

Supporting Statement for Smailholm Local Place Plan

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Contents

| Item | Page Number |
|---|-------------|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Contact details | 1 |
| Regard given to the Local Development Plan | 1 |
| Regard given to the National Planning Framework | 2 |
| Regard given to the Locality Plan | 2 |
| Reasons for amendments being sought to the Local Development Plan | 2 |
| Community support for the Local Place Plan | 2 |
| Evidence of compliance with Regulation 4 | 2 |
| Appendix | 3 |

Introduction

This Supporting Statement forms part of the Local Place Plan submission to Scottish Borders Council and is accompanying the Smailholm Local Place Plan dated 3 June 2025.

The Place Plan was developed by the Smailholm Futures Team with the support of consultants from AtkinsRealis.

The plan aims to preserve and enhance Smailholm's unique character while addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by the community. It outlines strategies for sustainable development, conservation of heritage assets and improvements of local amenities, all while maintaining the village's cherished rural quality of life.

Contact details

The Smailholm Futures Team can be contacted on email address: smailholmfutures@gmail.com

Regard given to the Local Development Plan

The links between the Smailholm Place Plan and Local, National and Regional policies are fully detailed in Appendix 4 of the Plan.

Due regard has been given to the Local Development plan, however given the small size of Smailholm that plan has little to say directly about this community, hence this plan give more detail and colour about the development of the village and area.

Regard given to the National Planning Framework

The Smailholm Plan has been developed with knowledge of the National Framework. That framework necessarily focuses on more urban developments, while this plan looks at what can be done to energise and invigorate small rural communities.

Regard given to the Locality Plan

The Smailholm Place Plan is structured around five themes.

- Transport
- Paths and Route
- Environment and Land Use
- Community
- Energy

An action plan for each theme has been developed and is detailed in the Place Plan.

Reasons for amendments being sought to the Local Development Plan

The Smailholm Place Plan does not set out definitive changes to the currently adopted Local Plan. However, the Smailholm Place Plan should be taken into consideration in upcoming LDP processes once registered as a Place Plan. The plan sets out a variety of projects that the community intend to pursue. It is believed that these projects compliment the LDP rather than completing with it, setting out detail as it impacts the village community.

Community support for the Local Place Plan

The plan has been developed over two years via a series of Community Meetings, initially facilitated by the Smailholm Futures Team, and latterly by AitkinsRealkis. This process has seen contact made with every person living in the area, and positive contributions from more than 50% of the community. The plan details the engagement process and the level of community support and alignment achieved.

Evidence of compliance with Regulation 4

The proposed Local Place Plan and information notice were sent on 2 May 2025 to:

List of Councillors to whom the proposed Local Place Plan was sent

- Tom Weatherston
- Euan Robson
- Simon Mountford
- David Parker
- Jenny Linehan
- John PatonDay

List of Community Councils to whom the proposed Local Place Plan was sent

- Earlston Community Council;
- Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn and Smailholm Community Council

There have been no requests for modifications to the plan.

Appendix

The Smailholm Place Plan can be seen at;

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p_Y_5IQcmS77ldbbNpsiN1V_kOjrFh91/view?usp=sharing