



Earlston Community Action Plan Newsletter: January 2020

Good community facilities and activities
An attractive, safe and welcoming place to live in and visit
A good place to do business, train and work

Welcome to our fourth Newsletter.

Thanks to everyone who chose the Earlston Community Action Plan as their Co-Op Good Cause last year. The money raised will, amongst other things, be used to buy more planters, litter picking equipment and to fund the permanent Christmas tree in The Square.



The hi viz vests were out in December as both Community Councillors and Resilience volunteers joined the Christmas Lights team on a cold morning to move the Christmas tree into position.



Earlston in Bloom joined in Christmas celebrations for the first time, working with Beyond Earlston youth group and Primary school pupils to create and then hang over 50 pieces of Festive Foliage all along the High Street.

They added to the festive cheer and brightened up the street as an addition to another wonderful display of Christmas Lights.

Earlston in Bloom were delighted to be awarded a grant of over £8,000 from National lottery Awards for All to establish a community garden in the grounds of the High School.

Materials and equipment including polytunnel, fruit cages, cultivation tools etc will be purchased over the coming months.

As the project plan evolves opportunity will be given to people of all ages within the community to join in with digging, planting, clearing and propagating in this unique outdoor space. Beyond Earlston would like a bee friendly section of the garden to help with local biodiversity, this will be part of the scheme.



Earlston in Bloom volunteers continued to work at Church Brae, spending hours preparing the ground in readiness for planting shrubs and perennials donated by Scottish Borders Housing Association. Bulbs will also soon pop up to brighten the corner.

The new plaque, designed by Dylan Theedam Parry, an Earlston High School pupil, acknowledges the sponsorship by SBHA.

The group have also taken over the area beside the public noticeboard near the health centre and have weeded, cleared the ground and planted bulbs.

Winter pansies in the planters are brightening up The Square and they'll be joined with more containers that are being bought to make Earlston even more attractive this year.

The annual Remembrance Day parade was again marshalled by members of the Resilience team while Community Councillors laid the wreaths on behalf of the community and SBC.

Thank you to all of the Earlston residents and businesses that took part in our joint campaign with the Church to enhance the poppy display by contributing knitted and crocheted poppies.



Looking at the relationship between business and education we were pleased to be able to contribute to the recent High School Inspection. We also took part in a presentation with High School pupils and Beyond Earlston to the school's Learning Partnership about inter-generational working.

Over one hundred local businesses operate within the community. Unfortunately, it's not been possible to develop a formal business group however we'll continue to work with individual businesses whenever opportunities arise.

Earlston Community Council Updates:

Grant funding: Local groups and clubs have been advised that grant applications can be made to SBC's Community Fund. There are fast track grants available up to £1,500, un-constituted groups can apply for up to £5,000: constituted ones can apply for more, usually up to £10,000.

The Development Co-Ordinator is happy to discuss ideas or to meet up to discuss ideas: Contact Kenny.harrov@scotborders.gov.uk

New Primary School: Community Councillors met SBC to review their consultation event: a starting point to discuss the project's development.

Although still in the early stages, not due for completion until 2024, they have been invited to April's Community Council to discuss progress.

Houses on the old High School Site: Eildon's Plans submitted to SBC in January 2019 have still not progressed for consideration by Committee.

The Reading Room: Councillor Parker shared details about SBC's report at October's Community Council.

It confirmed the property is in a very poor state of repair and that it needs extensive and expensive refurbishment, both inside and out and with base costs estimated at around £450,000, given the building's condition.

A sound business case would be needed to secure any grant funding for renovations and to show longer term financial viability with enough income generation to maintain all aspects of self-financing and liability. Ownership issues remain unresolved.

Plans are underway with SBC to move the library's artefacts and books for safe storage. The Christmas Light Committee have removed their equipment and displays but need to find a permanent home.

Roads: Amey have not replaced the two broken vehicle activated speed signs on the A68 agreed to change in August and this is being pursued.

The Square: New planting has been completed around the War Memorial. Some trees will be cut back, roses replaced, borders reshaped and replanted, ground levelled then turfed.

The permanent Christmas Tree will also be planted with all work due for completion by the end of March. SBC are also providing three new benches.

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 and your community as well as follow progress on Facebook, Twitter and the Community Council website:

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

Your village need YOU to make things happen!