



# Earlston Community Action Plan Newsletter: September 2019



Supported by Co-op Members

Welcome to our third Newsletter. It has been a busy summer and here are some highlights.

## ***Theme 1: Good community facilities and activities. Led by Norman Catto***



One of the highlights in Earlston's annual calendar is always the Christmas Lights switch on, taking place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December when the team will be celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Look out for the Christmas Lights poster being published in November, with all the event details.

Community Councillors recently met Ewen and Mark to explore what might help them encourage more volunteers to take part and help in the setting up and taking down of the displays.

Why not become one of the team and, weather permitting, turn out on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October from 9:00 - 12.00 for the first morning's work and don't forget the free pie on offer for all volunteers!

Look out for other dates leading up to December and remember the Lights Committee needs Elves like **YOU** to help light up Earlston!

Our Resilience Team are now proud owners of a lockable shed, provided by SBC to store equipment and supplies for use in emergencies.

The heavy August rain saw the Resilience team put on standby by SBC for the first time.

SBC's Flood team are conducting a survey over winter to assess risk along the Turrford Burn, planning to have a maintenance plan in place for 2020 and beyond. SBC staff are also working with landowners along the burn to encourage them to clear vegetation.

## ***Theme 2: An attractive, safe and welcoming place to live in and visit. Led by Gill Cooper***

Earlston in Bloom volunteers had a very busy first summer and the residents and businesses' planters and baskets have also made a significant impact along High Street. The new community planters are being tended and watered by volunteers who'll shortly be planting winter bedding.



The third Community Council Floral Competition, judged by previous winner Anne Thomson and Earlston in Bloom's Gill Cooper, was won by Rose Thorburn. The high standard of entries meant it was decided to also award 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes to Fran Thom and Kathy Kerr: unfortunately, Anne and Kathy weren't available for the presentation.



Although disappointed not to win funding from the Localities Fund an application to the National Lottery Awards for All fund was successful and work on the Community Garden at the High School can continue.

The ground at the foot of Church Brae has been cleared and weeded and will be planted with shrubs and ground cover for the future.

Earlston entered SBC's Floral Gateway competition for the first time, with results due to be announced late September. The Resilience Team carried out a "litter pick" that helped spruce us up before judging.

The planned "Welcome Pack" for new residents is almost complete and will be available shortly.

### **Theme 3: A good place to do business, train and work. Led by Sheila Gibb**

Earlston High School's recently celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: a good opportunity to invite Head Teacher Justin Sinclair to come to Community Council in November. Taking part in Employer Partnership and Learning Community Partnership meetings will also help us work together and develop joint projects for the future.



The Church and Community Council would like to invite and encourage schools, residents, groups and businesses to take part in, and support, them by using their skills to knit/crochet even more poppies for Remembrance Day this November.

Thank you to Business Network members Lucky Finds, The Tea Cosy and Aquarius Hair Design for stocking the free patterns and being collection points for poppies, needed by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. All enquiries, please, to Jen Bryson at 2 Williambank.

The sub group working on the local Business Directory experienced unforeseen delays over the summer but is getting back on track, firstly by supplying details of local trades businesses for the Welcome Pack.

### **Other Earlston Community Council News:**

*New Primary School:* SBC held a second consultation in September, gathering feedback and local opinion.

*Houses on the old High School Site:* Eildon's Plans remain at SBC, not yet considered by Committee.

*The Reading Room:* SBC's survey is almost complete and should be published by November.



*Roads:* Police Scotland supported the Street Lights Mean 30 campaign. Traffic Scotland authorised and carried out traffic surveys at both Earlston entrances on the A68 and although not currently agreeing to an extension to the limit, this remains our target.

In addition, Amey will replace the two broken vehicle activated speed signs within the Earlston boundary while Community Council continue efforts to reduce traffic speed on both our main roads.

*Neighbourhood Service Review:* Residents shared ideas for the Square that are being progressed with SBC. Grant funding will be needed to pay for some improvements e.g. a permanent Christmas Tree.

*Paper copies of this newsletter are being distributed with the local Church and Community Magazine and placed in various other locations e.g. Health Centre. Please play your part in ECAP as well as follow your community's progress on Facebook, Twitter and the Community Council website:*

<http://onlineborders.org.uk/community/earlston>

***Your village need YOU to make things happen!***