



# Earlston Community Action Plan Newsletter: May 2019



Supported by Co-op Members

Welcome to our Spring newsletter and thanks to everyone for all the positive comments and feedback received about our first issue.

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

The purchased defibrillators are now in place – at the Red Lion and Rugby Club. Thanks to the generosity of local residents, £100.00 has also been raised from collecting tins which will contribute to future maintenance. All of this organised by Fiona Graham who led the project for the Rugby Club.



At their last meeting, the Resilience group learnt about the First Responder Service run in conjunction with the Ambulance Service. First Responders are trained volunteers who support people waiting for an ambulance, something that can take time to arrive in a rural community. It's hoped that this service might be expanded locally sometime in the future.

The shed to store all the resilience equipment is being supplied by SBC and will shortly be in place behind the Red Lion Hotel. Well before winter!

Community volunteers turned out again for the Litter Pick on 12<sup>th</sup> May, filling 14 bags of rubbish. Thanks to everyone. There will be other sessions, advertised locally, during the year so please come and help us if you can.

Looking ahead, this Theme plans to work with local community groups to establish an accurate, up to date directory plus explore working together, particularly on intergenerational activities.

They'll also be involved in the development of the new Earlston Primary School when project planning begins, hopefully in the near future.



Getting ready for the Litter Pick

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

Gardening enthusiasts wanting to help make Earlston more attractive have joined "Earlston in Bloom." Money donated by local people through Co-op Good Causes is funding High Street planters with Milestone staff advising on the most suitable plants to use. A local resident has even donated their shed, now at the High School garden.

Earlston in Bloom, youth organisation Beyond Earlston and the High School have submitted a bid to the Council's Localities Fund to develop the Community Garden Hub into a base for community gardening and In Bloom projects.

**Please support this bid by voting for it online at:**

[https://sbo.communitychoices.scot/budgets/1/investments?heading\\_id=11](https://sbo.communitychoices.scot/budgets/1/investments?heading_id=11)

**Paper and online voting close on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 5.00pm.**



Working in the School Garden

The Welcome Pack is work in progress and will include a map, welcome letters, information about useful local businesses and community groups. It's hoped to have this ready later in the year.

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

A sub-group, led by Cllr Tom Miers, is working on the directory of local businesses, due to be completed by September.

Community Council and local businesses are members of the High School Employer Partnership Group which meets quarterly. A number of local businesses also provide work experience for pupils.

Links between the Schools and Community Council are also being strengthened by meeting with senior school staff, attending Friends of Earlston Primary School and the Earlston High School Learning Community Partnership, with a view to developing future collaborative projects.

### **Other Earlston Projects**

*New Primary School:* SBC have confirmed that the new Earlston Primary Schools is in their budget, but that Eyemouth is the first priority. If they can obtain additional funding from the Scottish Government, both new schools would progress in parallel. The Community Council is being updated on a regular basis.

*New Houses on the old High School Site:* Thank you everyone who came along to see the Plans. The Eildon Housing planning application for the new houses were submitted to SBC (Planning ref: 19/00090/FUL) in January and will be considered at a future meeting of the Planning Committee. Full details are the on the SBC website.

<https://eplanning.scotborders.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PLPZM8NTMGD00&activeTab=summary>

*The Reading Room:* Cllr Parker has advised the Community Council that he expects staff to begin work on the feasibility study very soon.

*Neighbourhood Service Review:* SBC have advised Community Councils of their decision to cease all municipal bedding across the Borders after this summer, having already significantly reduced grass cutting in 2018. As a result, the Community Council is working with SBC staff and Earlston In Bloom volunteers on plans to ensure that the Square remains an attractive and welcoming space. Community Council is hosting two sessions on 29<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> July, from 6.00pm – 8.00pm in the Church Hall, for residents to share their ideas. Planting plans and requests for perennials must be agreed with SBC by August.



*Paper copies of this newsletter are available from various locations in Earlston and online.*

Play your part and get fully involved by taking part in our activities and groups.

Follow your community's progress on Facebook, Twitter@[earlstonccounc1](https://twitter.com/earlstonccounc1) and on Earlston Community Council's website at

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

**We need you to make ECAP happen!**