

# TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 2023 - 2028



Tweedsmuir Community Action Plan Steering Group

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### **OUR TWO TCCS!**

Tweedsmuir Community Council and Tweedsmuir Community Company are at the heart of community life in Tweedsmuir. They both run on volunteer energy and commitment. Working together, Tweedsmuir Community Company develops and manages community projects, while Tweedsmuir Community Council makes representation on behalf of the community. Supported by the Community Action Plan - they make it possible for the community to help shape its own future, address our community needs and make the most of our assets.



# INTRODUCTION

## A NEW TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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**This is our second Community Action Plan, which summarises community views about:**

- Tweedsmuir now, and how it is changing
- The vision for the future of Tweedsmuir
- The issues that matter most to the community
- Our priorities for projects and actions

**The plan will be our guide for what we - as a community - try to make happen over the next 5 years.**



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## BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Our first Community Action Plan, which ran from 2017 – 2022, has been extremely helpful in guiding our work over the last five years. It has been used to great effect by the Community Company, securing a total of £880,000 in grant funds. Along with valuable volunteer time, this has enabled most of the priorities in the first CAP to be achieved.

As well as attracting funding for priority projects, the Community Action Plan has also helped the Community Council to represent the interests of the community in getting things done and has supported us to work in partnership and influence the work of others.

Some of the most notable successes over the last 5 years include:

- the recent opening of the Wee Crook, development of the Crook Gardens and working to secure funding for the development of the Bunkhouse
- Village Hall developments and improvements with a range of new activities for everyone
- Funding for a Heritage Development Officer to support improvements and mapping of paths, the development of the Discover Tweedsmuir website and app and establishing the Ecomuseum
- Road improvements, and designation of A701 as a Strategic Timber route
- Installation of two defibrillators and training of First Responders

Some of the priorities in the first plan have been more challenging – public transport, superfast broadband, retaining public services – and these will continue to be priorities going forward.

## WORKING TOGETHER

The preparation of the plan has been organised by the Tweedsmuir Community Action Planning Steering Group. It was set up by Tweedsmuir Community Council, with support and involvement from Tweedsmuir Community Company and representatives from a range of local groups and interests. We have been supported in carrying out the work by the STAR Development Group. This plan will help us to develop our joint priority projects and make representation on behalf of the community on the issues that matter most to our residents, organisations and local businesses.

## LOCAL PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY

The Action Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement carried out over a four month period from May to August 2022.

### The process involved:

- stakeholder conversations with community organisations, volunteers, residents, the school, church, local businesses, landowners, service providers and public agencies
- carrying out a community views survey of all households
- preparing a community profile detailing facts and figures about the community
- organising a Community Futures Event and follow-on events



75 COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY FORMS WERE RETURNED FROM OUR 86 HOUSES

AROUND 20 DIFFERENT INTERESTS AND ORGANISATIONS TOOK PART IN STAKEHOLDER CONVERSATIONS



53 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE COMMUNITY FUTURES EVENTS

**THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART**

# OUR COMMUNITY NOW

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We have summarised below the main facts and figures from the Community Profile and some of the views from the Community Views Survey. Full copies of these reports are available at:

[www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk)

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## TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY PROFILE 2022

# SUMMARY

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### LOCATION

Tweedsmuir is a Community Council area in the Scottish Borders. It is within the Upper Tweed locality of Scottish Borders Council and is bounded to the South by Dumfries and Galloway Council and by South Lanarkshire Council to the West.

The area includes the small village of Tweedsmuir and dispersed rural housing with small settlements throughout.

Two large reservoirs – Talla and Fruid - and the source of the River Tweed are within the Community Council boundaries.

Tweedsmuir is one of the most sparsely populated areas in the Borders and is within the top 10% most deprived areas in Scotland for its geographical isolation.



### POPULATION

A local estimate puts the total population at 147, a decrease since the previous Action Plan. The population breakdown shows:

- A lower percentage of children and young people: 13% of the population are aged under 24
- A low percentage of young working-age people: only 9% between the ages of 25 – 44
- A higher percentage of older working-age people: 65% of the population are aged 45 – 69
- A lower percentage of people aged over 70 (11%)

# HOUSING

There are estimated to be 89 houses in the Tweedsmuir Community Council area, with 14% of these being second homes, empty properties or holiday accommodation. Properties tend to be larger (three-bedroom or bigger), with only 13 two-bedroom homes and only 3 one-bedroom homes. Young people who want to move into or stay in the area have found it difficult to buy houses because of lack of availability, no new-build homes and the high cost.

# LOCAL ECONOMY

## Features of the local economy include:

- High rates of self-employment, home-based working and businesses
- A relatively high percentage of people still employed in agriculture and forestry, although it is thought that this is in decline
- A relatively high percentage of people employed in professional, scientific and technical activities

Land-based opportunities include the Wild Land Area, the Borders Forest Trust work at Gameshope and Destination Tweed.

There is increasing optimism about the potential of the tourist sector with the development and opening of The Wee Crook.



## Other community groups include:

- Crook Inn – Garden Group
- Crook Inn - Recreation Group
- Ecomuseum – Working Group
- Paths Group
- Tweedsmuir Christmas Party Committee
- Broughton Primary Parent Council
- Tweedsmuir Book Club

## Community events include:

- Rhubarb Festival
- Bonfire Night
- Halloween Party
- Christmas Party
- Burns Supper
- Annual Litter Pick
- Tweedsmuir Talks
- Community Film Nights
- Tweedsmuir Music Festival

## Community facilities now include:

- The Wee Crook
- Tweedsmuir Village Hall
- Little Library at Village Hall
- Community Garden
- Pump and Jump Cycle Track being developed

There is increasing optimism about the potential of the tourist sector with the development and opening of The Wee Crook.



# ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

The Discover Tweedsmuir website [www.tweedsmuir.scot](http://www.tweedsmuir.scot) has been developed, hosting a wealth of information on the environment, history and the Ecomuseum.

## Environmental assets and resources include:

- River Tweed and the source of the Tweed
- Fruid and Talla Reservoirs
- Talla and Hartfell Wild Land Area
- Border Forest Trust at Talla and Gameshope
- SSSI at Broadlaw/Hearthstanes – for its high moor – sub arctic vegetation
- Long Distance Paths - Southern Upland Way, Arthur's Trail, plans for the River Tweed Trail
- The Discover Tweedsmuir website listing 9 local walks



## Heritage sites and features:

- Tweedsmuir Kirk and Kirkyard
- Tweedsmuir War Memorial (inside Church)
- Carlowse Bridge
- The Crook Inn and Garden
- Sites of Hawkshaw and Oliver Castles
- Cycle Hut Bothy (built just after the war)
- The Bield (history as a shelter for pilgrims and later as an Inn)
- St Kentigern/St Mungo Stone
- Tweedsmuir Standing Stones – Giant's Stone (Fruid Road from Tweedsmuir)
- Merlin and Kentigern/St. Mungo
- Crook Hill
- Robert Burns – said to have written the poem Willie Wastle's Wife at the Crook Inn
- Linkumdoddie – site of old thatched cottage
- Early Christianity - a through-route for pilgrims
- Associations with the Covenanters

The community works in partnership with Destination Tweed who have recently received funding to develop a trail along the River Tweed, which it is hoped will benefit Tweedsmuir and the wider Upper Tweed area.



# COMMUNITY VIEWS SURVEY

## LIKES AND DISLIKES

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### LIKES (% OF RESPONSES)

#### Remote, rural and peaceful

"It is a very beautiful and mainly peaceful place"

"Peaceful, rural environment with no immediate neighbours"

"The dark skies when the stars can be seen"

57%

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52%

#### Community spirit and the people

"Friendly, familiar faces – ready to help and engage"

"I've not been here long but have been welcomed by anyone we have met!"

"Everyone of all ages coming together to do things and knowing all the neighbours"

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#### Natural environment and beauty

"The beauty of the valley"

"We feel very lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the country"

"Countryside, nature, wildlife, fresh air, peace and quiet"

51%

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25%

#### Countryside for recreation

"Superb walking country"

"Lots of recreation opportunities, walking, water sports on reservoirs, lovely places to wild swim"

"Reasonable accessibility for recreation – walking, cycling, running"

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#### Community groups, activities and facilities

"Village hall very well set up and some excellent events held there"

"Being able to be involved in projects that have a real purpose"

"Crook project – bringing people together"

13%

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4%

#### Location – nearby towns

"Good road links to Edinburgh and Moffat"

"Rural community but access to amenities"

"It's nice and quiet but not too far from Moffat or Peebles"

# DISLIKES (% OF RESPONSES)

## Transport and access to services

"No public transport at all unless one travels to Broughton 7 miles away, this service may be in jeopardy too!"

"We lose our friends! Most folk our age leave the area because it does not provide facilities for older people"

43%

39%

## Traffic & roads

"Lack of safe walking/cycling routes between crossroads, Hall and the Crook"

"The road surface along the A701 has been improved in places but is still full of badly filled potholes"

"Speed limits on the A701 need to be reduced as overtaking cars make it very dangerous for residents"

## Environmental Concerns

"Commercial forestry seems to be dominating the landscape – unattractive and offers very little to the community"

"Land access can feel challenging"

29%

23%

## Poor communications infrastructure

"Lack of dependable broadband and the number of times we have been promised development only to be disappointed"

"Very difficult to encourage business to operate with slow internet"

"Poor access to communications infrastructure, broadband and mobile connections"

## Community facilities meeting place

"Lack of café/restaurant facilities and a place for families, friends and groups to meet"

"Lack of somewhere to go for a meal or a drink"

"Can be very lonely at times, no real social places to meet up without travelling a way"

16%

7%

## Housing and Employment

"Lack of job options"

"Poor prospects of employment for teenagers"

"No affordable housing for families"

# OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF TWEEDSMUIR



The Vision developed in 2017 is still valid now and will continue to be our aim for the next 5 years. The feedback in 2022 told us that there are some new hopes for the future – a more mixed and sustainable community – so we have added these to the Vision.

## **A VIBRANT HUB AT ITS HEART**

Social – community – hospitality – recreation –  
arts and crafts – local produce – local business

## **WELL CONNECTED - DIGITALLY AND PHYSICALLY**

Superfast broadband – transport - safe local paths networks

## **KEEP WHAT WE VALUE**

Our community spirit and peace and quiet  
Our unspoiled and special landscape

## **A WELCOMING PLACE TO VISIT**

Places to stop – good hospitality – good information and signposting –  
places to walk, cycle and spend time by the river and learn  
about wildlife and wild places

## **A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY FOR ALL AGES**

Encourage younger people to stay and young families to move into the area  
Good services that enable people to live here as long as they wish

## **A LOW CARBON & GREENER COMMUNITY**

A low carbon community – generating our own energy –  
reducing our impact on the environment

# MAIN STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

These are the main strategies and priorities the community and its organisations will focus on – working in partnership with public agencies, landowners, local businesses, and with other third sector organisations and supporters.



## THEME 1: DISCOVER TWEEDSMUIR

The community are well on the road to making Tweedsmuir a great place for people to visit and experience the pleasures of its environment, heritage and culture. The Wee Crook with its café/pub, bunkhouse and camping pods will be opening soon! Plans for the Crook Inn building include suggestions for developing it as a base for workshops, activities and services to attract visitors and support their enjoyment and appreciation of the area.

The community are hard at work creating and promoting outdoor recreation opportunities and activities and providing information through the Discover Tweedsmuir website on local paths, heritage, activities and events. All this work is now also set in the wider context of Destination Tweed and the development of the River Tweed Trail and related projects.

Main priorities:

- The Wee Crook
- Future of the Crook Inn Building
- Opportunities for outdoor recreation
- Local environment and heritage assets
- Arts and cultural skills, activities and event

## THEME 2: SUSTAINABLE TWEEDSMUIR

The CAP engagement process has highlighted concern over the future sustainability of the community, and a change in the demographic over the last 5 years – with older folk and fewer families and children. High house prices and the lack of suitable housing have made it increasingly difficult for young people and families to live in the area. It was seen as a priority to explore ways of providing smaller, affordable, eco-housing in the community to create a more balanced demographic for the future.

This desire was often linked to the need to be able to house people that want to work in or from the area. It was recognised that this would also require more local job opportunities, better access to superfast broadband and other workspace facilities.

As it is, there is a need to cater for the older and more vulnerable population in the area by providing good access to health and care services and sustain their ability to stay in the community. Encouraging young families to the area also requires good access to education and recreation facilities – and it was seen as essential to retain the local primary school in Broughton and improve access to childcare and after school activities.

Access to services in such a remote area also requires better broadband, full mobile phone coverage and good public/community transport. The Community Council had previously achieved agreement and funding for superfast



broadband. However, this could not be progressed due to the roll out of the Scottish Government's R100 project. Superfast broadband provision was originally scheduled to reach Tweedsmuir during 2023 but has recently been pushed back to 2025.

Main priorities:

- Housing
- Superfast broadband
- Local employment and support for businesses
- Good access to services



### THEME 3: LOW-CARBON TWEEDSMUIR

Since the last CAP, the global climate emergency and the Covid pandemic have changed how people want to lead their lives and protect the planet for future generations. This was really evident in Tweedsmuir, and this came through strongly in the community engagement process.

There was a strong desire to look at ways of cutting the community's carbon footprint. Developing energy efficiency measures and green energy use in houses and community buildings, developing sustainable transport and active travel, and growing local produce are all seen as part of this picture. The opportunity was identified for Tweedsmuir to be an exemplar sustainable community for other remote, rural communities.

Main priorities:

- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable transport and active travel
- Local produce

### THEME 4: TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY LIFE

The Community Company, Community Council and Village Hall Association have been instrumental in breathing life into the community and in implementing priorities from the first Community Action Plan. They have benefited from a large volunteer effort, local skills and talent and the support of a dedicated Development Officer (employed by the Community Company). It is important to continue to support these organisations, volunteers and staff so they can achieve similar success over the next 5 years.

Continuing to build and develop effective partnership working will be critical over the next 5 years, with The Southern Upland Partnership (Wild Land Area), Borders Forest Trust, Destination Tweed and Eastgate Theatre amongst others. Such partnerships will be vital in creating opportunities and benefits for local people (training, jobs, skills, research, monitoring, activities, recreation etc.)

In particular there is a need to make sure that The Crook and Village Hall serve as a vibrant hub for local community life and its enjoyment and sustainability. This means that



facilities, services, activities, events etc. should be geared towards and accessible to locals as well as visitors. This dispersed community needs safe roads and off-road routes and paths to make sure people are able to move within the community/locality and also to access services and facilities elsewhere. Traffic calming, particularly on the A701, is an ongoing priority – for locals and also as part of managing increasing activity at The Crook/Village Hall. Well-thought-out parking facilities is also another important consideration.

Main priorities:

- Community capacity
- Partnership projects
- Community use of The Crook and Village Hall
- Community and recreation facilities, services, activities and events
- A safe community



## THEME 5: TWEEDSMUIR LAND USE

Land-based activity is at the heart of life in the area – farming, forestry, windfarms, reservoirs, rivers, hills all provide multiple national benefits. These benefits include food, jobs, biodiversity, carbon storage, renewable energy generation, recreation and sport, health and wellbeing, and scenic beauty. Uses include commercial forestry, rewilding,

replanting native species, sheep and deer farming, walking, cycling, and paddleboarding as well as providing water supply to Edinburgh! The area is recognised as one of only two Wild Land Areas in lowland Scotland. It is therefore vitally important that the community have an ongoing stake in how land is used, how it evolves and how multiple benefits can be delivered locally as well as nationally – and help develop the sustainable community and destination that Tweedsmuir would like to be.

Main priorities:

- Wild Land Area/Borders Forest Trust/Southern Upland Partnership
- Supporting environmental and heritage projects with Destination Tweed
- Research & protection of local biodiversity
- Develop benefits from land use



# ACTION

The Community Company and Community Council will be using these priorities and actions as a guide to develop and support their workplans over the next 5 years.

## THEME 1: DISCOVER TWEEDSMUIR

### PRIORITIES

### WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

#### OPEN AND RUN THE WEE CROOK AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

- Open and operate The Wee Crook café/pub
- Continue to develop camping and bunkhouse facilities and open for business
- Continue to develop associated facilities, activities and services including the garden and recreation areas
- Continue to work with the community to develop ideas for use of The Wee Crook as a community hub

*ACTION BY: Tweedsmuir Community Company through its working groups and volunteers, Destination Tweed*

#### DEVELOP THE CROOK INN BUILDING

- Feasibility study to consider options for development for local and visitor use
- As part of the feasibility study - identify private, public and third sector partners with an interest in The Crook's development
- Take action to implement findings

*ACTION BY: Tweedsmuir Community Company*

#### DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Working with local landowners/ managers to maintain and develop responsible access for walking, cycling, and riding
- Supporting the development of the long-distance River Tweed Trail
- Support the creation of a circular walk that links the Tweed Trail with the Southern Upland Way
- Completing the Pump and Jump Track at The Crook
- Looking at the potential for gravel bike trails linked to the windfarms and forestry
- Providing services for outdoor recreation, e.g. equipment hire, repair and sale, guided walks and cycle tours, walking and cycling events
- Consider The Crook and Village Hall as a residential base for outdoor education and events

*ACTION BY: Tweedsmuir Community Company, Tweedsmuir Community Council and Tweedsmuir Village Hall working in partnership with Destination Tweed, Southern Upland Partnership, Windfarm operators, landowners including Borders Forest Trust, Scottish Water and outdoor recreation companies and initiatives.*

#### DEVELOPING AND PROMOTING LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE ASSETS

- Continue to provide information, interpretation and signage of local paths and heritage
- Involve people in study, enjoyment and enhancement of local biodiversity
- Continue to develop the Ecomuseum, on the ground as well as online, and in partnership with Ettrick and Moffat and the Southern Upland Partnership.
- Secure more resources and a curator for the development and operation of the Ecomuseum
- Organise heritage tours for schools, visitors and people who live here, led by locals

*ACTION BY: Tweedsmuir Community Company*

#### DEVELOPING ARTS AND CULTURAL BUSINESSES, SKILLS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

- Explore opportunities for the use of The Crook for arts/crafts workshops, retail and workspaces
- Work in partnership to deliver the Destination Tweed Connecting Threads project in Upper Tweed

*ACTION BY: Tweedsmuir Community Company, local arts and crafts workers, local businesses, Destination Tweed*

## THEME 2: SUSTAINABLE TWEEDSMUIR

### PRIORITIES

### WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

#### HOUSING

- Research other community housing initiatives e.g. Smart Clachans
- Carry out local housing needs survey
- Take action in response to the survey

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Council, Tweedsmuir Community Company, Communities Housing Trust, Rural Housing Scotland*

#### SUPERFAST BROADBAND

- Continue lobbying efforts for the delivery of superfast broadband to all households in the area
- Explore alternative interim options to support better broadband access until the roll out of Superfast Broadband through the Scottish Government R100 programme – currently scheduled for delivery in Tweedsmuir in 2025

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Council, Tweedsmuir Community Company, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Government R100 programme*

#### LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS

- Developing training, employment and income generating projects linked to the Crook Inn, environment, heritage and cultural assets
- Assist people to work from home (broadband solutions)
- Consider workspace, digital hub, retail space etc. use of the Crook Inn Building or other suitable location

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Council, Tweedsmuir Community Company, Tweedsmuir Village Hall Committee, Destination Tweed*

#### BETTER ACCESS TO SERVICES

- Develop community representation with Health and Care providers – to highlight and address the special requirements of this scattered, sparsely populated, remote, borderland community that is in the 10% most access-deprived communities in Scotland
- Support Upper Tweed Community Drivers to maintain their services
- Consider the potential to provide care services/facilities as part of the development of the Crook Inn building
- Continue to highlight the importance of retaining and developing Broughton Primary School (extra teacher, after school clubs/care)
- Develop outreach retail from Broughton Village Shop/drop-off point for deliveries at The Crook/Village Hall

*ACTION LED BY:*

- *Tweedsmuir Community Council, Tweedsmuir Community Company, Biggar GP practice, Health and Care Partnerships (Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, South Lanarkshire).*
- *Tweedsmuir Community Council, Broughton Primary Parent Council, Scottish Borders Council*

## THEME 3: LOW-CARBON TWEEDSMUIR

### PRIORITIES

### WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Carry out Environmental Footprint Improvement Plan
- Tweedsmuir Household Energy Audit - survey and recommendations
- Housing energy efficiency programme/incentives, with assistance for households to carry this out
- Make Tweedsmuir a demonstration community for sustainability and energy conservation

#### ACTION BY:

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, Tweedsmuir Community Council, windfarm operators, Scottish Borders Council*

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Assess opportunities for the community's own renewable energy project
- Assist households to shift from use of fossil fuels to renewable energy sources

#### ACTION BY:

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, support/advice from Local Energy Scotland*

#### SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND ACTIVE TRAVEL

- Investigate feasibility for local E-Bike hire
- EV car charging facilities (e.g., at The Crook/Village Hall)
- Assess options for community transport
- Retention of public transport within the wider community
- Support development of pathway between Broughton and Tweedsmuir

#### ACTION LED BY:

*Tweedsmuir Community Council, Tweedsmuir Community Company, Tweedsmuir Village Hall, Scottish Borders Council local councillors, other neighbouring communities.*

#### LOCAL PRODUCE

- Support local growing initiatives, e.g., The Garden at the Crook, Broughton Primary School Garden
- Promote and expand use of Ridan Community Composter
- Use local waste wood (fallen trees etc) – harvest for local use

#### ACTION LED BY:

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, Broughton Primary School Parent Council, local landowners.*

## THEME 4: TWEEDSMUIR COMMUNITY LIFE

### PRIORITIES

### WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

#### COMMUNITY CAPACITY

- Secure funding for continuation of a Development Officer for Tweedsmuir Community Company
- Continue to recruit, develop, support and sustain the role of volunteers and working groups as an effective way of delivering projects
- Recruit Volunteer Coordinator
- Support individuals and groups to access funding from the Windfarm Community Benefit Funds e.g., microgrants and youth bursaries

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, Tweedsmuir Community Council, Tweedsmuir Village Hall*

#### PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

- Encourage local involvement and explore/ promote benefits (e.g., volunteering, research, training and employment) from partnerships with Destination Tweed, Southern Uplands Partnership, Borders Forest Trust, Eastgate Theatre, Scottish Borders Council

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, Tweedsmuir Community Council, Tweedsmuir Village Hall*

#### THE CROOK AND THE VILLAGE HALL

- Continue to develop The Crook and Village Hall as a vibrant Community Hub that works well for community
- Support and increase community involvement in the development and operation of The Crook and Village Hall – local ideas, local uses, local volunteering

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, Tweedsmuir Village Hall*

#### INFORMATION AND RESEARCH

- Continue to establish and maintain good information sharing and opportunities for participation with the wider community
- Carry out research on community needs and assets

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, Tweedsmuir Community Council*

#### A SAFE COMMUNITY

- Traffic calming on the A701- making it safe for all local users
- Develop safe routes for walking and cycling to and between The Crook and the Village Hall from Tweedsmuir village
- Monitoring impact of forestry vehicles

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Council, Scottish Borders Council, Police Scotland*

## THEME 5: TWEEDSMUIR & LAND USE

### PRIORITIES

### WHAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN

#### WILD LAND AREA

- Working with other communities, Borders Forest Trust, Southern Upland Partnership, and NatureScot to deliver the aims and potential benefits of the Wild Land Area

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, Talla Hartfell Wild Land Project, Tweedsmuir Community Council*

#### DESTINATION TWEED

- Working with Destination Tweed and its related projects to deliver them in the Upper Tweed and to ensure they benefit the local community

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, Tweedsmuir Community Council*

#### LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

- Raise awareness and understanding of local biodiversity
- Research and monitoring of local biodiversity
- Organise related events, activities, workshops

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Company, local landowners/managers*

#### PROMOTING LAND USES THAT DELIVER MULTIPLE LOCAL AND NATIONAL BENEFITS

- Working with local landowners/managers, agents, developers and operators to develop approaches to land use development in Tweedsmuir that encourage a range of uses and benefits.
- Develop uses and benefits from windfarm sites, e.g., gravel biking, heritage trails, native tree planting etc.
- Keeping the community informed and involved of land use planning issues, e.g., windfarms, mobile masts, forestry, reservoirs
- Lobby for the inclusion of community representation in land use planning

*ACTION BY:*

*Tweedsmuir Community Council, Tweedsmuir Community Company, land managers, Windfarms, Scottish Borders Council*

# MAKING IT HAPPEN

The priorities in this action plan will be taken forward by our local voluntary community groups working together with our public, private and third sector partners.

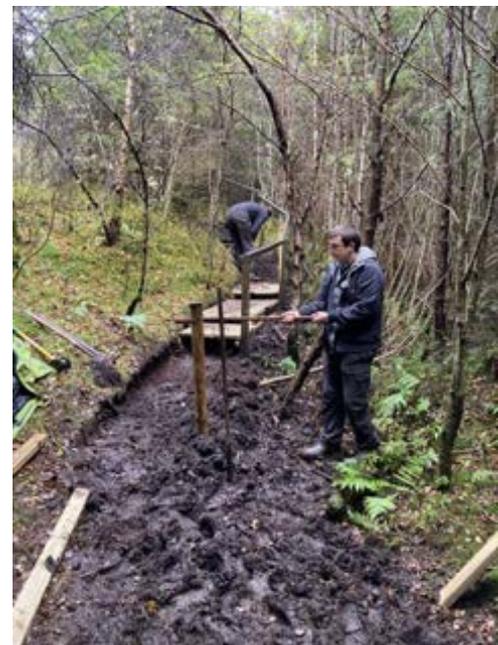
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## The value of volunteers

The success of our first Community Action Plan was due to the immensely valuable time and effort of the many people in this community who have volunteered in some way to help. Over half our population has volunteered in the last 5 years! We will continue to support and value all our volunteers, and always welcome new people who want to help.

## Development Officer support

Having the paid support of a local person as a Development Officer has been vital in helping to unlock funding and drive forward progress in implementing our first Community Action Plan. We aim to secure funding to continue this crucial role in taking forward the priorities and projects in this new 5-year plan.



## Working in partnership

As a small and remote community, we know we cannot achieve our Vision on our own. We have had great success through collaborative initiatives and will continue to work with partners such as Destination Tweed, Southern Upper Partnership, Borders Forest Trust, Scottish Borders Council, other local communities and any others wanting to support the vision and priorities of the Tweedsmuir community.

If you would like to get involved or for further information, please contact:

[tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com)

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## Keeping the Action Plan up to date:

Tweedsmuir Community Council will organise a Community Action Plan Annual Review meeting once a year to report back to the community on how the plan is progressing, what has been achieved and what more needs to be done.



# COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

## 2023-2028

This Community Action Plan sets out the priorities for the development of Tweedsmuir over the next 5 years as determined by the community through an extensive process of community engagement carried out over a four month period from May

### The Plan contains

- A summary of our Community Profile
- Our main likes and dislikes as identified in our Community Views Survey
- Our Vision Statement for the future of Tweedsmuir
- The main themes and priorities for action
- Information on how you can stay in touch and get involved

The Plan is for the whole community and is jointly owned by all the organisations and individuals that took part in its preparation. We will be working together to ensure its implementation over the next 5 years.

To keep updated use the following websites:

[www.tweedsmuir.scot](http://www.tweedsmuir.scot)

[www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk](http://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk)

### Acknowledgements

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