalls at the Berwickshire Swap event, the Heart for Duns AGM, the Duns Community Lunch and at the Duns Christmas Market
- Group discussion event at Longfield Assisted Living (12 people participated)

We published an online feedback form and publicised the link via flyers and social media.

Paper feedback forms were available at the events, in the foyer at Duns Parish Church and given out via email to people signed up to Town Team mailing list.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.scdc.org.uk/what/national-standards>

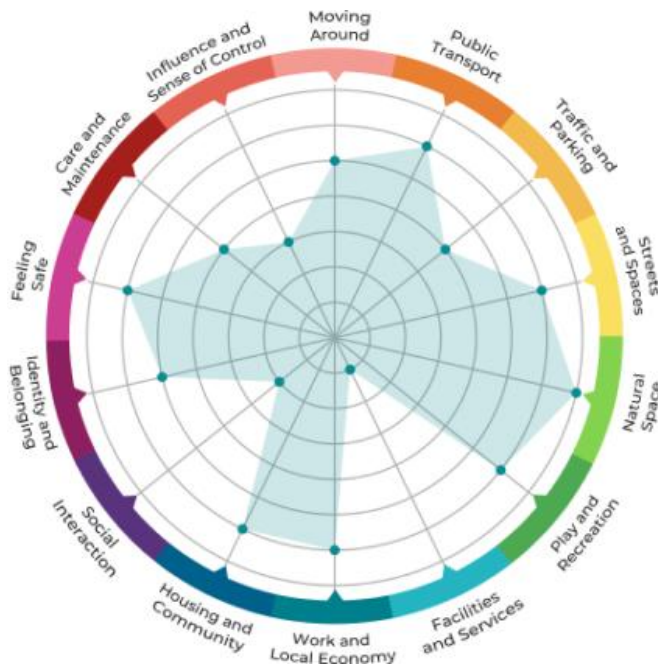


Figure 7 Place Standard Tool Categories - <https://www.ourplace.scot>

## Analysis

The Place Standard Tool invites community members to provide both a numerical score (0-7) and text comments for each of 14 placemaking categories (see image).

We identified priority themes and potential projects by analysing content of comments. Numerical data was used to help flag strong themes and nuances in the qualitative data.

We could see from the number of “what needs improved” comments, that **Public Transport** is a priority concern. This is backed up by consistent low satisfaction score on Public Transport. Conversely, **Feeling Safe** and access to **Natural Space** both scored consistently high and this reflected the strongly positive comments.

Some categories such as **Streets and Spaces** had inconclusive numerical scores, and both negative and positive comments. Analysing the comments we could see that the category alone was not a priority theme, but that priority themes emerged from within the category. “Asset” themes reflected buildings and spaces that are important place-makers for Duns, and “improvement” themes highlighted threats to sustaining the sense of place.

**Moving Around** (without a vehicle) returned high satisfaction scores but a strong set of negative comments, indicating that Duns has very highly valued opportunities, but significant challenges in making these work for everyone.

# What The Survey Told Us ...

In this section, we present the results of the survey analysis. Results are presented in simplified format and followed by more detailed explanation. To simplify navigation of results please use the links in the table below:


## Navigating the Results Section

Infographs and Maps	Detailed Listings and Explanations
Highly valued features and places in Duns (map)	Highly valued features and places in Duns
Priority Themes for improvement	Category-based priority themes
Housing and Planning Map (LDP2)	Cross-cutting priority themes
Project Proposals	Other priority themes
Project Proposals Map	Housing, Parking and Planning regulations
	Project proposals mapped to priority themes and planning policies

## Explanation of Detailed Results

Detailed results are presented using coloured squares and diamonds to quantify the strength of a theme or sub-theme. Each coloured square represents a comment relating to the theme or sub-theme. Diamonds represent comments made by a child or teenager. The colours represent the different community events or survey sources for the comments. Black squares represent online questionnaire responses. Yellow squares represent individual paper questionnaire responses. Where a theme has a comment written in bold text, this represents a comment provided by a child or young person.

**For example** in the Highly valued features and places section we see:

**Duns Town Square** 

This means there were 49 comments about the Square as a highly valued place in Duns. There are two diamonds so 2 comments came from a child or young person. The largest number of squares are black so most comments came from online questionnaires.

Highly valued features and places, or “**Assets**” are the things that already make Duns a good “place”. We want to make the most of our assets, by preserving them and building on them.



## Highly Valued Features and Places (themes in detail)



Some of the “valued features and places” themes had “subthemes” in different categories of the Place Standard tool. The table below notes the subthemes to these assets, and notes where some assets were observed both positively and negatively.

<p><b>Duns Town Square</b></p> <p>Good open spaces</p> <p>Pleasant to sit outside</p> <p>Good cafes and local shops</p>	<p><b>Sports Facilities</b></p> <p>Swimming Pool (20 comments)</p> <p>Golf</p> <p>Tennis</p> <p>Rugby</p> <p>Bowling Green</p> <p>Football</p>	<p><b>Duns is a caring community</b></p> <p>Warm and caring community</p> <p>Great sense of tradition (esp Reiver’s week)</p> <p>I feel I belong/ I feel at Home</p> <p>Welcoming to newcomers <i>(there was also a strong improvement theme calling for better inclusion of newcomers)</i></p> <p>The churches</p> <p>The community café</p>
<p><b>Employment Opportunities</b></p> <p>Diversity of local businesses</p> <p>Good industrial estate</p> <p>Good employers</p> <p><i>Improvement comments noted the need for greater diversity of job types/ levels in Duns.</i></p>	<p><b>Good quality mix of housing</b></p> <p>Lots of new houses</p> <p>Good social housing and assisted living facilities</p> <p><i>There was also a strong “improvement” theme calling for more affordable housing for young families</i></p>	<p><b>Good walking/ cycling routes</b></p> <p><i>There were 8 positive comments about the cycle lanes in Duns, but there were much more “improvement” comments about the need for traffic-free cycle routes for safer family cycling.</i></p>

## Priority Themes for Improvement

All themes illustrated on the dial are considered important and requiring improvement in Duns. Themes with the strongest support are on the right of the dial. Themes with fairly strong support are on the left of the dial.

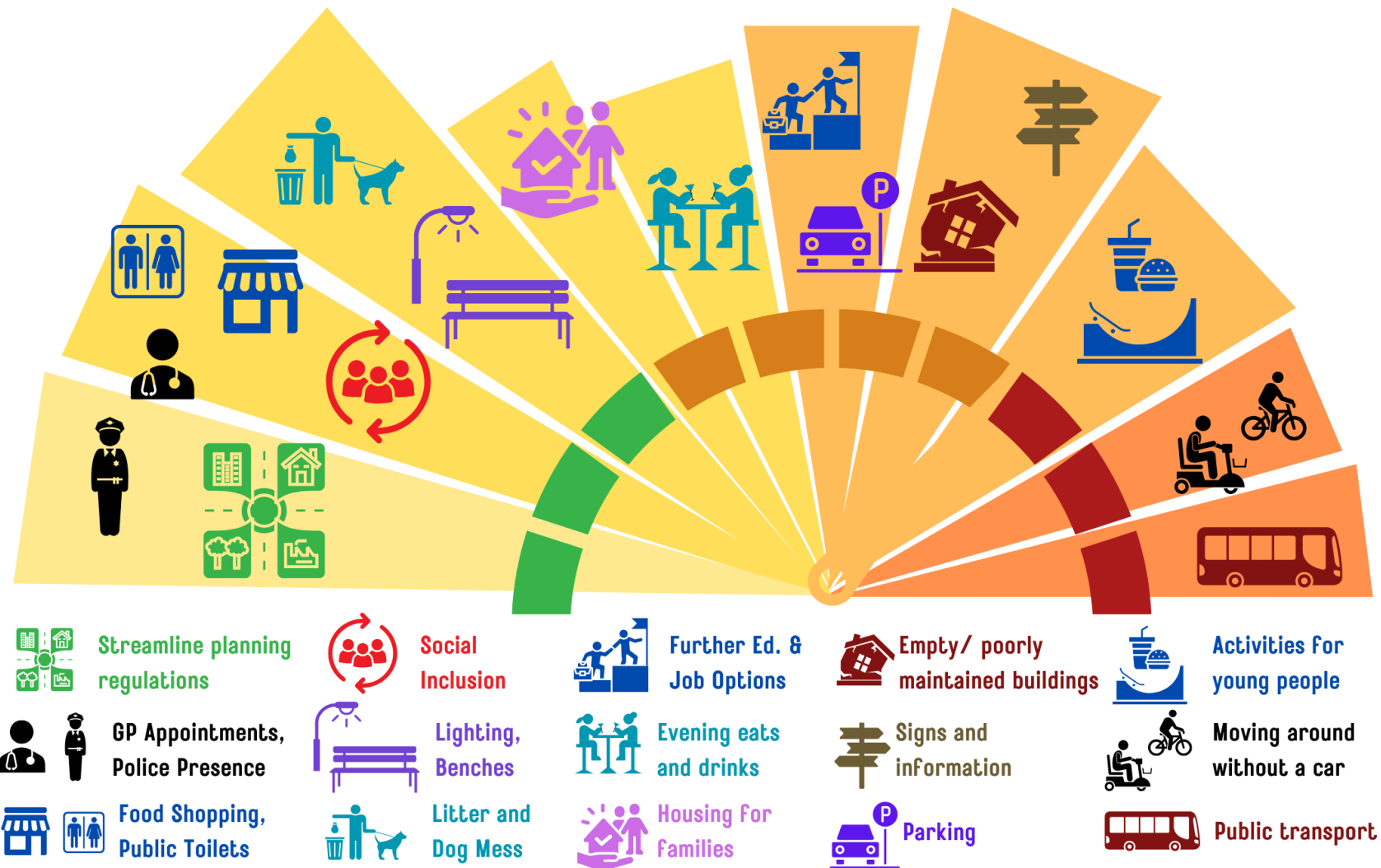


Figure 9 Priority ranking of themes in participant comments.

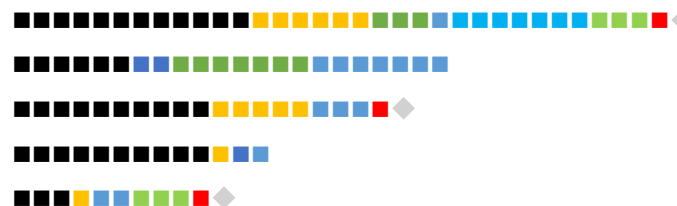


### Category-based Priority Themes for Improvement

These themes are Place Planning Categories that generated lots of discussion or consistently low scores. Sub-categories of comment are shown for each category. The strength of the category-theme is found by combining the number of comments for each sub-category.

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Earlier/Later services
- More frequent services
- Direct route to/ from Kelso
- Times to link with Berwick/ Reston trains
- Replace Pingo with better community transport support (eg Preston)



## MOVING AROUND (Paths for walking, wheeling, cycling and horse riding)

- Improve current state of **paths and pavements** for safety and usability<sup>22</sup>
- Improved dropped kerbs/ disabled access to shops, Castle grounds
- Paths out of town (suitable for families/ cycling)<sup>23</sup>
- Better/ more cycle paths in town (traffic free)



## PARKING/ TRAFFIC

- Make more parking available<sup>24</sup>
- Enforce parking limits in Square (contractor vans, yellow lines, Murray St)

SERVICES and AMENITIES<sup>25</sup>

- Competition for Coop
- Improve access to GPs



<sup>22</sup> Around half of comments mention potholes, about half of the pothole comments include potholes on roads, the rest are related to footpaths or pavement surfaces. Other concerns about pathway safety/usability include boardwalk surfaces, bushes/ weeds, signage, flooding.

<sup>23</sup> E.g. Active travel routes to Buxley, Gavinton, Putton Mill, Sinclairs Hill, Knoll, Preston for walking, wheeling, cycling and horse riding.

<sup>24</sup> Parking improvement concerns relate mainly to residents' parking on roads into town and in housing estates, rather than town centre parking. Concerns with town centre relate mainly to lack of enforcement of short term limits during busy periods.

<sup>25</sup> Services and Amenities are illustrated as 3 separate subcategories, Choice of shops, GP access, and public toilets, on the dial on the previous page.

- Public toilets (better toilets, located in park)



### WORK/ ECONOMY

- Local learning/ training/ apprenticeship opportunities for 16+
- More office jobs/ improve career choices and prospects
- Attract new businesses
- Support local businesses to stay/ expand/ employ locally



### HOUSING

- Improve rental situation for young families/social housing
- More affordable housing
- Priority to local people



## Cross-cutting Priority Themes for Improvement

These themes emerge through comments in several different Place Planning Categories, which when collated create a priority theme. Please see Appendix 1 for mapping of comments and categories that make up each of these themes.

### YOUNG PEOPLE – ACTIVITIES and SPACES



### VACANT or POORLY MAINTAINED BUILDINGS



### SIGNS and INFORMATION: events, attractions, walks, town centre



### ATTRACTIONS & TOURISM: Independent Shops, Cafes, Restaurants, Pubs



### LITTER/ DOG MESS



### BENCHES



### LIGHTING



## Other Priority Themes for Improvement

These themes are similar to cross-cutting themes but have been listed separately as they need some explanation as to how the theme has emerged as a priority.

### SAFETY

That people in Duns feel safe, came up as a highly valued [asset](#) with high satisfaction scores (ie on the 1-7 scale), so it did not generate as many comments as low scored Categories such as Public Transport. However, there were enough consistent comments on improving safety to suggest this is a priority theme for vulnerable groups. During the post-survey feedback, participants expressed surprise at learning this theme was not a higher priority. The [socio-demographic profile for Duns](#)<sup>26</sup> confirms that Duns benefits from comparatively low crime rates.

- More police presence
- BHA/ Police/ Council to tackle antisocial/drug issues quickly

### SOCIAL INCLUSION

Lots of people made quite varied comments that all point to concerns about **social inclusion**. Taken together these comments indicate that social inclusion is a priority theme for community members.

- Moving around with buggies and wheelchairs
  - Dropped kerbs – don't block (e.g. with pavement dining, or parking)
  - Better disabled access (eg to shops, to lakeside at Castle)
  - More disabled parking in centre – especially at the Post Office
  - More paved paths for wheelchairs/ pushchairs
- Play/ Recreation for all
  - Improve access (opening times) to swimming pool
  - Subsidy options to improve access to events/ facilities for low-income families
- Access to work
  - Affordable childcare (2-3yr) to help parents back to work
  - Tackle discrimination
- If transport can't be improved, priority solutions are needed to improve participation in (or from):

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/11611/is-outcomes-profile-2022-duns> accessed 3 Jan 2025

- banking
- local villages
- access to BGH
- commuting workers
- further education
- reducing car use
- Identity & Belonging
  - Be more inclusive (very close knit – but can be cliquey)
  - Support for people struggling with food and energy costs
  - Support for elderly to get to events/ sports events/ outings
  - Isolation of young parents
- Influence and Voice
  - Explain Duns CC role & get more people to Duns CC meetings
  - Create opportunities to hear from most isolated/ disadvantaged
  - Make a children's forum to teach adults what young people want in a community

## LOCAL EXPERIENCE – Land use and planning rules

This priority theme voices local experience in land use challenges and should be considered in plans to develop new housing or commerce.

- Design natural space into housing developments.
- Play areas in other parts of town/ estates
- More pedestrian friendly zones/ community garden projects
- New development to include parking and low speed limits.
- Make it easier to get plots/units in Industrial Estate
- Make space available to open new retail units
- Reduce restrictions on developing land
- Release land for housing development (not Bluidy Burn)

## Priority themes addressing the Local Development Plan (LDP2)

**Housing, Parking and Planning Regulations** were each priority themes that did not attract specific project proposals. These themes depend on external factors such as the state of the housing market, legislation and wider planning policy such as LDP2. However, the concerns expressed about these themes do demand a community-centred approach by planners.

Figure 10 below is taken from LDP2 and illustrates land use allocations for future developments in Duns. The feedback from the community-led planning process would largely align with this plan. (eg. protection of green space, several plots of land allocated for housing, space for new businesses). However, there are some concerns which could require amendment or clarification in LDP2 (see lettered items in following list).

1. **Housing** – Duns residents from a variety of backgrounds supported the availability of more homes, especially to attract new working families, and provide for younger members of local families as they start on their own. LDP2 allocates land in and around Duns for new housing developments with nominal capacity for up to 232 new homes. However much of this land either has very difficult planning criteria to overcome (eg flood risk) or has already been allocated for housing for many years without any progress on developing housing.
  - a. How realistic is it that SBC housing targets can be reached if housing allocations depend on unusable locations? Where housing allocations have remained undeveloped since the previous LDP, can permission be brought forward to explore development in allocations for future consideration (eg SDUNS001)? Can priority (and incentive) be given for developing land on slopes above the flood risk area.
  - b. The use of supply (completions) does not seem a reliable a measure of demand when it comes to affordable housing. The survey indicates that people have to find alternative accommodation solutions because of lack of affordable housing, weakening longer-term ties with the town. I.e. there are not enough completions to meet demand.
  - c. Bluidy Burn drainage plans should include provision to improve drainage of plots allocated for housing or mixed use development.
  - d. Plans for new housing should include incentives to open up direct pedestrian access to a main road where the point of entry to the main road is close enough to the town centre to make walking more practical than driving for short journeys. (E.g. this is missing from the Springfield development, and a retrospective solution could be expensive)
2. **Parking** – There is a lack of parking in the existing housing estates and busy residential streets (eg Bridgend). Given Duns' rural location, the need to access some services in other towns, and concerns about public transport, residents expect to own a car for longer journeys. This is not considered a contradiction to aspirations for active travel. In a rural location like Duns, active travel is considered an important but underserved option, rather than a single or primary mode of transport. Lack of parking in housing areas may discourage new families moving to Duns and does cause current residents to resort to pavement parking. Any new housing should include adequate parking.

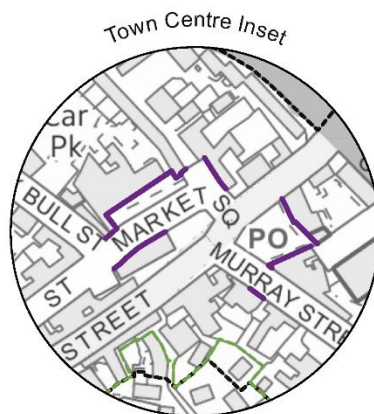
- a. If parking is given the priority needed for Duns' rural location, we believe the number of housing units per plot to be over-optimistic.
  - b. Consideration could be given to allocating more open land for residents' parking in existing estates.
  - c. Other ideas proposed include using some grass verge areas on approach roads eg, top of Glebe St, or providing commuter parking areas for town centre workers to reduce long stay parking tendencies in the centre.
3. **Redevelopment** – People spoke strongly about the need for the old primary school to be redeveloped. LDP2 also promotes this, along with redevelopment of other disused facilities at Clockmill. Redevelopment allocations offer capacity for up to 65 new homes. This seems unrealistic if sufficient parking and access is included.
4. **Conservation area and core activity area** – These are highly valued assets. However, our sense of place is at risk due to increasing numbers of empty properties and lack of maintenance of others. In the survey we heard that complex or arbitrary planning requirements have discouraged some owners or developers from refurbishing or recommissioning disused properties.
- a. A more streamlined and enabling approach to planning could help reverse town centre degradation. For example, it was easier to cross-reference project proposals to the NPF4 than LDP2 as the national framework had a strong focus on what is to be encouraged. Although LDP2 promotes town centre regeneration in the strategy section, the emphases on reasons for refusal in the policy section risks discouraging local developments that could enhance town centre. Several policies overlap each other, and each has a list of reasons to refuse a development, increasing the likelihood of a project development being blocked.
  - b. We would like to see more in the LDP2 policies section on incentivising development and redevelopment.
5. **Industrial/ business expansion** – Infrastructure is in place for the expansion of the industrial estate to the east of the town. This could lead to more jobs. Duns people are concerned however, that there should be a mix of job types and that there is not a default to a low wage economy.
- a. Give equal priority to increasing useable business space in the town centre and attracting diverse business types to the town.
  - b. Parts of the industrial estate) should be attractive for leisure and tourism businesses (eg. a climbing centre). Consideration to be given to attractive pedestrian access routes to tourist facilities in the industrial estate.



Scottish Borders Council  
Local Development Plan 2024

**Duns**

-  Development Boundary
-  Town Centre Boundary
-  Conservation Area
-  Key Greenspace
-  Housing
-  Redevelopment
-  Business and Industrial
-  Business and Industrial Safeguarding
-  Longer Term Mixed Use
-  Wetland
-  Structure Planting/Landscaping
-  Core Activity Areas



For further information, including help reading this document, please contact: Planning Policy & GIS, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA. Tel: 01835 825010. Email: [localplan@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:localplan@scotborders.gov.uk)

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Figure 10 Duns Land Use Map



## Project Proposals

Project proposals have been extracted from participant comments suggested solutions for priority improvement themes, or which would enhance priority assets. These proposals have been listed in 8 different categories.



Figure 11 Project Proposal Types

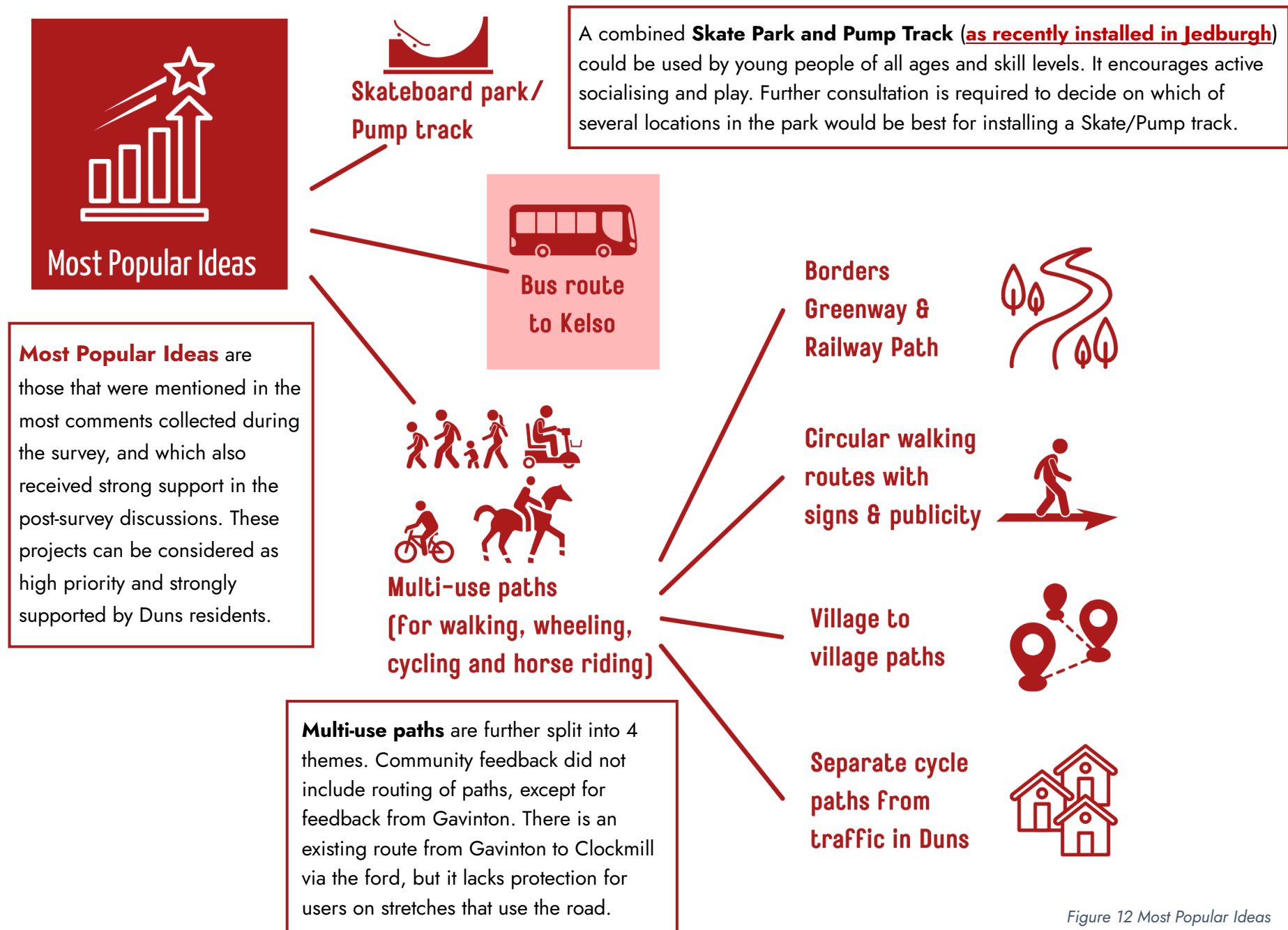


Figure 12 Most Popular Ideas



**Quick Wins** are proposals for changes that should be relatively low cost and simple to implement. In this LPP these all relate to improving confusing, damaged or missing signage.



Welcome to Duns  
(fix reflectivity)



Signpost  
Teindhillgreen  
park entrance



Signpost Square -  
one way or not?



Brown roadsign  
to Town Centre



Blue sign to Jim  
Clark Museum  
(Black Bull St)

Figure 13 Quick Wins



**Local Place Boosters** are relatively small-scale projects but more complex than “quick win” projects.

These projects should make the biggest difference to those facing disadvantage, to public safety, and to “living locally” in Duns.

Figure 14 Local Place Boosters



#### See also:

- **Farmers Market (Bigger Ambitions)**
- **Public toilets in the park (Local Place Boosters)**
- **Duns information website (Building Community)**
- **Multi-use paths (Popular ideas)**
- **Active Living projects**

Projects on this page are those which are likely to **boost the Tourism and Business environment in Duns**.

In some cases, projects or investments will give residents more choice and encourage people to spend money in Duns rather than travelling elsewhere, adding to sense of vitality in the town.

In other cases, projects will create new attractions for visitors, enhancing the offering that already exists and making Duns more viable as a holiday hub, rather than a day out from somewhere else.

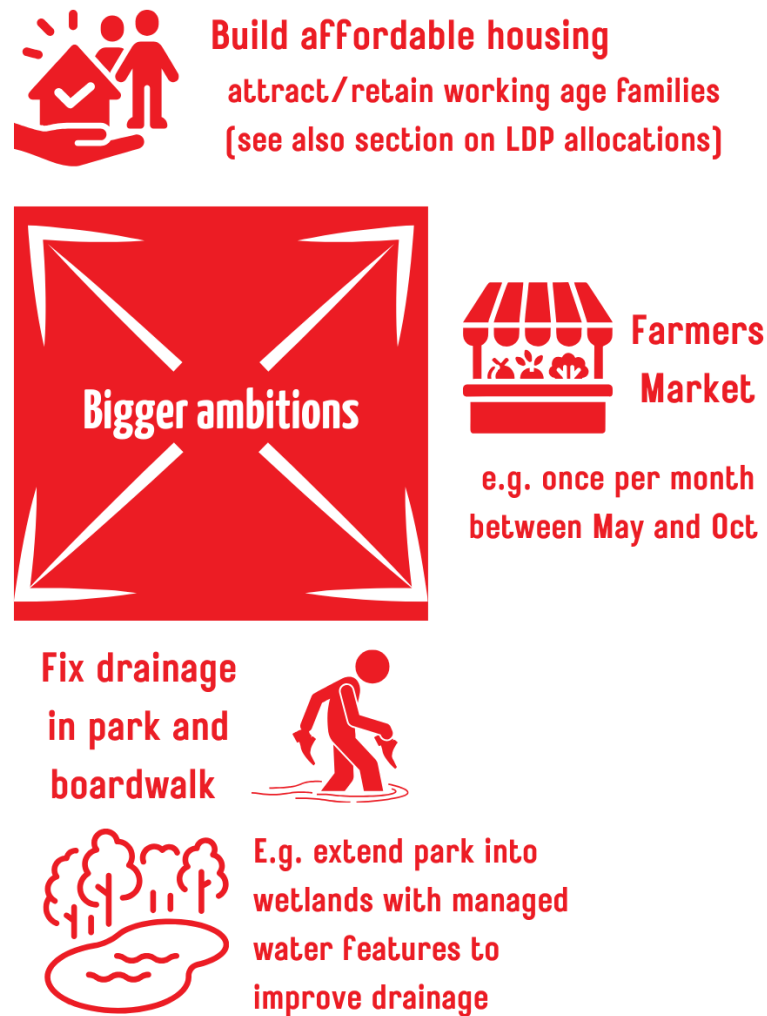
Some of these projects aim to encourage businesses and skilled workers to move into Duns (and for those already here, to stay).

Existing businesses may already provide some of these services, but the survey indicates demand for expanded services (e.g. evenings, or youth-friendly offerings).

The “see also” list refers to projects in other categories that should also improve Tourism and Business.

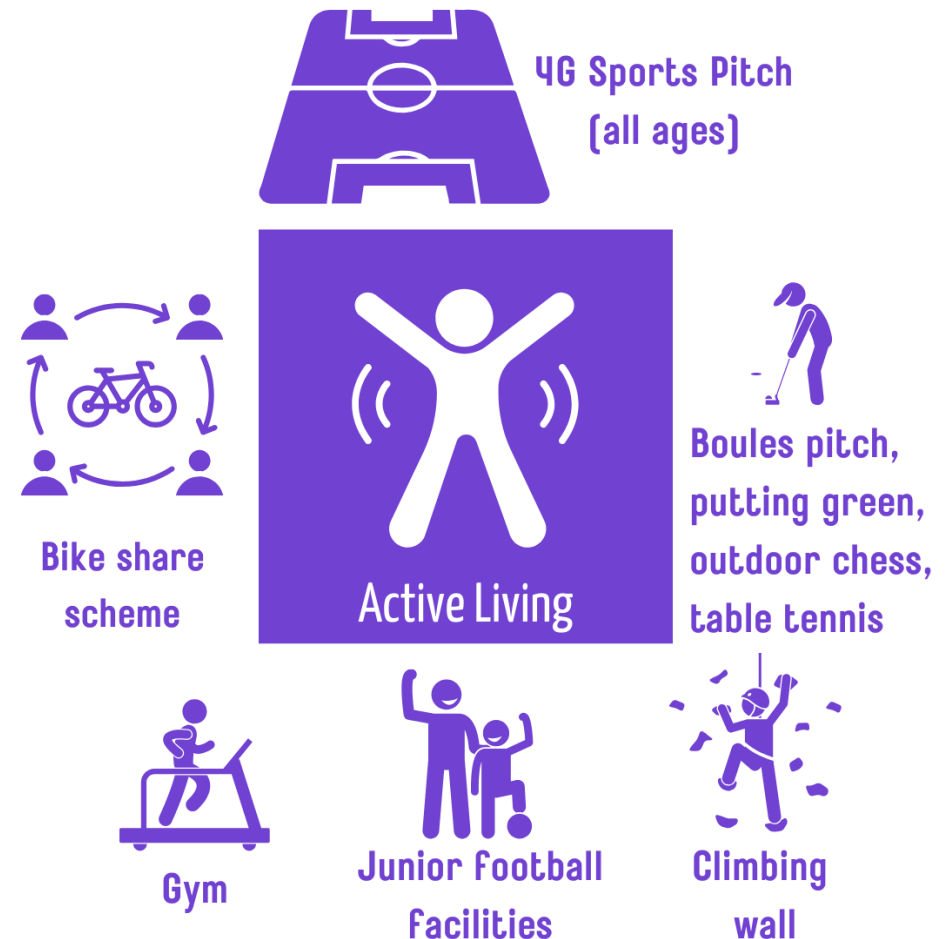
Figure 15 Tourism and Business

Figure 17 Bigger Ambitions



**Bigger Ambitions** projects would fit into other categories such as boosting business or tourism and the sense of place. However, they have been kept separate due to their complexity and greater potential for significant impact.

Figure 16 Active Living



**See also:**  
**Pump Track (in Popular Ideas)**  
**Multi-use paths (in Popular Ideas)**

Figure 18 Packageable Projects



**Project Packages** are projects that could be implemented by local organisations (possibly in partnership with Scottish Borders Council) but using grant funding. They have potential for clearly defined project parameters and measurable impact that could make them attractive to funders.

Figure 19 Building Community

**Building Community** projects will largely rely on voluntary efforts and are less easy to define parameters or measure impact. However, we anticipate that projects of this sort will spin off more like them and foster the Social Capital that is the human backbone of Placemaking.

Duns info website



Volunteering  
(e.g. youth orgs, litter picks, shopping for neighbours)



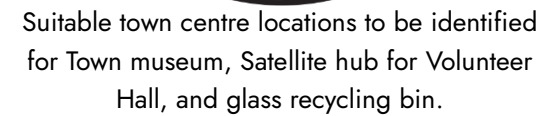
A children's club/ Forum to teach adults what children want in a community

Newcomer-oriented events  
(eg cross-cultural evenings)





See detailed maps on next page  
for items where more detail could  
be provided.



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## Project Proposals – Detailed Maps

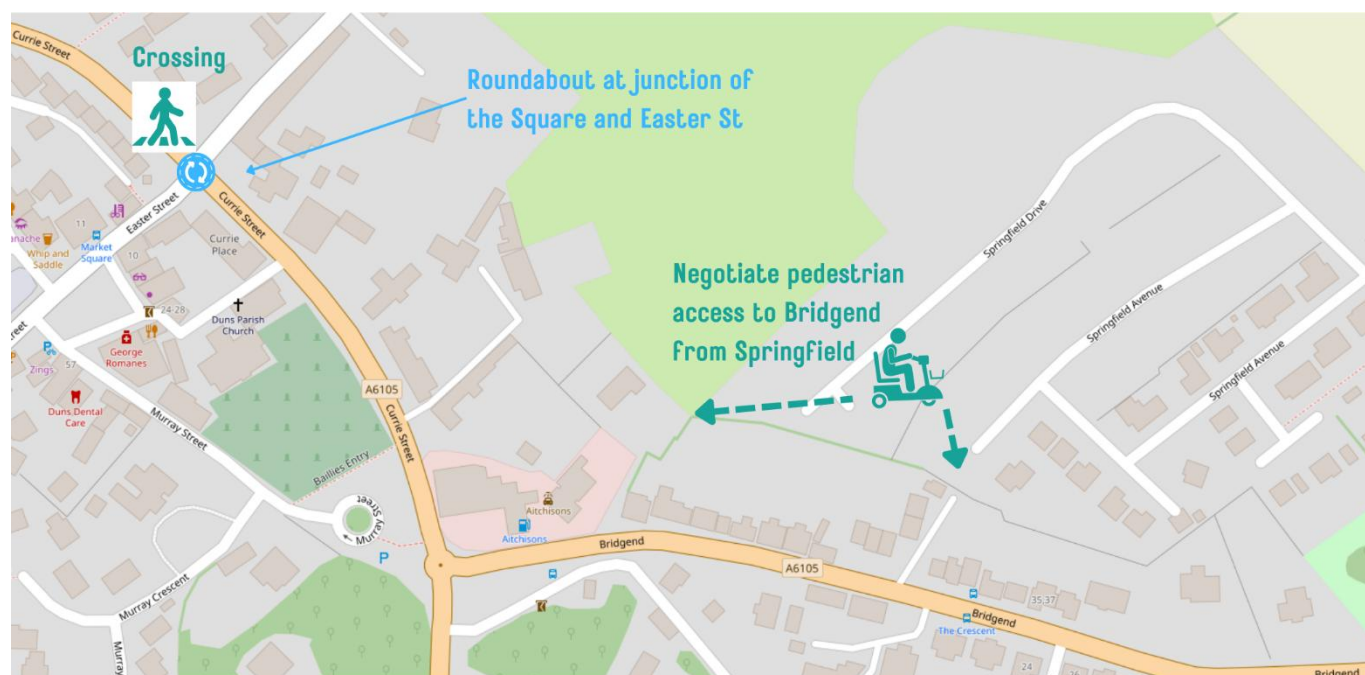


Figure 21 Easter Street and Springfield

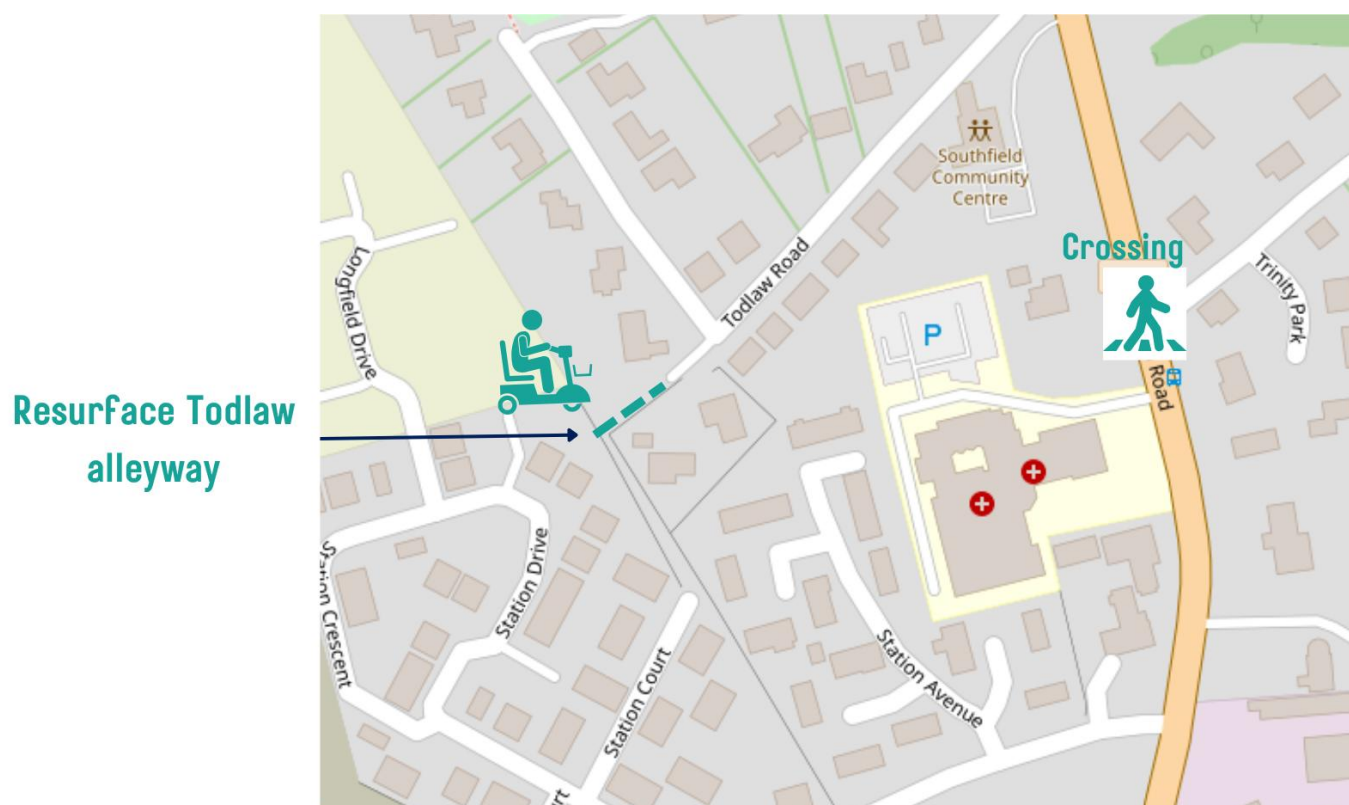


Figure 22 Todlaw alleyway and Trinity Park Crossing

## Project Proposals Mapped to Priority Themes and Planning Policy

	Most Popular Ideas	Priority Concerns addressed	Locality Plan	LDP2	NPF4	Post Survey Comments
1	<b>Pump Track/ Skateboard park</b> <sup>27</sup>	<b>Duns Park Youth/ Children</b>	Quality of Life	ED7. Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Recreation 31. Culture ...	Strongly supported. Could learn from <a href="#">Jedburgh skateboard track</a> . Consultation needed to identify best location within the park.
2	Bus route to Kelso	<b>Public Transport</b>	Economy, Skills etc Environment and Place	PMD1 Sustainability ED7. Business tourism and leisure...	11. Sustainable transport	Strongly supported
3	Multi-use paths for walking, wheeling, cycling & horse riding	<b>Pathways, Signs &amp; Information</b>	Quality of Life	ED7. Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Rec'n 30. Tourism	
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circular walking routes with signs, and publicity (leaflets in shops, poster in square) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>local town</li> <li>medium walks</li> <li>long trails</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Pathways, Signs &amp; Information</b>	Quality of Life	ED7. Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Rec'n 30. Tourism	Strongly supported. Material exists online but could be made easier to access. Include Dog-Friendly walks.
3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Borders Greenway, develop Railway Path</li> </ul>	<b>Pathways, Signs &amp; Information</b>	Quality of Life	ED7. Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Rec'n 30. Tourism	See <a href="#">Borders Greenway information page</a> <sup>28</sup>
3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Village to village, traffic free multi-use paths</li> </ul>	<b>Pathways, Signs &amp; Information</b>	Quality of Life	ED7. Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Rec'n 30. Tourism	Strongly supported by neighbouring communities, especially Gavinton and Preston.
3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separate cycle lanes from traffic within Duns</li> </ul>	<b>Pathways, Signs &amp; Information</b>	Quality of Life	ED7. Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Rec'n 30. Tourism	Supported but difficulties identifying any new routes.

<sup>27</sup> Proposals (left column) in **bold text** mean that at least one of the people who made this proposal was child or a teenager.

<sup>28</sup> Borders Greenway information page: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7629dda92afe4826823d843fa7ddf34b> accessed 4 Jan 2025

	Quick Wins	Priority Concerns addressed	Locality Plan	LDP2	NPF4	Post Survey Comments
4	Signpost if Square car park is one way or not.	<b>Signs &amp; Information</b>	Economy (tourism)	ED3 Town Centres	27. Centres	
5	Duns website – tourist information, events, local information <i>(organisations, opening times, opportunities, central collection of links to local social media groups)</i>	<b>Signs &amp; Information</b>	Quality of Life (communication)	ED7 Tourism	25. Wealth building	Must be sustainable and kept up to date.
6	Teindhillgreen park needs signposted	<b>Signs &amp; Information</b>	(communication)	N/A	13. Local living	Access to the park entrance is difficult to see.
7	Brown tourist information sign to Town Centre (to encourage thru' traffic to stop and shop)	<b>Signs &amp; Information</b>	Economy (tourism)	ED7 Tourism	27. Centres	Current white sign is small and encourages through traffic to bypass centre, rather than giving reason to stop and visit.
8	Make "Welcome to Duns" sign as reflective as "Twinned with Zagan" sign	<b>Signs &amp; Information</b>	Economy (tourism)	ED7 Tourism	25. Wealth building	At night the "Welcome to Duns" sign is dull, but the "twinned with Zagan" sign is bright. It looks like the town is called Zagan.
9	Black Bull St: Replace local traffic sign for Jim Clark Museum with pedestrian sign.					Black Bull St is closed to through traffic, but the entrance has a road sign indicating a through route to the Jim Clark Museum.

	Local Place Boosters (SBC a major stakeholder)	Priority Improvement/ Asset	Locality Plan	LDP2	NPF4	Post Survey Comments
10	<b>Park lighting</b> (Off-grid ?) <sup>29</sup>	<b>Lighting</b>	Quality of Life	PMD1 Sustainability ED9 Renewable Energy	9. Energy 21. Safety	PIR Lighting to minimise impact on wildlife?
11	Public toilets – partnership with local stakeholders in Park	<b>Services &amp; Amenities</b>	Quality of Life	ED7 Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Recreation	Could be included with bowling club development.
12	Resurface alleyway from Todlaw to Station Avenue	<b>Moving around</b>	Environment and Place	IS5 Access	13. Local Living 21. Safety	This refers to the short alleyway section emerging on Todlaw Road. There may be an ownership dispute.
13	Remove trip hazards on Gourlays Wynd, Black Bull St, Easter St	<b>Moving around, Inclusion</b>	Environment and Place	ED3 Town Centres IS5 Access	13. Local Living 21. Safety 27. Centres	Some people want to keep aesthetic of cobbles. People with limited mobility, or eyesight-impaired want access without cobbles. Replace with safer pedestrian friendly surface, similar streetscape.
14	Pedestrian crossings at Easter St, Coop, Square, Trinity Park	<b>Moving around, Inclusion</b>	Environment and Place	ED3 Town Centres IS5 Access	13. Local Living 21. Safety 27. Centres	Crossings at Easter St and Trinity Park were strongest supported
15	Pedestrianise Black Bull St, Willis Wynd to promote safety and enforce 'access-only' rule for vehicles.	<b>Moving around, Inclusion</b>	Environment and Place	ED3 Town Centres IS5 Access	21. Safety 27. Centres	Use pedestrian friendly surfaces and traffic management features (see also trip hazards above) <sup>30</sup> Improve signage. Move 'access only' sign for one-way traffic visibility
16	Provide pedestrian cut-through from Springfield to Bridgend	<b>Moving around, Inclusion</b>	Environment and Place	ED3 Town Centres IS5 Access	13. Local Living	Potential access routes are all privately owned. Direct distance to

<sup>29</sup> Proposals (left column) in **bold text** mean that at least one of the people who made this proposal was child or a teenager.

<sup>30</sup> Designing Streets document – primarily for new streets, but is applicable to improving safety in existing streets.

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/corporate-report/2010/03/designing-streets-policy-statement-scotland/documents/0096540-pdf/0096540-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/0096540.pdf>

	Local Place Boosters (SBC a major stakeholder)	Priority Improvement/ Asset	Locality Plan	LDP2	NPF4	Post Survey Comments
						centre from bottom of estate is very short, but pedestrians must use the longer car route – encourages short car journeys.
17	Town centre bottle bank (for people without cars)	<b>Services &amp; Amenities</b>	Environment and Place	PMD1 Sustainability IS10 Waste Mgmt.	10. Zero Waste 13. Local living	Community council are surveying for suitable site with safe overhead access for removal. Must maintain visual character and integrity of the area, esp. impact on the setting of listed buildings and the historic public realm, including streetscape materials.
18	Play areas in housing estates (especially for small, very small children)	<b>Youth/ Children Activities</b>	Quality of Life Environment and place	PMD1 Sustainability ED7 Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Recreation	Has been done before. Equipment removed when vandalised.
19	Provide parking for funerals at cemeteries (Preston, Duns)	<b>Parking</b>	Environment and Place	IS7 Parking Provision	12. Place	This issue will also be raised by Preston-Abbey LPP
20	Provide more EV charging points	<b>Parking</b>	Environment and Place	PMD1 Sustainability IS4 Transport	1. Tackling Climate crisis 11. Sustainable Transport	Strongly supported. Tennis club may be able to add some EV points.
21	Roundabout at junction of Square and Easter St.	<b>The Square</b>	Environment and Place	ED3 Town Centres IS5 Access	21. Safety 27. Centres	This received more support in draft LPP consultation

	Tourism and Business	Priority Improvement/ Asset	Locality Plan	LDP2	NPF4	Post Survey Comments
22	Alternative food retail outlet	<b>Services &amp; Amenities</b>	Economy, Skills etc	PMD1, 3 Placemaking	13. Local Living 26. Business	



				ED3 Town Centre & Shopping ED7 Business etc.	28. Retail	
23	Town Museum	<b>Historical Interest Disused Buildings</b>	Economy, Skills etc	ED3 Town Centres ED7. Business tourism and leisure...	10. Zero Waste 25. Community Wealth 30 Tourism 31 Culture	Great opportunity to bring a derelict/ disused building back into use.
24	Small business work hub	<b>Jobs</b>	Economy, Skills etc Quality of Life	PMD1, 2 Placemaking ED7 Business, tourism & leisure	13. Local Living 26. Business 30. Tourism 31. Culture & creativity	Evening food and music venues strongly supported (for youth and adults)
25	Evening food/ music venues	<b>Attractions</b>				
26	Youth friendly café or fast food outlet, open in evening	<b>Youth Activities</b>				
27	IT/ Digital Marketing/ Gaming Design agencies (not just sole traders)	<b>Jobs</b>				
28	Outdoor music venue (Park)	<b>Duns Park</b>	Quality of Life	PMD1, 2 Placemaking ED7 Business, tourism & leisure	30. Tourism 31. Culture & creativity	
29	Promote Duns within NHS etc, as a place to live and work	<b>Jobs, Services &amp; Amenities</b>	Economy, Skills etc Health, Care, Wellbeing		25. Community wealth 26. Business etc 30. Rural development	Find out what is already being done along these lines and join in.
30	Satellite office of Volunteer Hall in centre – with info centre, refreshments, museum or archives	<b>Disused Buildings Signs &amp; Information</b>	Economy, Skills etc Quality of Life	PMD1 Sustainability ED7 Business, tourism & leisure	10. Zero Waste 13. Local Living 30. Tourism 31. Culture & creativity	Got additional support from post survey participants

<b>Bigger Ambitions (multiple stakeholders)</b>	<b>Priority Improvement/ Asset</b>	<b>Locality Plan</b>	<b>LDP2</b>	<b>NPF4</b>	<b>Post Survey Comments</b>
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31	Build Affordable Housing	<b>Housing</b>	Affordable Housing	HD1 -HD6, Duns Settlement Plan	23. Quality Homes 24. Rural homes	See discussion on p26
32	Farmers Market/ Market Day (Eg. once a month between May and Sept)	<b>The Square, Services &amp; Amenities</b>	Economy etc.	ED3, ED4 Town centres	25. Community wealth 27. Centres 28. Retail 30. Tourism	Could rekindle Duns' identity as a market town.
33	Park/ Boardwalk Drainage – Eg Extend park into wetlands with managed water features to improve drainage	<b>Moving Around, Duns Park</b>	Quality of Life	PMD1 Sustainability EP15. Water Environment	2. Climate adaptation 19. Play, Recreation 20. Flood risk	<a href="#">SBC Consultation</a> closed Jan 19 <sup>th</sup> 2025.  Mixed reaction in post-survey engagement. People are keen to have a water feature for walking round. Others concerned about degrading wetland biodiversity.

Active Living	Priority Improvement/ Asset	Locality Plan	LDP2	NPF4	Post Survey Comments
34 4G (all weather) Sports Pitch – available to all ages.	<b>Sports Facilities, Youth/ Children Activities</b>	Quality of Life	ED7 Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Recreation	Supported by <a href="#">Clubsport Berwickshire</a> <sup>31</sup> , Rugby club and Football club.
35 Junior Football Facilities	<b>Sports Facilities, Youth/ Children Activities</b>	Quality of Life	ED7 Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Recreation	Duns football juniors practice at Gavinton due to lack of facilities in Duns. Gavinton sports field needs upgraded changing, and improved car parking to cope with the numbers.
36 Park Activities • boules pitch, putting green, outdoor chess, table tennis.	<b>Activities Duns Park</b>	Quality of Life	ED7. Business tourism and leisure...	19. Play, Recreation 31. Culture ...	Boules etc could be included with bowling club development.
37 Bike share scheme with trailer bikes for small children, adapted tricycles for elderly.	<b>Moving Around</b>	Economy, Skills etc Quality of Life	ED7 Business, tourism & leisure	11 Sustainable transport 13 Local Living 30. Tourism	Has been tried before. Location of bikes may have adversely affected uptake.
38 Climbing wall	<b>Jobs</b>	Economy, Skills etc Quality of Life	PMD1, 2 Placemaking	13. Local Living	
39 <b>Gym</b> <sup>32</sup>	<b>Jobs, Youth Activities</b>		ED7 Business, tourism & leisure	26. Business 30. Tourism 31. Culture & creativity	

<sup>31</sup> Clubsport Berwickshire information page: <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/sport-leisure-outdoors/sports-development/4> accessed 4 Jan 2025.

<sup>32</sup> Proposals (left column) in **bold text** mean that at least one of the people who made this proposal was child or a teenager.

	Packageable projects (possibly 3 <sup>rd</sup> sector/ philanthropy funded)	Priority Improvement/ Asset	Locality Plan	LDP2	NPF4	Post Survey Comments
40	Local hub for further education colleges.	<b>Opportunities for young people</b>	Economy, Skills etc	PMD1, 2 Placemaking ED3 Town Centres	13. Local living 25 Community wealth building	Essential especially if public transport to Borders College will not be improved.
41	Incentive scheme to encourage upkeep/ refurb of building exteriors	<b>Buildings</b>	Environment & place Economy, Skills etc	PMD1, 2 Placemaking ED3 Town Centres	10. Zero Waste 12. Design, quality & place	Reintroduce funding schemes for town “facelift”
42	Minibus/ Town Shuttle Bus for elderly/ disabled residents with regular circle of estates and key services	<b>Public Transport</b>	Economy, Skills etc Environment and Place	PMD1 Sustainability	11. Sustainable transport	Has been tried before. Is it needed more now that there is increase in out-of-town assisted living?
43	<b>24hr care facility</b> <sup>33, 34</sup>	<b>Housing</b>	Health, Care, Wellbeing	HD5 Care and Nursing Homes	13. Local Living	Clarify what this offers that is not available at Longfield

<sup>33</sup> Although there is assisted living accommodation in Duns there is no Nursing Home. With the threat of closure of the Knoll Hospital, there will be no facility for end-of-life care and care for those without family support. Currently people need to be cared for in Berwick, Norham or Lennel which presents difficulties for family visits and creates isolation.

<sup>34</sup> Proposals (left column) in **bold text** mean that at least one of the people who made this proposal was child or a teenager.

	Community Building Activities	Priority Improvement/ Asset	Locality Plan	LDP2	NPF4	Post Survey Comments
44	Duns website – tourist information, events, local information <i>(organisations, opening times, opportunities, central collection of links to local social media groups)</i>	<b>Signs &amp; Information</b>	Quality of Life (communication)	ED7 Tourism	25. Wealth building	Must be sustainable and kept up to date.
45	Volunteering – eg help with litter picks, youth organisations, shopping for neighbours, food bank etc, Volunteer Hall etc.	<b>Inclusion</b>	Quality of Life Environment & place Health, Care, Wellbeing	PMD1 Sustainability	31. Culture & creativity 25. Community wealth 29. Rural development	
46	<b>Make a children's club to teach adults what children want in a community</b> <sup>35</sup>	<b>Voice/ Influence</b>	Economy, Skills etc Quality of Life Environment & place	PMD1 Sustainability	25. Community wealth 30. Rural development	Written in the child's own words. Strongly supported.
47	Newcomer-oriented events (eg cross-cultural evening)	<b>Inclusion</b>	Quality of Life Environment & place	PMD1 Sustainability	31. Culture & creativity	

<sup>35</sup> Proposals (left column) in **bold text** mean that at least one of the people who made this proposal was child or a teenager.

## Appendix 1

## Priority Themes Mapping

## Young People – Activities, Spaces and Opportunities



- Play and Recreation
  - Not enough for teenagers
  - Pump track/ bike track/ skateboard park
  - Limited or no access for young people to use venues/ facilities.<sup>36</sup>
- Social contact
  - Social contact spaces for young people – (**esp evenings**)<sup>37</sup>

## Vacant or poorly maintained buildings



- Streets and Spaces
  - Speed up (re)development processes/ reoccupy empty buildings
  - Facelift/ refresh poorly maintained buildings. (Incentivise landlords)
  - Redevelop old Primary School
- Facilities and Amenities
  - Use vacant buildings (eg. spaces for organisations)
- Housing
  - Refurb empty properties
  - Some landlords could improve maintenance of rental properties (inc. social landlords)
- Care and Maintenance
  - Encourage restoration of empty buildings/ spaces
  - Better maintenance of council buildings
  - Encourage/help people to take pride/do maintenance (eg cracked walls, gardens)

## Attractions & Tourism: Independent Shops, Cafes, Restaurants, Pubs, Nightlife



- Streets and Spaces, Facilities and Amenities, Social Contact
  - More pubs (live music venues), restaurants/ takeaways (evening food) and cafes
  - More independent shops (eg shoe shop?)
  - Keep shops open

<sup>36</sup> Review cost & rules of hiring venues. Lack of access to football facilities for juniors/ **girls football** at Duns Sports centre.

<sup>37</sup> This priority theme relates primarily to informal, unsupervised activities. However, it is worth noting that during the survey period, the Duns Youth Centre has reopened offering a service for P7-S2. Supervised activities such as the Youth Centre, Guides etc, face a key concern in recruiting volunteers to keep activities viable.

- Work and Economy
  - Internet/workplace café/ Meeting spaces/Small business work hub
  - More attractions (eg hotels/ restaurants, etc) to promote tourist economy

## Signs and information: promoting events, attractions, walks, town centre



- Moving Around:
  - Maintenance of signage on pathways
  - Circular walking routes (signposted and promoted)
- Streets and Spaces:
  - Historical info signs/ signs to town features
  - Signpost to town centre (attract attention of thru traffic)
- Natural Space
  - Info signposts about what can be seen from boardwalk.
  - Signposted parking at access points to open spaces.
  - Walking route leaflet
- Play & Recreation/ Social Contact/ Identity and Belonging
  - Promotion of Duns and raise awareness of whats available
  - Information on how to join clubs
- Amenities & Services:
  - More or better signs for services/ amenities (especially for visitors, new arrivals)
- Influence/ Sense of Control
  - Explain the community council's role (purpose, capacity and constraints)

## Litter and Dog Mess



Categories: Streets and Spaces, Natural Spaces, Care and Maintenance)

Comments:

- Tackle litter (esp on approach roads, boardwalk)
    - Encourage litter picks
    - School campaign on litter
    - More litter bins
- Action against dog mess
  - Dog poo bins on walk routes (eg near school end of castle estate)

## Benches



Categories: Moving around, natural space, play and recreation

Comments:

- Benches en-route to town centre,

- More benches in park (including request for benches in “top field”)
- Benches *inside* playpark
- Benches/ bins on boardwalk,
- Repair and add benches in Castle grounds
- Picnic benches (with buggy access)

## Lighting



Categories: Moving around, Streets and Spaces, Play and Recreation, Safety

Comments:

- Lighting in Duns Park
- Street Lighting improved in alleyways (also in Coop car park)
- Lighting/ CCTV in playpark



## Appendix 2

### Community Connections Matrix

Groups by Organisation Type	Demographic	Engagements
<b>Education</b>		
Berwickshire High	12-18	2 visits – focus groups
Duns Primary	5-12	1 visit – discussion groups
Community Nursery	Pre-school	Email – promoted online quest're
U3A	Seniors	Discussion groups
Friends of Duns Primary School	Parents	Discussion groups
PTA	Parents	
<b>Community Councils</b>		
Duns		Group questionnaire
Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth		Visit to council meeting
Lammermuir		Discussions with chair
Abbey St B, Bonkyl and Preston		Collaboration with consultant
Allanton, Whitsom and Edrom		Social media
Swinton and Ladykirk		Overlap with village hall project
<b>Industry and Commerce</b>		
Farne Salmon	Working Age	Promoted paper quest're via HR
Thorburns Group	Working Age	Promoted paper quest're via HR
Pearsons	Working Age	Paper quest're in cafe
Redpath Tyres	Working Age	Paper quest're at front desk
Greenheat	Working Age	
Scotland Shop	Working Age	
Galedin Vets	Working Age	Paper quest're at front desk
Garages (Aitken Walker, Aitchisons, Mill Garage, Cheeklaw)	Working Age	Via business forum
Redpath Tool Hire	Working Age	
Fleming Homes	Working Age	Paper quest're with staff team
Business Forum	Working Age	Discussion group
<b>Residential Housing</b>		
Springfield Residents	All ages	Individual questionnaires
Berwickshire Housing Association		Met with communities' liaison
Eildon HA		See assisted living
Trust Housing Association		See assisted living
<b>Assisted Living</b>		
Turnbull Court	Seniors	Discussion group
Boston Court	Seniors	Discussion group
Longfield	Seniors	Discussion group

Groups by Organisation Type	Demographic	Engagements
Station Avenue	Mixed	Discussion group
Befriend Project (BHA)	Seniors	
Citizens Panel – Borders Care Voice	Mixed	
<b>Sports Groups</b>		
Bowling Club	Adult	Priorities and Projects feedback event
Rugby Club	Mixed	Priorities and Projects feedback event
Football Club	Mixed	Email – promoted online quest're
Badminton	Mixed	
Tennis Club	Mixed	Priorities and Projects feedback event
Duns Motocross Track	Mixed	
<b>Leisure</b>		
Jim Clark Museum and Trust	Mixed	Paper quest're at front desk
Putton Mill	Mixed	
Dance Groups	Mixed	
Swimming Pool and Guy Roberts Room	Mixed	Paper quest're at front desk
Archery	Adult	
Volunteer Hall	Mixed	Paper quest're at entrance
Ceilidh Club	Mixed	
Walking Group	Adult	
<b>Membership Organisations</b>		
Masons	Male adult	
Probus	Male senior	
Rotary	Mixed	
Burns Club	Mixed	
Churches (Church of Scotland, Episcopalian, Roman Catholic)	Mixed	Paper quest're at entrance (CoS)
Senior Citizens	Female Senior	Discussion groups and individual questionnaires
Veterans	Mixed	
Brownies	Child	
Guides	Teen	Private discussion with organiser
Cubs	Child	
Scouts	Teen	
Civic Society	Adult	Town team engagement
Duns Summer Festival		Promoted alongside VH survey
Friends of Knoll Hospital		
Duns History Society		Promoted alongside VH survey
<b>Performing Arts</b>		
Playfest	Mixed	Promoted alongside VH survey

Groups by Organisation Type	Demographic	Engagements
DDAOS (Opera)	Mixed	Promoted alongside VH survey
Choirs	Adult	
Pipe Band	Mixed	
<b>Arts and Crafts</b>		
Women's Rural Institute	Female adult	
Preston Stitchers	Female adult	
Allanbank Arts	Mixed	Promoted alongside VH survey
Men's Shed	Male adult	
Shed Collective	Female adult	
<b>Third Sector Organisations</b>		
BAVS		
What Matters Hubs		Promoted questionnaires with QR
A Heart for Duns		Promoted alongside VH survey
<b>Environmental Groups</b>		
Keep Duns Blooming Marvelous	Mixed	Promoted via town team
Abundant Borders/ Community Garden	Mixed	
Greener Duns	Mixed	Promoted via town team
Borders Greenway	Mixed	Promoted via town team
<b>Rural Community</b>		
Duns Show	Mixed	Promoted alongside VH survey
Ellemford Show	Mixed	
Young Farmers	Young adult	Duns Show
Berwickshire Hunt	Adult	
<b>Hospitality</b>		Hospitality providers were not targeted as a group. However, providers from this list did contribute to the survey either through community events, individual questionnaires, or the business forum.
Duns Castle		
Maxwells		
Jim Clark Bistro		
Baguette Shop		
Hungry Spot		
Swan Hotel		
Black Bull		
Toro Pizza		