



# Earlston Community Action Plan Newsletter: February 2019



Supported by Co-op Members

Welcome to the first Earlston Community Action Plan (ECAP) newsletter. Since it was launched, Community Councillors and local volunteers have been working to make the Plan's three Themes a reality and the first projects are being planned and started.



The Plan is overseen by the Community Council with three members acting as Theme Leaders – Norman Catto, Gill Cooper and Chris Rainger, (left to right above, with Sheila Gibb Chair of Community Council).

Each Theme is supported by one of our Scottish Borders Council (SBC) ward councillors, representation from Earlston Community Development Trust and most importantly, local volunteers.

Positive change can only happen when local residents, organisations, businesses and partners work together. Your community needs everyone to get involved. Just come along to the next meeting where you will be made most welcome. The projects won't happen by themselves!

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

The current focus is on building a volunteer Resilience team to support our local community

by working with SBC during bad weather or emergencies. The equipment and training provided should allow Earlston to cope in difficult situations.

Last month Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue ran a training session in emergency resuscitation or CPR. At our next session on **28<sup>th</sup> February** we hope to learn about using defibrillators.



Community volunteers have already run a well-attended litter pick, it was great to see so many adults and young people and once we have better weather, more will be planned. Thank you to everyone who turned out.



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



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

Gardening enthusiasts have come together to make Earlston more attractive with "Earlston in Bloom." Some are already at work, starting to clear and replant the area at the foot of Church Brae.



Plans are being developed to work with the High School and youth organisation Beyond Earlston on gardening and planting projects, aiming to have colourful blooms in place for the summer. Next meeting is on **27<sup>th</sup> February**. One resident has already donated a shed!

Longer term projects such as an outdoor gym and a Welcome Pack for new residents are underway with other projects to follow.

## Theme 3: A good place to do business, train and work. Led by Chris Rainger.

Business owners have been meeting and working together to develop and produce a directory of all local businesses. There are over one hundred alone within the Earlston Community Council boundary, some homebased, others having premises. Links are being developed and strengthened between our schools and businesses with members taking part in the Primary School's World of Work event.



They are also finding ways to help and support each other by sharing and offering services. At the next meeting on **5<sup>th</sup> March**, hosted by Borders Machinery Ring, RBS staff will speak about Cyber Security

Thanks to The Red Lion and Borders Machinery Ring for hosting this group.

## Other Earlston Projects

**New Primary School:** SBC plan to submit a funding bid to the Scottish Government and some initial planning work will take place this spring, followed by in-depth community consultation and involvement if the funds are made available. Further details will be announced by SBC in due course.

**New Houses on the old High School Site:** Eildon Housing submitted a planning application to SBC in late January and this will be considered by the Community Council. Members have already held three meetings with the developers to discuss density, environment and roads layout. The public can also comment either online, using the SBC web site or by writing to Planning and Regulatory Services. **A paper copy of the Plan can be viewed on 19<sup>th</sup> February in the church hall lounge from 6 – 8 pm.**

**The Reading Room:** SBC staff will be carrying out a feasibility study in the spring to establish the facts around the building's fabric and the potential level of work and cost needed before any future options could be investigated.

*We hope you have found this newsletter useful.*

**Future Issues** will be available at various locations in Earlston and online at

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

You can also take part and follow your community's progress on Facebook at *Earlston Community Plan, Earlston Community Council* and on Twitter *@earlstonccouncil*

We need you to make it happen!