

Place workshop | Teviot & Liddesdale Area Partnership

Issues

"It's about community spirit"

Our ambition is for improvement in quality of life, socially and economically. There is no need for grand plans. Concentrate on the communities.

We are trying to make the community stronger. And, work together. Communities are about people, not buildings and spaces. They are a mechanism for the future.

The Borders are amazing for its fantastic people. So, value the time people give of themselves to help communities. Volunteers are gold. They have a major part to play in place planning, leading and doing things on the ground. Don't ignore the capacity. We need to trust each other.

"Our communities are creating a lot of promise"

Communities want to have concerns listened to. Too often, requests have been ignored. We need more co-operation. Where manpower is wasted, people walk with their feet. So, local people have just gotten on with things.

And, we worry that lots of the gains from Covid are being flushed away. It would be so much better if agencies and communities could link local knowledge, local caring, and local knowledge with funding and staff. Agencies are like container ships. Communities are the pilot boats.

We want empowerment. Demonstrate listening and doing. And not railroading things through. No one has all the answers. Use the learning from Covid about being agile, responsive, getting things done. Take risks to move forward. Try things. Learn by doing. Be willing to be different. Be flexible.

"Communities are not moribund"

Success

We have the smallest community council and the biggest one. Recognise the differences There should be a different approach for different places. But, let's share learning from all our places. And, make sure all generations are listened to from small children to older.

"Include all the community and not just some"

Priorities

"If we say we are going to learn from experience, then learn from experience and use it"

We need a balance between the future sunny uplands and current issues that need to be worked through. We have learned a lot from Covid. Distill it down. And apply. Drive our agenda against the learning. And, work with other communities. Use other positive learning experiences of working together, like the flooding, where communities and Council worked quickly and effectively.

"trusting the community"

Some communities have a plan. Some need help to come up with it. So, assist organisations achieve their targets. Make things clear and simple as can be. Get rid of gobbledygook phrases like placemaking.

So, help communities capitalise on investment opportunities, benefitting the whole of the Borders. Encourage businesses to locate here. Reduce the number of times we revisit the same issue. Put stuff to bed with a clear objective. Focus on outcomes.

"If we can see action making a difference, it helps everybody point in the right direction"