

**From:** [marion.livingston](#)  
**To:** [Marion.Livingston](#)  
**Subject:** Re Bid update - Scottish Borders National Park  
**Date:** 03 January 2024 18:52:38  
**Attachments:** [Explore 4 - autumn 2023.pdf](#)

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Dear Community Councillors,

First, Happy New Year from all of us at the Campaign for a Scottish Borders National Park (CSBNP)!

Second, despite media headlines mid-December that Scottish Borders Council (SBC) declined to support our proposal for a National Park, SBC's full Council meeting actually provided us with good news, in that:

- SBC recognises that a NP would - in principle - benefit the Borders, albeit only if SBC's officials' grand scheme for the South of Scotland is chosen (though neither Dumfries & Galloway Council nor Galloway National Park support that idea);
- Several SBC councillors would like to see other parts of the Borders included in any new Borders National Park.

May we also point out:

- The NP would be almost wholly funded by the Scottish Government (no capital costs - premises and vehicles would be rented/leased, and £2-£3 million annual running costs. This would not compare unfavourably with the new £20 million station at Reston or the £7 million Tapestry building in Galashiels).
- SBC support in principle, after several years delaying a decision despite an independent feasibility study and positive responses to issues of concern, would have been appreciated (especially as D&G have been behind the Galloway proposal from the start). Fortunately for CSBNP, local authority support is not a prerequisite for submitting a bid to the Scottish Government.
- 10 MSPs covering parts, or all of Southern Scotland, and representing all political parties, have supported the proposals for National Parks in the Scottish Borders and Galloway.

As always your and your members' feedback and comments would be very welcome (the deadline for bids is 29 February 2024).

Finally, please find attached latest edition of Explore the Borders, which we hope you will enjoy reading.

With all good wishes for the coming year!