

BURNFOOT LOCALITY PLAN

2026-2031



Our Scottish Borders
Your community

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INTRODUCTION

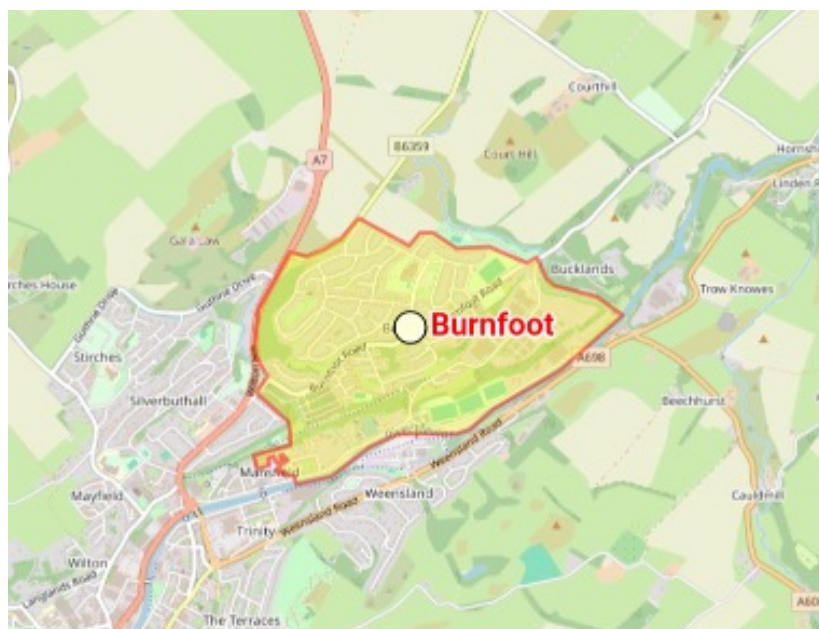
Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership has developed the Burnfoot Locality Plan to support our Borders-wide Community Plan. It aims to meet the specific needs of the Burnfoot community and in doing so reduce inequality.

Our Plan covers a period of five years. During this time we will review our actions to make sure that what we are doing is taking positive steps to make Burnfoot an even better place to live.

BURNFOOT AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

Built between the 1950s and 1970s, Burnfoot is a housing estate just east of the A7, in the northern part of Hawick. At the heart of the community is the primary school and early years centre, a community hub as well as shops consisting of a local convenience store, chip shop, post office, pharmacy and two churches.

Burnfoot Community Hub lies in the centre of the estate. It is run by Burnfoot Community Futures (BCF), a development trust employing locally based staff and overseen by a Board of Trustees, the majority of whom live in the area. Since it opened its doors in 2016 it has provided a wide range of services and events for the local community. After a period of financial challenge following the pandemic, funding has been secured to support the future sustainability of BCF and the Hub itself. BCF won the Cultivating Community Award in the 2025 Greener Gateway Community Awards, as well as a silver Borders Biodiversity Award.



Map courtesy of City Population


Scottish Borders Housing Association and Waverley Housing are the two main social landlords in the area. Burnfoot has nearly double the rate of socially rented housing than Hawick as a whole.

Scottish Borders Council's Community Learning and Development service has a base in Burnfoot Community School where there are staff who support children, young people, adult learners and volunteers to thrive within their community.

Sleepy Valley Park was reopened in August 2024 following investment of £220,000 by Scottish Borders Council. The park is popular with children and young people. Vandalism in the play park is part of a wider problem and a concern for the community.




Population
2,786 (2022)
3,058 (2012)



8.8% reduction in population

(National Records of Scotland)


Male population
1,306 (2022)
1,416 (2012)



7.7% decrease in male population

(National Records of Scotland)

Female population
1,480 (2022)
1,642 (2012)



9.8% decrease in female population

(National Records of Scotland)

Area 1.196 km²



Out of work benefits (16-64 yrs)
30.93% (2022/23)
 (SB= 13.13%)


(Improvement Service)

333 people per 100,000 were hospitalised due to alcohol misuse in 2023/24
 (SB=273 Scot 548)



(ScotPHO)

40.2% of pregnant women admitted to being current smokers in 2022-24
 (SB=11.9%; Scot= 9.6%)




(ScotPHO)

Single adult dwellings
44.8% (2023)
 (SB= 36.6% Scot=38.5%)

(ScotPHO)

46% of households with one car or van
 (SB=45% Scot= 43%)




(Scotland's Census)

A total of £137,219.49 of financial gain was secured for Burnfoot residents in 2024/25

(Citizens Advice Scotland)

Housing tenure:
 Social rented **63.4%**
 owned **28.3%**
 private rented **7.1%**
 other **1.2%**



(Scotland's Census)

Burnfoot forms part of Hawick, the largest town in the Scottish Borders with a total population of 13,537 (2022) (National Records of Scotland). Like many towns Hawick has seen the closure of shops and services, such as banks, since the pandemic. Burnfoot is within the 5% most deprived areas in Scotland. Three other areas in Hawick are within the 10-20% most deprived in Scotland, these are Hawick Central, Hawick North and Hawick West End. These areas face multiple challenges including income, health, employment and education. The population is falling within all areas of the town however the rate is slower in Burnfoot due to it having a younger population profile.

Hawick is one of four areas in the Scottish Borders identified as a Borderlands town with access to funding to support local businesses, improve infrastructure, as well as tackle social and economic challenges. Led by Hawick Town Team, Hawick Place Plan prioritises three key projects for the town:

- The Arches Arts Centre
- Hawick Mair
- Visitor signage system

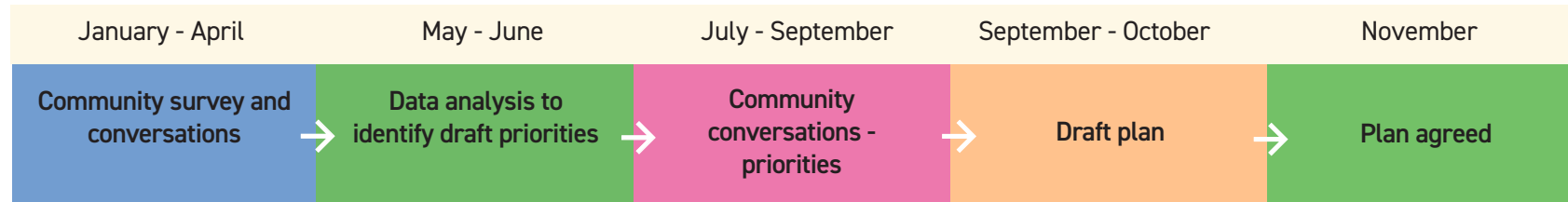
Announced early in 2025, Center Parcs is proposing to build its first holiday village in Scotland to the north of Hawick and Burnfoot. It is expected that once it is operational the village will create around 1,200 permanent, largely local jobs.

This presents a huge opportunity for Burnfoot, Hawick and the wider Borders.

SB = Scottish Borders
Scot = Scotland

HOW WE DEVELOPED OUR PLAN

Burnfoot Locality Plan was developed following conversations with people from January to September 2025.



Community Survey and Conversations

The first stage in developing our plan was to hear what mattered most to people who live in the area. To do this we created a community survey.

Our survey had eight key themes:





The survey was available on paper and online. We also spoke to people in and around the community. We visited people door to door, had a stand at Burnfoot Hub Easter event, attended Burnfoot Boys Brigade, took part in a Celebration of Volunteers event, had conversations within the Early Years Holiday programme and Burnfoot Community lunch at the Hub.

We also spoke with students at Hawick High School and Borders College. In total 288 people gave us their views on Burnfoot, what they liked about it as well as what they didn't like. They also told us where they felt resources needed to be invested in the area to make it an even better place to live.

Responses from Burnfoot Boys Brigade

Burnfoot Community Consultation

What do you LIKE MOST about LIVING, VOLUNTEERING or WORKING in Burnfoot?

my house and my Bed

Hub - soft play. Wilton lodge park. Steepy Vally.

SCHOOL, park. SWIMMING POOL.

Street.

I do not live in burnfoot.

SCHOOL

What people told us about living in Burnfoot

The community and you

The best thing about living in Burnfoot is the community, the neighbours are great and it's a really friendly place to live. Children like the play park at Sleepy Valley but young people think there isn't enough going on for them.

What's not so good is litter and dog poo. People said that there is a problem with anti-social behaviour and that young people ride around the area on e-bikes and scooters. There should be more activities for children and young people.

The Foodshare at Burnfoot Community Hub, three times a week, is popular; people miss the café since it closed.

The Post Office is the most used service followed by Morrisons Local although people think it is expensive.

Access to support

People turn to the Police when they are in a crisis as well as Burnfoot Community Hub and the housing associations.

Most people who told us about their home rent it from a housing association. People like their houses and the gardens, which are safe for children to play in. Most people said that they had good neighbours around them.

Travel

When travelling outside Burnfoot using a car is the most frequently used method of transport. Information from the Scottish 2022 Census shows that the number of households with a car is about the same as it is for the Scottish Borders as a whole, while figures show that less households in Burnfoot have more than one car. When asked about travel people said that the lack of an evening and/or weekend service was a problem for them, whilst others think that the service is great.

Buses available in Burnfoot are the H1 and the H2 which run hourly until 6:03pm, the first service is at 8am. The X95 passes western Burnfoot twice an hour until 23:34 (to Hawick) and 21:40 (from Hawick). The active travel network in Hawick links neighbourhoods, such as Burnfoot to each other and the surrounding countryside. The path network is suitable for walking, wheeling and cycling.

Health and wellbeing

People told us that they are generally in good health and whilst most people said that they hardly ever or never feel isolated, many people said that they sometimes do.

Connectivity

Facebook is the most popular way to find out what is happening in Burnfoot, closely followed by word of mouth. The majority of people told us that they have access to a smart phone. Those that didn't said they have access to other technology such as laptop or had a landline and/or 'normal' mobile.

Employment, further education and training

Of the people who completed our survey over half said that they are employed either full or part time.

Vision

The majority of people who we spoke to like living in Burnfoot and value their good neighbours and strong community. 73% of people who we asked said that they saw themselves living in Burnfoot for another 10 years. This rises to 82% and 88% for those aged 31-60 and over 60 respectively. The number falls to 47% for young people of secondary school age.

We love Burnfoot

The overwhelming message that came out of the survey and conversations we had was that most people love living in Burnfoot.

"It is well situated for access to the town and the countryside (for wellbeing). The local shops are adequate so a trip 'into the town' isn't always necessary"

"love the area and the neighbourhood - everyone looks out for each other"

"Burnfoot is a safe and close-knit, supportive community, set amidst beautiful countryside"

"friendly, neighbours, where my memories, walking distance to town"

"The houses, large gardens, my street and neighbours. Sense of community"

"The way the Hub brings the Community together"

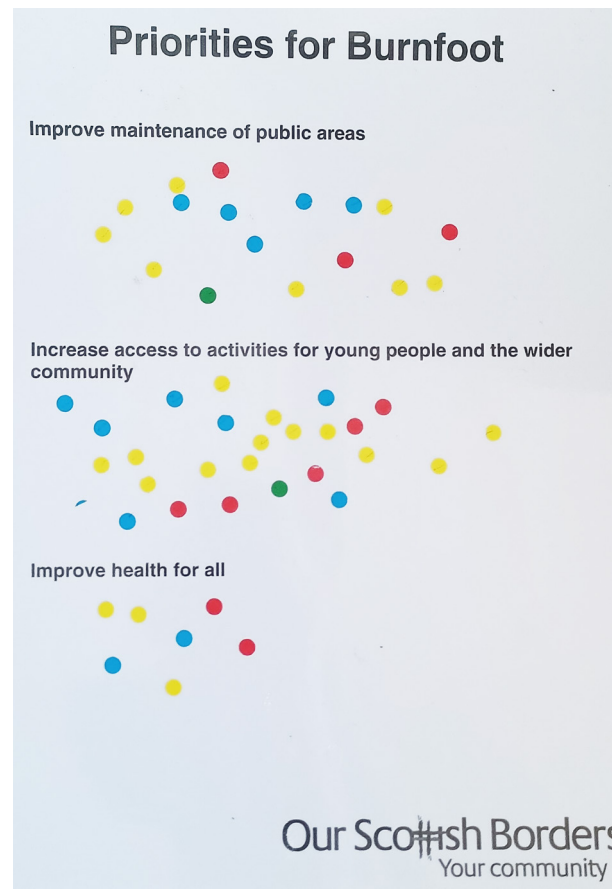
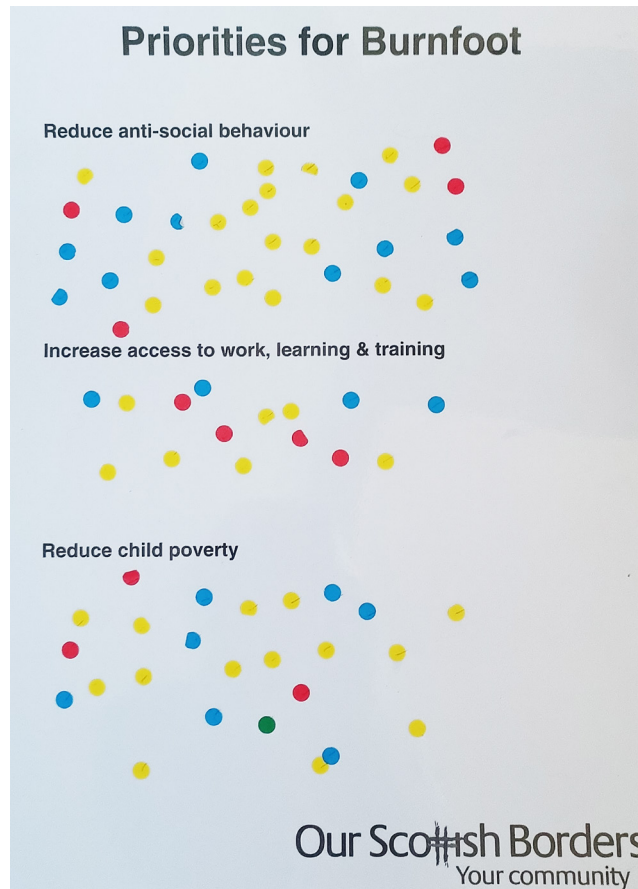
"Good sized house"

"I like that the community school put on a summer programme, gives the kids something to go to"

Community conversations - priorities

Following our conversations that took place between January and April 2025, we looked at what people told us and what we already knew about the area. From this we identified six draft priorities. During July to September we took time to ask people if they were the right priorities for Burnfoot and which were most important to them. In total we spoke to 159 people from primary school age to 60+.

Sheets completed at Burnfoot Carnival



The resulting priorities are set out below in order of importance to the community:

Rank	Priority
1st	Reduce anti-social behaviour
2nd	Increase access to activities for young people and the wider community
3rd	Reduce child poverty
4th	Increase access to work, learning & training
5th	Improve maintenance of public areas
6th	Improve health for all

The next section sets out priorities for Burnfoot and why they are important.

PRIORITY 1 - REDUCE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

When asked about what people didn't like about living in Burnfoot the second most popular answer was anti-social behaviour.

This is what some people told us they didn't like about the area.

"Crime, unruly teens that terrorise people throwing stones at windows"

"Anti-social behaviour and the speed cars drive up Burnfoot Road when coming into the scheme from the A7"

"Graffiti at Sleepy Valley"

"Anti-social behaviour and vandalism"

"Use of electric bike/scooter with little regard to safety of others and themselves"

"Groups gathering at shops/on corners makes it uncomfortable to go out at night"

"The state of the school and the small park once it gets to 5pm, motorbikes going through"

What do we know about anti-social behaviour in Burnfoot?

Anti-social behaviour reports to Police Scotland for Burnfoot increased by **22.1%** from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 when compared to 2023/24 for the same period.

Anti-social behaviour involving young people accounted for **33.8%** of all anti-social behaviour reported for Burnfoot in 2024/25, this compares to **11%** for the Borders as a whole.

Anti-social behaviour involving young people in Burnfoot increased by **115.5%** from 2023/24 to 2024/25. (Source: Police Scotland)

PRIORITY 2 - INCREASE ACCESS TO ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

When asked about where resources should be invested in Burnfoot the most popular answer was activities. More for children and young people to do was the third most popular answer when people were asked about what would make Burnfoot an even better place to live. Activities / safe places to play for children and young people was the most popular answer to what is missing in Burnfoot. When asked about the type of activities people would like to see happening in Burnfoot, people identified sporting/fitness activities, activities for older people as well as activities that the whole family could enjoy.

Children from the Boys Brigade identified sporting activities such as basketball and baseball. Young people from Hawick High School wanted the Friday night youth club to restart as well as things to do in the holidays.

Some people we spoke to felt that more activities would help to reduce anti-social behaviour in young people.

This is what some people told us about activities they would like in Burnfoot

"Opportunities to explore, other activities all ages"

"Social nights for pensioners"

"Put things on for the elderly in the afternoon, and evening e.g. dancing and keep fit"

"Kids and teenagers need stimulation"

"More youth work for teenagers and space for them to socialise"

"A community cafe. previously well used and a centre for all ages but particularly beneficial to young mums"

"More sports clubs for kids and adults"

"More activities for families that work Monday to Friday (weekend activities)"

PRIORITY 3 - REDUCE CHILD POVERTY

While there weren't any specific questions about income and the cost of living some people did say that poverty was an issue. A number of people commented on the cost of using local shops which are more expensive than those in the centre of Hawick.

Comments were made throughout the survey that relate to the cost of living.

"Food share is also only on through the day (work poverty)"

"fuel vouchers"

"Address drug and poverty issues"

"Penalised for living in area as our Morrisons Local is much more expensive than the one in town"

"The food share is extremely important in the area"

What do we know about child poverty in Burnfoot?

In 2023/24 the number of children recorded as living in low-income households in Burnfoot was significantly higher than the averages for both the Scottish Borders and Scotland.

2023/24

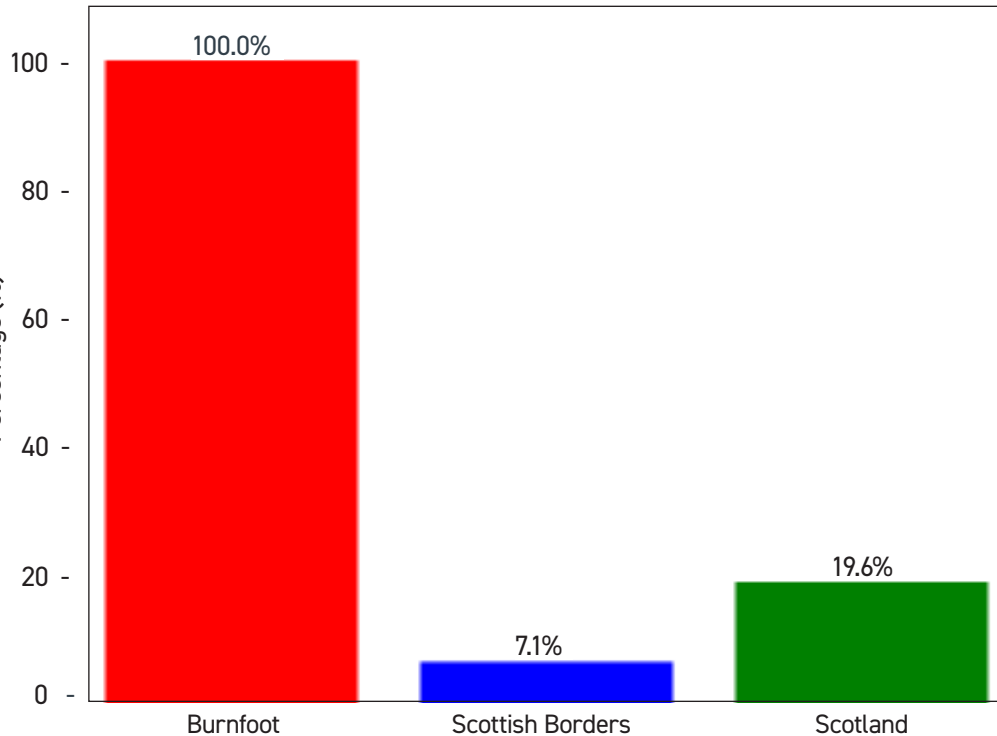
Burnfoot	35.4%
Scottish Borders	15.9%
Scotland	16.3%

Source: ScotPHO

- **55%** of Burnfoot Primary School's roll received free school meals (on grounds of income) (Seemis, October 2025)
- **57%** of Burnfoot Primary School's roll received clothing grant (Seemis, October 2025)

In 2023, every child and young person (aged 0 to 25) living in Burnfoot was considered to live in one of the poorest areas in Scotland – specifically, in the top **20%** most income-deprived areas. This compares with **7.1%** of children and young people in the **Scottish Borders** and **19.6%** for Scotland as a whole.

Children and Young People (0-25) Living in Top 20% Income-Deprived Areas (2023)



This is not reflected in access deprivation. Access deprivation refers to the limited or restricted ability of individuals or communities to reach essential services and opportunities due to factors such as distance, cost and availability of transport. Burnfoot, as part of Hawick, is classed as an “other urban area” which means it is a settlement with a population between 10,000 and 124,999 people.

In 2023 **18.4%** of children and young people in Burnfoot were recorded as living in the top **20%** of access deprived areas in Scotland. This compares to **32.5%** for the Scottish Borders and **20.9%** for Scotland. (Source: ScotPHO) However, some people we spoke to told us that they would prefer more activities and services to be available within Burnfoot rather than them having to travel elsewhere in Hawick.

4,964 bags of food were picked up from Burnfoot Community Hub’s food share in 2024. An increase of **127%** since 2021. (Source: Burnfoot Community Futures). This is in contrast to national figures produced by the Trussel Trust which reported a **5%** reduction in the number of food parcels distributed in 2024/25 compared to 2019/20 and an **11%** reduction compared to 2023/24.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation Poverty in Scotland Report 2025, highlighted that while child poverty generally fell between 1995-1998 and 2010-2016, between 2010-2013 and 2018-2021 it rose again from around 1 in 5 to around 1 in 4 children in poverty. It reports that child poverty has remained stable since then at about **24%** which is significantly lower than recorded in Burnfoot. Children are more likely to be living in poverty if living in a priority family, as identified by the Scottish Government, these being:

- Single parent families
- Households where someone is disabled
- Large families
- Families with a baby
- Minority ethnic families
- Families with a young mum.



PRIORITY 4 - INCREASE ACCESS TO WORK, LEARNING AND TRAINING

We asked people if they had any aspirations about employment, further education or training. It was noted that working full-time and having a caring responsibility impacted on some people's ability to get involved in learning and training. There was a mix of people who would consider formal learning, that led to a qualification such as an SVQ, and those who would welcome an opportunity to improve practical skills such as gardening or cookery. It was noted that taking part in learning activities can provide valuable opportunities for social interaction.

Awareness of support that is available to help people access employment and further learning opportunities is mixed.

What do we know about employment and learning in Burnfoot?

"Love to take part in some art and craft based workshops or some practical skills for around the home and garden"

"SQA Qualifications"

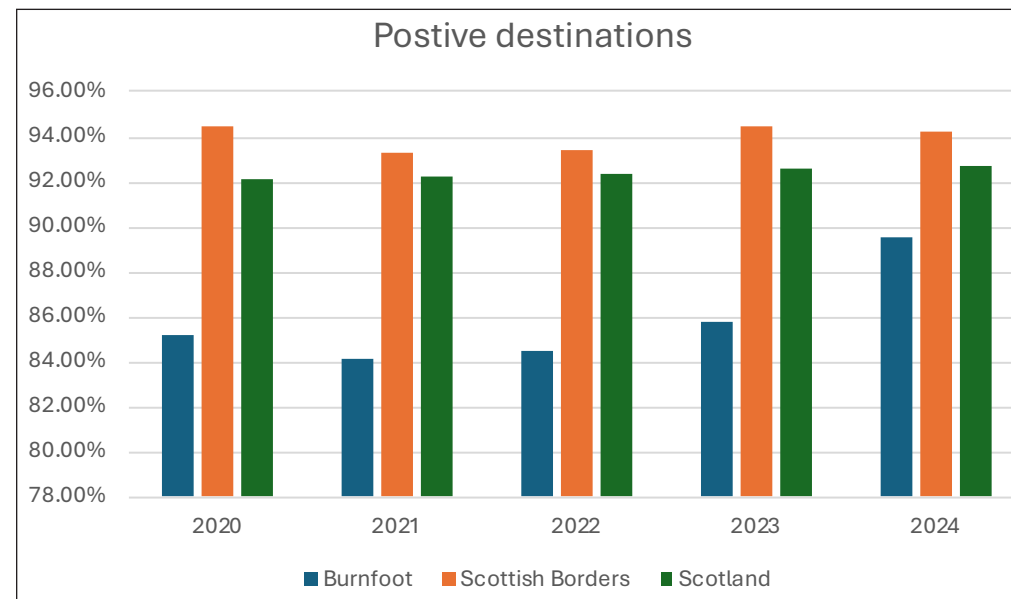
"Not got time as I'm a carer"

"More opportunities for working age adults to socially connect"

"Health and Food Mental Health certificates"

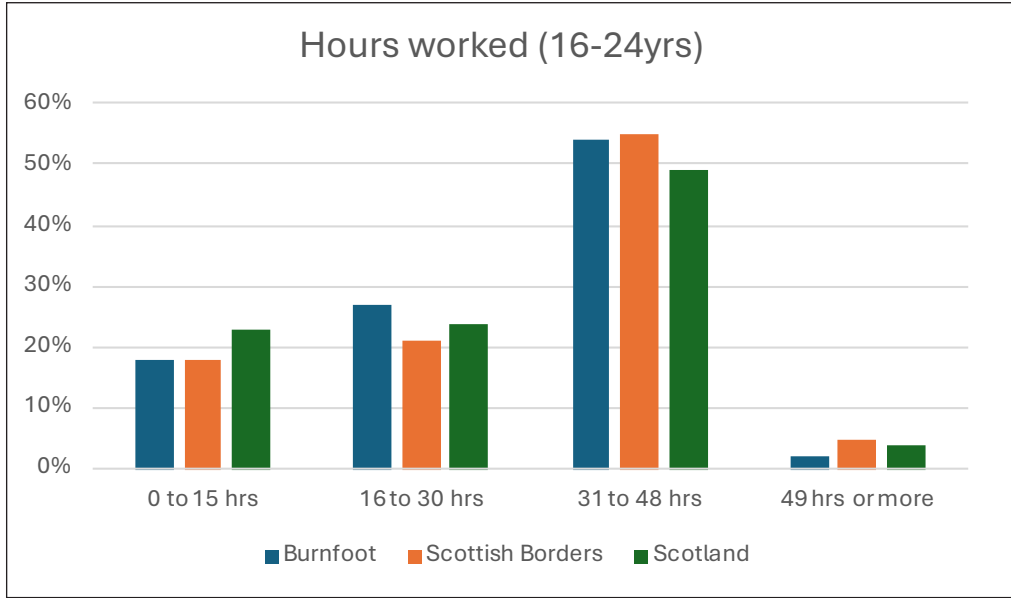
"How to get back into workforce"

"I do like to learn new things but nothing that involves formal training at my age!!"

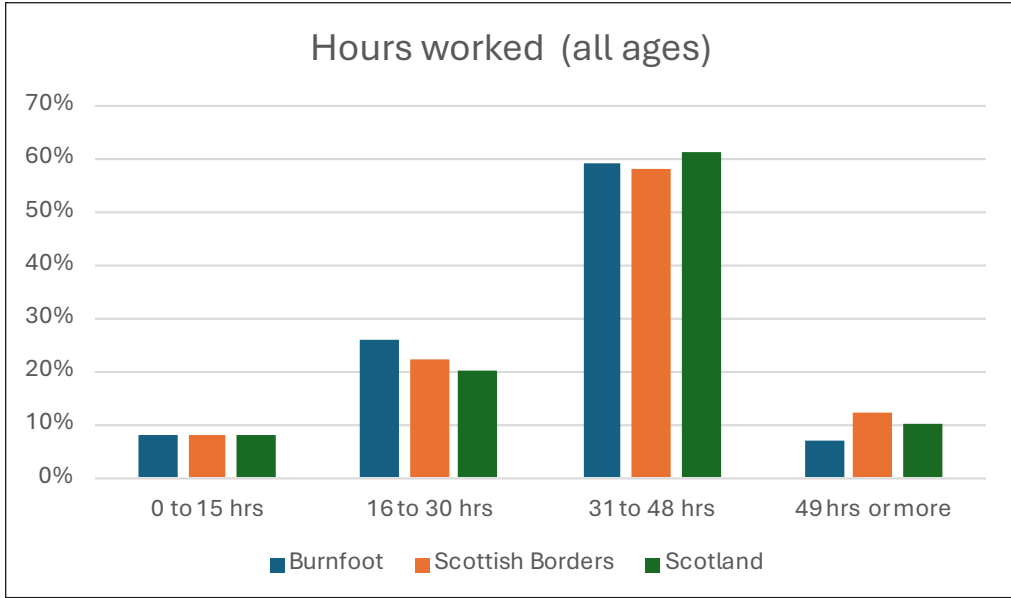


Source: Skills Development Scotland

The Scottish Government records what 16 to 19-year-olds in Scotland are doing each year—whether they're in school, college, training, or working; these are referred to as positive destinations. Although lower than the Scottish Borders as a whole, the number of young people from Burnfoot in work, education or training has increased steadily over the last four years.



Source: Scotland's Census



Source: Scotland's Census

Figures from Scotland's Census show that the number of young people (aged 16-24 yrs) from Burnfoot, and the wider Borders, who work more than 30 hours per week is greater than Scotland as a whole. This suggests that getting a job is the preferred option for our young people. This is likely to be influenced by a range of factors.

This is not replicated when looking at all age groups in employment, with more people from Burnfoot in part-time employment (16 to 30 hrs per week) than both Scotland and the Scottish Borders:

PRIORITY 5 - IMPROVE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC AREAS

This is the only one of our six priorities that is purely perception driven. However, issues raised in Burnfoot were replicated for the wider Teviot & Liddesdale area at the 2024 Community Conversations, indicating that this isn't just an area of concern in Burnfoot.

When asked what people liked least about living in Burnfoot litter/dog poo was most frequently reported. General neighbourhood maintenance, including overhanging bushes, grassed areas and roads was fourth in the top five things people didn't like about the area. Maintenance of public areas was the third most important issue that people felt required investment and the top priority for people when asked what would make Burnfoot an even better place to live.

"Looks unkempt in places which is made worse with the council cutting back on grass cutting services and bin collections"

"Houses and gardens that aren't keep in good order"

"Wooded areas surrounding Burnfoot not being kept tidied after storms i.e. trees down and overgrown"

"Suitable roads - pot holes everywhere"

"Small path behind the school, overgrown hedges and glass"

"More car parking spaces"

"Community skips being placed in areas on a regular basis to allow people to dispose of larger items rather than being dumped in gardens and common areas"

"No dog poo on the streets"

"Cutting grass at sleepy valley as you can't see the stream in summer due to grass which means kids could run into a trap"

PRIORITY 6 - IMPROVE HEALTH FOR ALL

Information gathered in the Scottish Census about people's health was very similar to what people told us. Although we didn't use the same categories results were consistent with the majority of people reporting that they are in good health, this declined with age.

While most people we spoke to said that they hardly ever or never felt lonely or isolated there were many who said that they did some of the time.

There was a range of things that people felt would help to support their health.

General Health Condition	
Very good/good/fairly good/fair	Very bad/bad/very poor
Burnfoot survey 89%	11%
Scottish Census 91%	10%

"Gentle exercise classes such as yoga or Pilates that are ran at times suiting those who work as well as those who don't would be great"

"Maybe a place we could go and chat to people about health and diet"

"Mental health awareness or meetings"

"Some activity / walking groups"

"A functioning gym for the working community as most of the gyms are in town and can be challenging when the bus stops running after 6 pm"

"A doctor, health visitor, nurse practitioner drop-in service based in the hub"

What we know about health inequalities in Burnfoot

Life expectancy

The life expectancy for females living in Burnfoot is significantly below the Scottish average while the male life expectancy is not significantly different to Scotland as a whole (5 years aggregate 2019 to 2023).*

Life Expectancy		
	Males	Females
Burnfoot	76.4	75.9
Scotland	76.5	80.7

*comparable data for the Borders is not available Source: ScotPHO

Bowel screening

Take up of bowel screening is significantly lower in Burnfoot than it is in Scotland as a whole while the take up in the Scottish Borders is significantly higher than in Scotland.

Bowel Screening 2021-23*	
Burnfoot	58.6%
Scottish Borders	71.8%
Scotland	66.4%

*3 year rolling average Source: ScotPHO

Dental health

Dental health in primary school aged children for the 2023/24 school year was significantly poorer for children living in Burnfoot than those in other areas of the Scottish Borders.

Dental Health in Children		
	Primary 1	Primary 7
Burnfoot	52.8%	50%
Scottish Borders	78.3%	75.6%
Scotland	73.7%	76%

Source: ScotPHO

Limit in day-to-day activities

Data from the Scottish Census shows that . . .

at **13%** more people living in Burnfoot feel that their day-to-day activity is limited by a long-term health condition or disability than the Scottish Borders (**9%**) and Scotland as a whole (**9%**)

HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?

Our six priorities have been used to develop an action plan for Burnfoot. Our Burnfoot Action Plan will help to keep a check on the work and activities we are delivering to tackle our priorities and make sure that things are improving for our community. The action plan will change over the lifetime of the Burnfoot Locality Plan. Progress will be monitored at our quarterly meetings. This will make sure that as a community planning partnership we are delivering the right things, at the right time to the right people.

To make a difference in Burnfoot the community planning partnership will need to consider and identify the resources needed. With the financial pressures currently facing communities and organisations alike we don't underestimate the challenge this poses. However, Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership is committed to making Burnfoot an even better place to live.

Throughout our work we will strive to make sure that everyone has the essential skills, knowledge, understanding and income to meet their basic needs. We will review our support systems to make sure that they are aligned, well planned and accessible to all those who wish to use them. We will monitor progress at our quarterly meetings

The Burnfoot Action Plan will be available on Scottish Borders Council's website. Paper copies will be available by contacting the Communities & Partnerships Team.

COMMUNITIES & PARTNERSHIPS TEAM

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www.scotborders.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/community-planning