**COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN**

In 2016 Earlston’s community began work to create a Community Action Plan, supported by SBC and consultants. The Plan was launched in 2018 with three themes and work started.

**1 Good Community Facilities and Activities:**

Resilience team was created with equipment and a storage provided by SBC.

Two defibrillators were bought after a joint project with the Rugby Club.

Volunteer litter picks took place, while SBC provided free poo bags at the vets.

In 2020 many residents joined with Community Council to provide months of Covid Support.

Renovation of the High School Garden was halted by the pandemic until in late 2021 when it started again from scratch, with updated plans for a plants and as an outdoor classroom.

2022 has seen SBC begin a major project to create a new community campus with library, health centre and community space while Eildon Housing are building 64 homes on the old High School site.

**2 An Attractive, Safe and Welcoming Place to Live in and Visit:**

Earlston in Bloom started up in 2019, planting containers to brighten the High Street. Work that has expanded each year as the group expanded activities. Bloomers worked during the pandemic to ensure the village stayed bright and colourful for residents.

The Co-Op Good Causes selected the Action Plan, allowing Community Council to buy planters, compost and plants as well as litter pick equipment, head torches etc.

In 2022 Bloom itself was a Good Cause, these funds alongside a sponsorship campaign will help support work in the future with volunteers to water, weed, dig and do much more.

The Church Brae, Kidgate and Triangle have been transformed by replacing an old shelter, new wooden edgings, planting for all year-round interest and a lot of hard work.

The Keep Scotland Beautiful charity recognised Earlston in Bloom as “Outstanding” in 2022.

**3 A Good place to do Business, Train and Work:**

Initially volunteers planned to create a Welcome list of information for new residents and began a Business Network, but there wasn’t sufficient interest to take this forward.

Before Covid Community Council, businesses and organisations took part in events at the Primary and High Schools developing working relationships across business and education.

Everything changed in 2020 when the Pandemic stopped community groups and meetings: everything except Community Council Resilience Support and In Bloom.
2022 has seen the return of groups and events, interacting with schools and businesses.

**The Future**The intention had always been to revisit the Community Plan in late 2022 to review progress and update plans.

Although much has changed and moved on, its hoped this will be taken forward in 2023 after having lost 18 months of the original three-year Plan after circumstances outwith everyone’s control.