

LEITHOLM ECCLES AND BIRGHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Plan for Place

Local Place Plans were introduced by the Planning Scotland Act, 2019 which contains a new right for Communities to produce their own plans as part of the Scottish Planning system. Place Plans are a way for communities to achieve change in their local area. They provide an opportunity for local communities to think about how to make their “place” better, agree priorities, and take action (often working with others) to make change happen. Community led place plans are more than just a plan: they can help your community understand what it wants to be like in the future. Having a plan and working together with Scottish Borders Council and others, we can make positive change happen. The process of consultation and planning started at our meeting in Eccles on 10th August, 2022. This plan reflects planning and progress from that date.

This plan has been created following consultation with the people residing in our area. It is a living document which will be amended and updated in the light of further consultation or changes to priorities.

Our Vision:

To promote a vibrant, friendly, supportive, sustainable community, which is well connected, healthy and safe. A place we are proud to live.

OUTCOME: Our Community will be well connected:

- Our communications network will ensure that our community, both village and rural, know what is happening and have the opportunity to get involved.
- Partnerships will be developed with our elected members, public officers and local businesses to support the delivery of our plan. Further partnerships will be developed with neighbouring communities to share resources and ideas.
- We will have better public transport for our villages and suitable cycle routes to connect our village with neighbouring villages and towns.

Community Council	Leitholm	Eccles	Birgham
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will consult and inform regularly our community, inclusively, with regard to their aspirations for our community and the 	<p style="color: red;">Consultation meeting held on 26th October, 2022 which was attended by over 30 residents and community councillors. Points raised noted and included in plan.</p>	<p style="color: red;">Consultation meeting held on 21st September, 2022 which was attended by over 30 residents and community councillors. Points raised noted and included in plan.</p>	<p style="color: red;">Consultation meeting held on 23rd November 2022. Meeting not well attended by residents. Village has a pro-active community development trust.</p>

<p>supporting public services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will represent the views of our community to Scottish Borders Council, our Councillors and other public bodies and partners. <p>August 2022: Decision taken to consult with our communities through three meetings centred in Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham. Leaflets prepared and circulated to all homes in our area.</p> <p>January 2023: Community Councillor from each of our villages identified as lead officers for the planning process.</p> <p>February 2023: Questionnaire developed for circulation throughout our area.</p> <p>February 2023: Community Councillors met with the Road Safety Officer, Scottish Borders Council to discuss road safety issues raised during consultations.</p>	<p>Julie Jackson identified as lead re planning.</p> <p>Within year 1 we will promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The village Facebook Page and Leitholm Chit Chat. The Community Council Facebook Page. Secure a second noticeboard for the west end of the village. 	<p>Gregg Pearson identified as lead re planning.</p> <p>Within year 1 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the Community Council Facebook Page. 	<p>Chair of trust attended and his views noted and included in plan.</p> <p>Susan Walker identified as lead re planning.</p> <p>Within year 1 we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the Community Council Facebook Page.
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<p>Over the duration of this plan we will campaign for and work with partners to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to an improved bus service/public transport links to Coldstream, Kelso, Berwick and Duns. • A network of cycle paths connecting Leitholm with Coldstream, Birgham and Eccles. 	<p>Over duration of this plan we will campaign for access to a bus service/public transport links to Coldstream, Kelso, Berwick and Duns.</p>		
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OUTCOME:

- **Our Communities will be Vibrant, Friendly and Supportive.**
- **Our People, irrespective of age or background, will be valued, included and supported.**

Community Council	Leitholm	Eccles	Birgham
<p>Community Council will support the priorities highlighted by our villages and rural community.</p>	<p><u>Our village hall will once again be the social hub of our community.</u></p> <p>Hall will remain financially viable and well maintained through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a full programme of events and promotion of our hall to secure regular lets. • Developing a rolling maintenance plan within first 6 months. Identify funding, grants, 	<p><u>Our village will have a suitable place for residents to meet socially.</u></p> <p>Consultation ongoing to establish community interest and need. Potential meeting places being explored for suitability and availability including Eccles Church, Primary School and old Community Centre. Small Committee formed to take work forward.</p>	

	<p>sponsorship and fundraising events to service the maintenance plan.</p> <p>Hall is being used with regular classes including pilates, pottery and sewing. WI meets regularly. Events including, carol concert wine tasting and community lunches have been held with others on calendar.</p> <p>Our Village will have a Community Shop where we can meet and purchase essentials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will explore the potential of creating a village shop during the lifetime of this plan. 		
<p>During year 1 we will carry out an audit of our community to establish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The demographics of our people. • The skills and interests of our people. • The aspirations and support needs of our people. • How we can best involve our people in supporting our community plan. 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What support is currently available to those in need and what we need to do to improve this where necessary. 			
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OUTCOME:

Our Community will be sustainable:

We will work with our residents and businesses (including farmers and landowners) and partners towards becoming a greener, more sustainable community. We will explore how we can:

- **Better insulate our homes.**
- **Generate Green Energy.**
- **Improve on our recycling of materials.**

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OUTCOME:

Our community will be a healthy and safe place to live and work:

All of our people, irrespective of age, will have access to exercise and social interaction.

All of our people will have access to medical services and care support locally.

Our villages and community will be a safe place to live and work.

<p>We will work with partner agencies to ensure that our roads are safe for pedestrians and all road users: Speed will be limited within our villages at all times of the day and night.</p> <p>February 2023: Meeting held with Road Safety officers at Scottish Borders Council and improved signage proposed for gateways to our villages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Hall Committee will promote the use of our hall for functions, classes and events which will suit all ages and include access to exercise/keep fit. • Our playground will be well equipped and maintained. • We will promote outdoor activities within the village including gardening, rambling and cycling. • We will work to ensure that elderly and disabled residents can access both the hall and our Church. • We will work with landowners to agree designated routes across their land for footpaths and have these signed. • Street lighting will be extended to the 20mph signs at the entrance to the village. 		
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OUTCOME:

Our Communities will be places we are proud to live.

<p>Our Village and surrounding area will be neat and tidy, litter free with suitable floral displays.</p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with local residents and businesses to encourage all to maintain their properties and gardens to a high standard. • Start a Garden Club to make best use of the skills available within our community to maintain and improve common areas. • Seek funding to provide planters, plants and trees to enhance our village to a pre-agreed plan. 		

