



# **A VISION FOR BROUGHTON VILLAGE AND DISTRICT**

**Upper Tweed Community Council**

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# A VISION FOR BROUGHTON VILLAGE AND DISTRICT

## FOREWORD

The Upper Tweed Community Council is delighted to publish this community plan, which is the result of several months' consultation and deliberation around the themes of importance to those of us who live and work here in Broughton Village and its district.

We are fortunate here in Broughton Village to live in the centre of some of the most beautiful land in the country, and to have a village and community spirit to be proud of. We know however that if we want our community to thrive and to remain resilient then we need to know what our priorities as a community are and work together to retain that which is good and improve that which could be better.

This plan is intended as a statement of community priorities. These priorities were produced solely through the information given by actual community members in the discussions, surveys and meetings that went to produce the plan. This means that this plan is what we as a community have said is important. It means that we now have a statement of the kind of things that we as a community now need to act on. Some of these things we can do ourselves, others we will need to work on with partners from funding bodies and from the public and private sectors.

Upper Tweed Community Council's purpose is to represent you to the local authorities, to pass information on to you and to help with issues that arise locally if we can. The Community Council is made up of local people who have been elected to serve the community in this way. All of our work is carried out by volunteers and can only continue if community residents are prepared to serve on the Community Council.

This community plan is an important first step to organising our action as a community. The aspirations in this plan will only come into being if we all come together to do something about it. We look forward to working together to keep our village a wonderful place in which to live, to meet the challenges ahead and to get better and better as the years pass.

**Michael Lukas, Chairman, Upper Tweed Community Council**

## INTRODUCTION

Broughton Village and its surrounding area is a beautiful place in which to live, work and visit. There is much to recommend life here, not least the strong sense of community and of mutual self-help that has characterised village life in Scotland throughout history. In recent years however, there has been a steady erosion in village amenities; we have lost the village shop, the post office, the John Buchan Museum and there has been a reduction in the bus service. On the other hand, it is now easier than ever to get groceries delivered and there have been improvements in the speed of broadband internet for many homes. This process of change will continue and we as a community must be prepared for these challenges and opportunities.

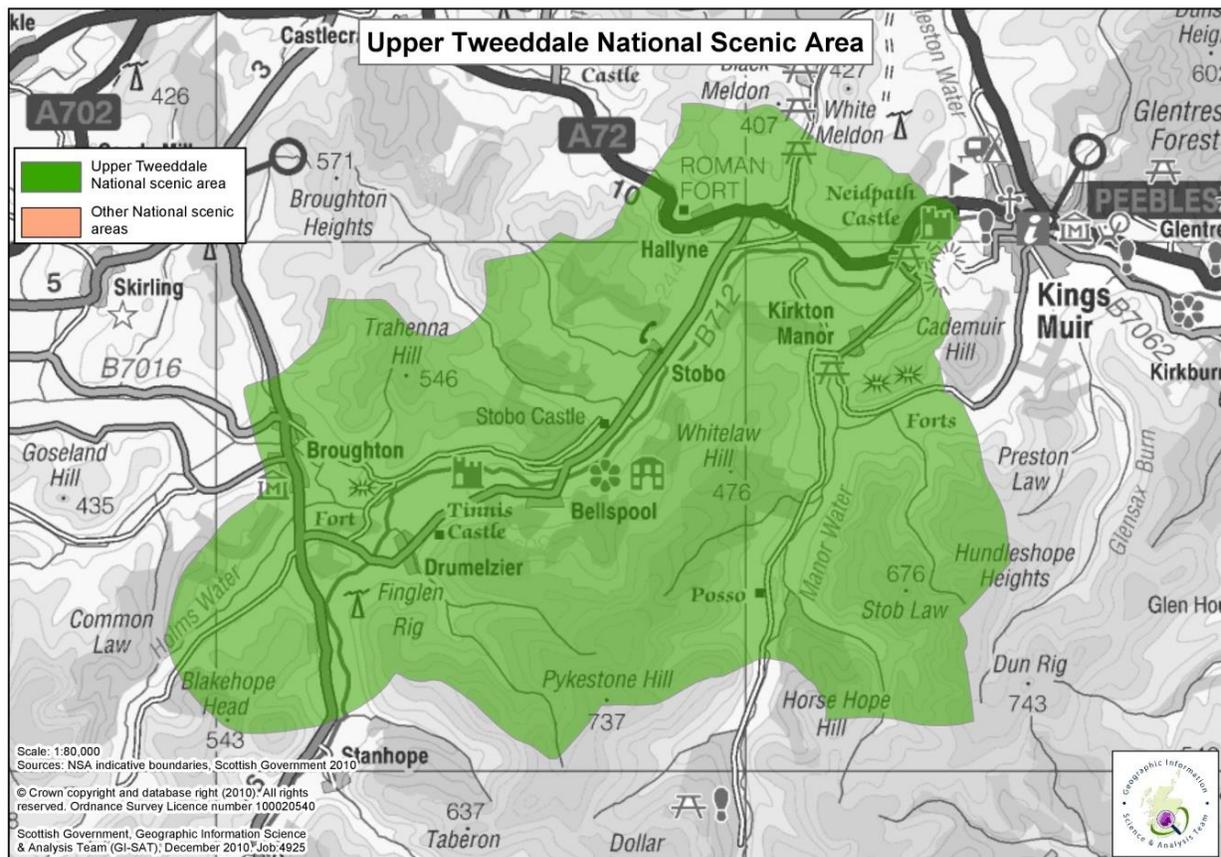
We have also seen a noticeable reduction in the number of people stepping forward to take up the community leadership roles, particularly in the Community Council, and to do the hard work of managing community organisations and running community events and groups. While this may be a feature of modern life, and is by no means peculiar to Broughton Village, Upper Tweed Community Council feels that something has to be done if we are not to see an inexorable decline in the quality of our community life.

We have produced this community plan as a starting point; a statement of where we are and what we want to achieve. It is intended to give focus to community action and inspire new and revived energy in local people. It is not a final statement. Over the coming years, we expect new priorities to arise and new ideas to emerge. We welcome these, and we welcome contributions from well-known and newer faces in our village organisations.

The plan was created through extensive community consultation and research on local services and demographic data. The Community Council, with funding support from Local Energy Scotland, hired specialist consultants and researchers to speak with local people to get a real understanding of the things that they like about life in Broughton Village and the things that concern them and their hopes for the future. The consultants met with more than 30 local people, received comment by email from around a dozen more, and obtained detailed comment on the ideas raised through a survey completed by 86 people. The draft plan was presented to a public meeting attended by 25 people, and the feedback from that meeting has informed this final, published version.

## ABOUT BROUGHTON VILLAGE AND DISTRICT

Broughton Village, in the Scottish Borders, nestles in some of the most beautiful landscape of the upper reaches of the river Tweed. It lies within the Upper Tweed National Scenic Area<sup>1</sup>, one of 40 locations in Scotland considered to represent the best of the scenic beauty popularly associated with Scotland and for which it is renowned. The National Scenic Area status affords the location some protections from ‘inappropriate development’.



The Scottish Government 6 fold Urban/Rural classification system classifies Broughton Village as Remote Rural, i.e. an area with a population of less than 3,000 people, and with a drive time of over 30 minutes to a settlement of 10,000 or more. From Broughton Village, it is 5 miles to Biggar, 12 miles to Peebles, and approximately 28 miles North to Edinburgh and 55 miles to Glasgow.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/Countryside/Heritage/Areas>

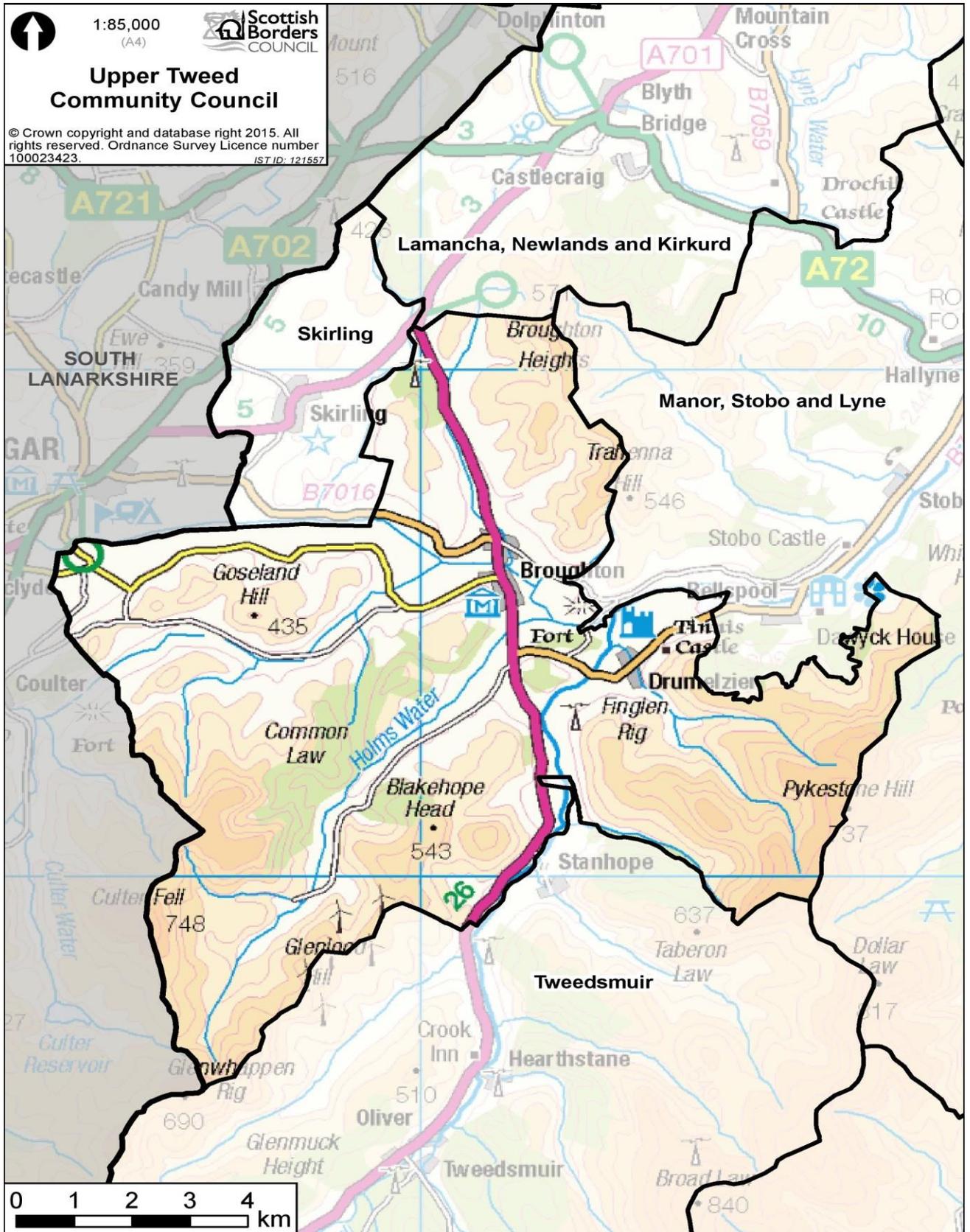


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### Upper Tweed Community Council

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## POPULATION

As a result of the disparity between Community Council boundaries and the resources used by Scottish Borders Council to produce population data<sup>2</sup>, it is not possible to obtain a definitive and accurate population figure for the Upper Tweed Community Council area. The best estimate available is somewhere between 697 and 822, probably nearer the lower figure.

There is a relatively young population profile compared to the Scottish Borders overall, with a higher proportion of children and a lower proportion of pensioners than the Scottish Borders or whole Scotland average.

Upper Tweed Community Council's adult population is made up predominantly of married couples with fewer single people and slightly lower proportions of post-married people than the Scottish or Scottish Borders comparators.

## HOUSING

Scottish Borders house prices rose by 0.8% from July 2017 to July 2018, lower than the average rise of 3.2% across Scotland. During this period, the Scottish Borders had an average house price of £151,953<sup>3</sup>, very slightly lower than the Scottish average house price of £152,245<sup>4</sup>. The property website Right Move reports an average house price in Broughton of £258,246<sup>5</sup>

## EMPLOYMENT & THE LOCAL ECONOMY

A few small businesses make Broughton their home, including the Laurel Bank bistro, a vehicle repair, servicing and MOT garage, and Broughton Ales, a brewery founded in 1979 which was the first initiated Scottish microbrewery. In addition, there are numerous agricultural partnerships and self-employed individuals offering a variety of trades and services.

## EDUCATION

Broughton Primary School provides education for children in the 5 - 12 age-group within the parishes of Broughton, Drumelzier, Glenholm and Kilbucho, Skirling, Stobo and Tweedsmuir. It has 74 pupils and 4 teachers.

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<sup>2</sup> Personal communication, Research & Information Service, Corporate Policy & Performance Team, Scottish Borders Council, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2019

<sup>3</sup> National Statistics, UK House Price Index Scotland: July 2018, Published 19 September 2018

<sup>4</sup> National Statistics, UK House Price Index Scotland: July 2018, Published 19 September 2018

<sup>5</sup> Data Source: Registers of Scotland December 2018

Secondary school provision is made by Peebles High School, 13 miles from Broughton Village. Transport for pupils who live more than 2 miles from their school is provided by Scottish Borders Council.

Bananas Playgroup, which meets in Broughton Primary School, is the main provider of pre-school education. Tweeddale Community Learning Partnership has both Adult and Youth learning teams which are based at Peebles High School.

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The number 91 bus, operated by Borders Buses on behalf of Scottish Borders Council, runs between Peebles and Biggar and stops off, in each direction, at Broughton Village 6 times a day on weekdays. The earliest bus leaving Broughton Village to Biggar is at 0735, arriving at Biggar at 0750. The last bus leaving Biggar for Broughton Village is at 1801. The earliest bus leaving Broughton Village to Peebles is at 0812, arriving at Peebles at 0845. The last bus leaving Peebles for Broughton Village is at 1720. A reduced service operates on Saturdays and on weekdays when it is not school term time. There are no buses to or from Broughton Village on a Sunday.

There are three main train stations within 1 hour's drive; Lanark, which offers rail services to Glasgow and the West, Lockerbie which offers rail services to London and the South, and Edinburgh Waverley which offers rail services across the country. Edinburgh Airport is also within 1 hour's drive.

#### ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOOR RECREATION

The former railway lines of Upper Tweeddale are enjoyed by many locals and visitors as walking, cycling and horse-riding routes, although there are some issues in the management of these routes and access to them. The Upper Tweed Railway Paths initiative aims to extend and improve access to these routes, connecting Peebles to Broughton, Biggar, Symington and Tweedsmuir. The village has close associations with the celebrated author John Buchan. The John Buchan Way, a 22 kilometre walk, runs between Broughton and Peebles.

#### HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Upper Tweed has a healthy working-age population with a much lower, than in Scottish Borders and Scotland as a whole, proportion of people with a self-assessed health problem or disability. Of those who are affected, a higher proportion, than in Scottish Borders and Scotland as a whole, are only limited a little by their health problem or disability.

Despite reporting generally better health and lower levels of life-limiting disability or ill-health, the percentage of people who provide unpaid care varies very little in Upper Tweed compared with Scottish Borders and Scotland. Of those who do, people in Upper Tweed generally provide much less than other parts of Scottish Borders.

GP Services are provided at Biggar and Peebles Health Centres. There is a District Nurse at West Linton Health Centre. Pharmacy services are available in Biggar.

## COMMUNITY AND CLUBS

The village is served by a café/bistro which opens late as a bar on Fridays and Saturdays. A recently refurbished Village Hall allows a wide range of community organisations to meet and hold events. There is a popular local bowling club with green and clubhouse and a tennis club with its own courts.

The local shop closed in 2018 but the Broughton Shop Development Group's plans, to make a community purchase of the shop premises and then run the shop as a community initiative, are well under way. At present however, shopping for groceries, obtaining health services or banking requires a trip to Biggar, 5 miles away or Peebles, 12 miles away.

Broughton has an extensive array of active community organisations run by a small number of committed local people. These include

- Badminton club, including junior badminton.
- Broughton and District Bowling club
- Broughton Choral Society
- Broughton Horticultural Society
- Broughton In Bloom
- Broughton Spinning Group
- Broughton SWI
- Broughton United Curling Club
- Carpet Bowls Social Club
- Church of Scotland Guild
- Garland Sugarcraft Club
- Gentleman's lunch club
- Ladies lunch club
- Scottish Country Dancing
- Tennis club
- Upper Tweed Community Cinema

A hospital driving scheme, managed entirely by local volunteers, assists people with no transport to attend hospital appointments.

A Church of Scotland congregation meets weekly and shares a moderator and locum minister with congregations in nearby villages.

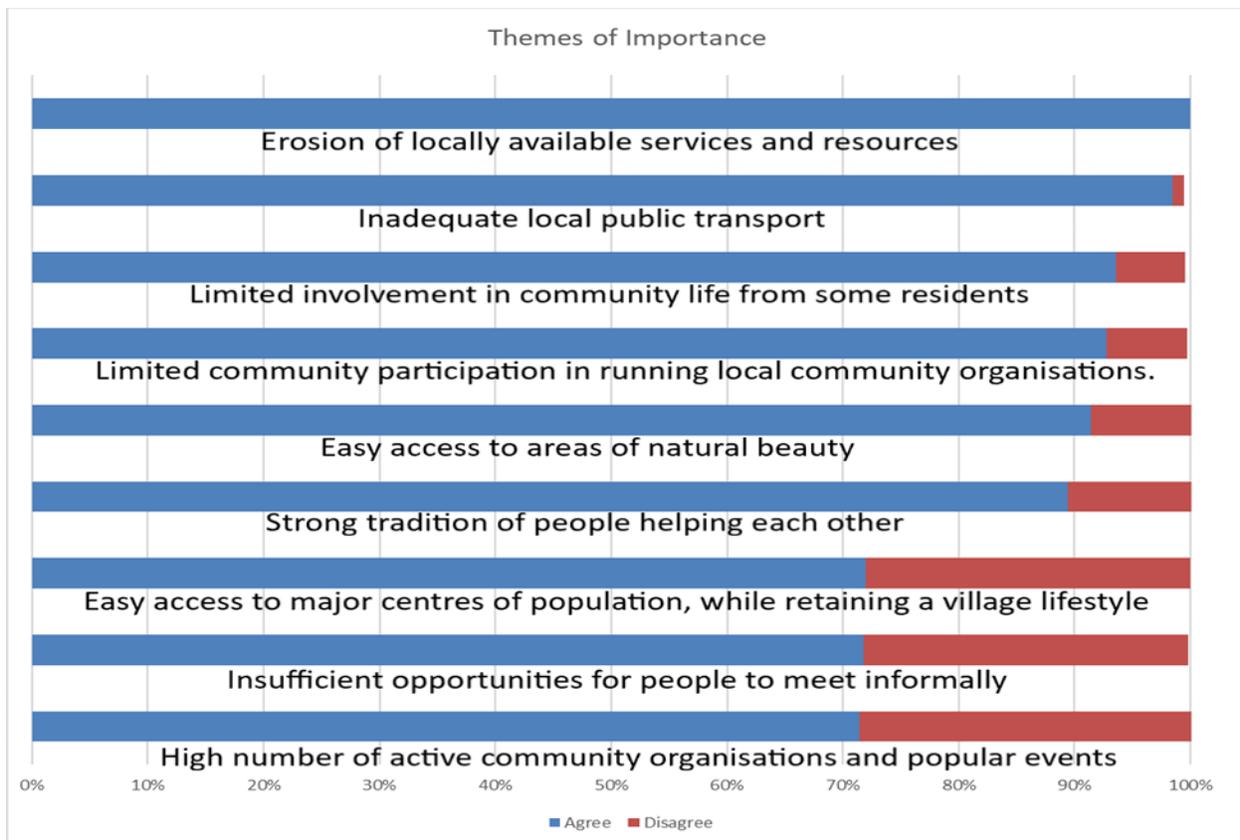
The Upper Tweed Community News organises an annual welcoming party in the village hall. All people who have moved to the village in the preceding 12 months are invited to come, while local clubs and groups all attend and invite new residents to join them. In this way, Broughton Village makes sure it offers a warm welcome to new residents and attracts new blood to local groups and organisations.

There is an annual Christmas party and sale of locally produced crafts, an annual firework display and a range of other occasional events and get-togethers.

## THEMES OF COMMUNITY LIFE

In open discussions with residents many of the same themes came up again and again, indicating a high degree of consensus about the reasons why people choose to stay in Broughton Village, and the challenges facing the community.

An analysis of the key themes which came up in discussions was used to produce a list of themes which was presented back to the broader community in the survey. Survey respondents were asked to state whether they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements about their community.



The key challenge, raised universally as the main problem for the future, is the decline in the number of people getting involved in community organisations and activities. If this trend is not halted and reversed, there is a real risk that the village will cease to be recognisable as a community where people have a shared experience and mutuality, and become simply a place where people live, but invest their time and selves elsewhere.

Participants in the research for this community plan drew a distinction between volunteering as a mutual activity, i.e. volunteering which directly benefits the volunteer, and volunteering as a civic activity, i.e. volunteering which contributes to the community and to the wellbeing of others. Volunteering to help run a local club in which the volunteer participates would be an example of the former, while volunteering to run an event for the whole community, or to participate in a community clean-up would be examples of the latter. It was noted that the mutual type of volunteering was in relatively good health, but that the number of committed, capable volunteers for more civic activity was in decline.

In 2017, the report of the Scottish Household Survey<sup>6</sup> noted that the rate of volunteering in rural areas is higher than in urban areas, with 31% of adults in both remote rural areas and in accessible rural areas volunteering compared to around a quarter of adults in large and other urban areas. This gives some further support to the perception, raised by some participants, that there is a lower level of commitment, particularly to civic volunteering, from newer residents in the village who may have moved there from larger urban areas.

Linked to the issues of decline in volunteer capacity was concern about the erosion of local service and facilities, partly because these were considered to be both a manifestation and an indicator of decline, and partly because of the genuine loss of local amenity and convenience, but also because the absence of local services facilities meant that there were fewer opportunities for chance meetings and discussions between people. These were viewed to be the *“stuff that glues communities together”* and without them, the potential for more formal community activities was much diminished.

Erosion of local services is the only theme that was universally supported, perhaps because it is an empirically provable fact. Similarly, the inadequacy of public transport is a more tangible issue than some of the other themes which relate more to perceptions of community, or quality of life. Notably fewer people in the survey than in the interviews agreed that there are insufficient opportunities for people to meet informally. This may reflect local peoples' pride in their community organisations and in the welcome given to visitors and new residents.

The theme which attracted the greatest divergence of opinion was the number of active community organisations and events. Again, Broughton Village residents are proud of the organisations they run and the events they manage, but there is major concern over the longer term viability of these and the reducing number of people available and willing to shoulder the work of making things happen.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00539880.pdf>

This chapter provides a description and analysis of the ideas which were raised by local people through the community engagement and dialogue.

Whenever a respondent expressed support for an idea, they were asked to explain how it would benefit Broughton, how the idea could be delivered and who should be responsible for making it happen. In this way, the research produced more considered and nuanced reflections on the future of Broughton Village and avoided, to some extent, becoming the kind of 'wish list' that can often result from exercises of this nature. These reflections produced evidence to support the consultants' analysis of the impact and achievability of each idea as set out in the following table. In assessing impact the consultants have taken into account the potential to directly impact on the quality of life for individuals in the community, the potential to generate the kind of community spirit and action that is a key theme of this plan, and the potential for actions to indirectly benefit the village, i.e. by attracting visitors and enabling them to have a better experience of the village and the valley, whilst at the same time supporting the local economy.

The tests applied to each idea were:

- Does it make a positive contribution to the community?
- Is there a demonstrated need or want for it?
- Are there resources available to do it?
- Is there someone to lead it?
- Is it relatively practically achievable?

The assessment of achievability considered the challenges of implementing the idea, including how well defined it is, the potential regulatory or legislative complexity, the scale of funding required, the level of community input and the level of professional expertise required. A key element of the achievability of an idea is clarity over who has the responsibility and the power to make the thing happen. This plan uses a simple three tier classification of responsibility:

- Ideas that the community has the power to implement without action from others. This includes actions where some element of relatively easily-achievable funding is required.
- Ideas that require an input from or partnership with another agency, either from the public sector or from the private or voluntary sector, to implement.
- Ideas that are the sole responsibility of another agency to implement. This does not preclude the role of the community in lobbying for and encouraging other agencies to take action.

The table below lists all of the ideas raised prior to the public meeting according to this classification.

Idea	Responsibility	Impact <sup>7</sup>	Achievability	Support
Increased participation in running community organisations and events/activities	Community	High	Medium	98%
Increased and improved opportunities for people from different parts of the community to meet	Community	High	High	90%
Creation of a comprehensive website on the village and its history	Community	Medium	High	89%
Improved communications and information across the community	Community	High	High	88%
Increased appreciation of local assets	Community	Medium	Medium	85%
Improved Information and Signage for Visitors to the Village	Community	Low	High	75%
Establishment of a community garden/orchard	Community	Medium	Medium	57%
Support for older people who may be isolated or need care in their own homes	Community and others	High	Medium	98%
Increased access to Post Office services	Community and others	High	Low	97%
Advice and guidance on accessing grant funding for local projects	Community and others	Medium	Medium	93%
Managed development of new housing	Community and others	High	Medium	88%
Training for older people on using the internet and information technology	Community and others	Medium	Medium	88%
Access to medical prescriptions by post	Community and others	Medium	Medium	85%
Installation of electric vehicle chargers	Community and others	Medium	Medium	76%
More accessible walking and cycling routes	Community and others	Medium	Medium	75%
Outdoor gym equipment	Community and others	Medium	Medium	55%
Improved Public Transport	Others	High	Low	98%
Preventative measures for flood overspill onto roads	Others	Medium	Medium	96%
Reduced Vehicle Speeding	Others	High	Low	92%
Support to local enterprise, e.g. cycle hire, workshops, taxi, etc	Others	Medium	Medium	87%
Improved Internet Broadband	Others	Medium	Medium	86%

<sup>7</sup> Classifications of impact and achievability are the consultants', taking all available evidence into account.

The public meeting, held to feed back on the results of this survey, produced several new ideas, all of which were given broad general support from those attending the meeting:

- Establishment of a Men's Shed<sup>8</sup>.
- Establishment of a club for older people.
- Volunteering festival
- Volunteer register
- Publication of a calendar of community events.

These ideas have been incorporated into the discussion of the ideas below. The following sections discuss and analyse the potential of each idea as a contribution to the quality of life in Broughton and the sustainability of the community.

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT

This idea set includes

- Increased participation in running community organisations and events/activities
- Increased and improved opportunities for people from different parts of the community to meet
- Improved communications and information across the community
- Creation of a comprehensive website on the village and its history
- Provision of advice and guidance on accessing grant funding for local projects
- Men's Shed
- Club for older people

## RUNNING COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Broughton Village is blessed with numerous well-run community organisations and an enviable annual calendar of activities. There is a near universal concern however that there are too few people who give their time to running community organisations and activities, and that the burden of doing so is shouldered by a relatively small number of people. This is viewed as unsustainable; if one or two people were to reduce or cease their contributions there is a real risk that organisations could fail, and that events and activities simply would not happen. Most of the people who are involved in community organisations are retired and there is some concern about lower levels of contribution from those of working age.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://scottishmsa.org.uk/>

There was an understanding that parents with young families may have less time to contribute, particularly if both parents work outside of Broughton Village. On the other hand, there was a view that this group may have more to gain from participation in community life, and a greater reason to invest time in activities that benefit a wider age range.

It was noted that some events and activities did attract larger numbers of participants, but that there was little apparent will from participants to take the extra step and get involved in making things happen.

*“There is a sense that some people in the village are happy to be consumers of activities, but don’t want to be creators. Part of the beauty of our community is the commitment of people to creating their own activities. That may be part of a village life attitude, but it seems to be disappearing.”*

Associated with this was concern that people who have come to the village in more recent years have little sense of connection to the village and less investment in the village’s sustainability as a thriving community. It was felt that they may feel a greater connection to Edinburgh – where many of them work and, presumably, socialise – or to Peebles where their children may participate in organised activities and classes.

Taking the greater availability of home-based entertainment and social media into account, there is a real risk that there are residents in the village who may be very difficult to engage.

Concern over lower levels of community leadership and organisation are common to communities across the country, and it is difficult to establish comprehensive evidence on the trends over time or across geographies; however a reduction in the numbers of people who actively participate is likely to be more immediately evident and have more impact in a relatively discrete locality like Broughton Village.

Although there is near universal support for increased participation in running community organisations and events as a desirable change, the nature of the action required to achieve it is less clear. There were few suggestions for action that did not require more action from already hard-pressed volunteers. There was, however, some useful analysis of the reasons for the decline, and these may offer some indication of where change can start.

There was support for some sort of leadership to encourage new people to join committees and volunteer time so as to support existing committees and heavily committed volunteers, by helping to share their workload and enable them to work more closely with other organisations and – if necessary – stop doing so much.

The source of this leadership was less clear - many respondents suggested it was a role for the community council, while others recognised that there were challenges in expecting any local person or organisation to take on this role. There were a few suggestions that some form of external intervention may be beneficial, perhaps from a traditional community development worker. Substantial resources would be required for the establishment of such a post, and careful consideration would be required over the aims and priorities for the role and how it would be managed.

There may be some benefit in Upper Tweed Community Council or another community organisation conducting some research into how comparable communities have addressed this challenge with a view to establishing more information on what may be effective in Broughton.

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERACTION

Challenges in levels of participation were linked by many respondents to improved information about community activities and increased opportunities for people to meet and interact. There were suggestions for a range of community events which would provide opportunities for people to meet, but community events require organisers, and hence this solution carries the problem within it. There were further suggestions for new spaces where people could meet, which would enable some greater opportunities for building a sense of community but may not result in new blood for leading community organisations.

*“We could have a barbecue space somewhere in the village. That would let people meet each other, and then they could start doing things.”*

There is a relative lack of ‘third places’, i.e. places for unplanned informal association between members of the community. The Laurel Bank Café, which not only functions as a café daily but also as a pub on a Friday and Saturday evening, provides this but requires people to choose to go there, which not everyone in the community does. There was some discussion of bus stops and outdoor facilities, including the Tom Shearer Garden, as providing this sort of opportunity, but overall it was felt that there were insufficient opportunities and resources which enabled informal association in the village.

The loss of the local shop has had a major impact on the extent to which people have opportunities to meet informally and unexpectedly to share news and maintain community bonds:

*“Small unplanned meetings and chats are the stuff of real community. They are what binds people together when they know each other, and what allows you to get to know people you might not otherwise. The shop was how that happened here. You would pop out for a pint of milk and come back with all the local news!”*

There is some support for a club for older people. This could meet in the village hall and offer a variety of social activities. This could have multiple benefits in enabling community interaction and offering some mutual support for older people in the village who may otherwise be isolated.

There is also some support for the establishment of a Men's Shed. In recent years the Men's Shed movement has gained popularity across Scotland. The Scottish Men's Shed Association reports that there are presently 103 in operation and a further 51 in development. The association describes the Men's Shed as a means to *“respond to men's need for camaraderie and provide opportunities to work together in a way that contributes meaning to their lives and their communities.”* A range of advice on setting up and operating a Men's Shed is available from the association<sup>9</sup>.

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Despite Broughton Village being relatively compact in scale and having a distinct identity, there is some dissatisfaction with the available sources of information about community groups, events and activities.

The Upper Tweed Community News - a quarterly print newsletter - has a long pedigree and is well respected in the village. There is a social media site managed by a local volunteer and Upper Tweed Community Council has a website, but these are felt to be incomplete, insufficiently up to date and inaccessible for people with limited access to online sources. The idea of a single point community website which covers local news and events as well as local history has some support, but there is no clear leadership available for such an initiative, or for the ongoing management burden.

A community noticeboard has recently been established by the bus stop in Smithy Croft, but there was limited awareness of this from the participants in producing this plan. There is support for a second community noticeboard, sited either in the village hall, or in an external location. This would allow members of all local groups to post notices.

To some extent, the bus stops in the village, and the notice boards in the Laurel Bank and village hall already provide this outlet for information, and it is not clear that a further notice board would be more effective in spreading community news.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://scottishmsa.org.uk/start-a-shed/>

This idea may not be expensive or time consuming to implement however and may be worth pursuing as a means to simply ensure that groups have a formally identified outlet for their news, and local people have a single point for access to information. This would, to some extent, limit the potential for people to claim to have no access or outlet.

*“People don't take part and don't pay attention. Even though the Upper Tweed Community News was delivered to every household, still people ask on Facebook about information that is available in the Upper Tweed Community News.”*

*“We have a village hall, tearoom, park, school and various sport clubs and cinema. People just need to use them!”*

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND ASSETS

This idea set includes

- Increased appreciation of local assets
- Improved information and signage for visitors to the village
- Establishment of a community garden/orchard
- More accessible walking and cycling routes
- Improved public transport
- Reduced vehicle speeding
- Preventative measures for flood overspill onto roads
- Managed development of new housing
- Outdoor gym equipment

## APPRECIATION OF LOCAL ASSETS

Residents of Broughton are rightly proud of the natural heritage and cultural history of the surrounding area, but there is a strong awareness that information to enable visitors to the village to find this and enjoy this is not easily accessible.

*“We need signs to tourist attractions such as Dreva Craig, John Buchan Way, walks on old railway lines, the old Kirkyard. Could be funded through a windfarm grant, on initiative from Community Council.”*

There was also some comment that indicated that local people were not fully aware of the range of local history on their doorstep or how to access walking and cycling routes.

*“I have no idea where some of these things are?! We need wider local knowledge especially for incomers.”*

There was some interest in the establishment of a community garden and/or orchard. This was felt to offer multiple benefits in being an addition to the general amenity of the village, an opportunity for people to meet while visiting the space, and a reason for visitors to come to Broughton village. There was little clarity on how it would be taken forward or managed and some evidence of pessimism regarding the availability of people to do so.

*“No need. Will just be left to the usual people and most will ignore it.”*

*“Probably have a problem with who would manage it. This has been on the cards for some time but, as is so typical of this village, nobody wants to take on the task.”*

## OUTDOOR GYM

There was both support for and resistance to the idea of installing some fitness equipment in a public place.

*“Having stationary bikes / stepping machines / cardio machines would be amazing in the park. This would encourage a larger focus on health and wellbeing.”*

*“Linked to a wider improvement and links between George V playing fields and tennis and bowls club assets. Grant aided consultants’ study – Scottish Natural Heritage/Scottish Border Council to lead with co-opted interested individuals on Community Council.”*

*“I don't see this working. A waste of money.”*

If insurance and maintenance arrangements can be arranged, then there is no reason why the capital cost of equipment purchase and installation cannot be relatively easily funded.

There is a risk however that the equipment is not used, and that this produces a negative backlash from elements of the community who may view the project as an unnecessary waste of effort and money. If a small group of committed local people can be identified to lead on both the installation, and a programme of activity to encourage its use, then this idea may be implemented relatively quickly.

## INFORMATION AND SIGNAGE

The installation of signage in public places, coupled with a small number of leaflets in hard copy and downloadable from the internet, has the potential to comprehensively address this within the scope of a relatively small and achievable project. The first step would involve collecting accurate information on local trails, paths and items of interest. The second step would involve the design of signage. The third step would involve identifying appropriate sites and obtaining permissions. The final step would involve having suitable signs produced and erected.

*“Two tourist hub points with information boards with local map. School lay-by and village hall car park. Community council funded.”*

Some respondents suggested that consultants would be required for the audit and design steps, and that contractors would be required for the production and siting. Others felt that there were sufficient skills in the village to deliver all of this using only local people.

Bearing in mind that sourcing and managing consultants and contractors requires some input of volunteer time from the community, it may be that, if skills are available, it is more efficient to simply do this using community skills.

*“More direction signs for walks and bridle ways and information boards about tourism attractions in village. Local consultants to design and grants for supply and fix. Wind farm could fund.”*

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport from and to Broughton Village was viewed as too infrequent, too expensive and journeys to Edinburgh required too many changes. The most commonly demanded change to the bus service is a direct bus service to Edinburgh. Following this, an increase in the number of buses to Peebles and Biggar and a later service which allowed evening return from Edinburgh were the expressed priorities.

*“I strongly believe that improved and integrated bus services to Edinburgh via Peebles and Biggar are key to encouraging people to live, work and socialise in our community. This should be subsidised by Scottish Borders Council and Scottish Government.”*

The responsibility for making these changes was viewed as belonging to Scottish Borders Council, the bus companies which Scottish Borders Council contracts with, and Scottish Government. Nevertheless, if improvements to public transport are a priority for local people, then it may be regarded as incumbent on them to effectively campaign for the kind of change they want to see.

The research for this community plan has clarified some simple desired changes, and this may be regarded as a step forward from the vaguer complaints about inadequacy of service and demand for non-specific improvement.

Although improvements to public transport may be a change where the power to make the change lies outside the community, the power to organise and lobby for change lies within the community. A local transport lobby group may offer a simple way to engage with bus service providers and contractors to explore how changes can be made.

## FLOOD MANAGEMENT

Localised flooding and spillage of water onto roads was regarded as an issue, although there was little clarity about specific locations and a wide range of causes was cited. Ideas about responsibility for flood prevention and flood management were also widely distributed, with Scottish Borders Council, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and local landowners all being identified.

The Tweed Local Flood Risk Management Plan<sup>10</sup>, published by Scottish Borders Council in 2016, provides the blueprint upon which SEPA, local authorities, Scottish Water and any other responsible authorities deliver their flood risk management responsibilities. The Tweed Local Flood Risk Management Plan describes a 'Potentially Vulnerable Area' which includes Broughton Village, and notes that there are approximately 40 residential properties and fewer than 10 non-residential properties at risk of flooding. It further notes that the highest risk of river flooding is to Broughton and the surrounding area from the Biggar Water and River Tweed.

The Local Flood Risk Management Plan commits Scottish Borders Council and partners to undertake a flood protection study in Peebles, Innerleithen and Broughton to *“assess whether modification of conveyance, installation / modification of fluvial control structures, direct flood defences and natural flood management could reduce flood risk. The study will assess and quantify the existing risk and explore the potential options to reduce flood risk in Peebles, Innerleithen and Broughton.”* This study is scheduled to be completed in mid-2019/20.

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

There was overall support for some development of new housing. Most people felt that if the village were to retain resources and services, particularly the primary school, then some increase in population and household numbers was necessary. This was strongly caveated by the need to ensure that local infrastructure, in particular roads, bridges and sewerage facilities, were improved as a condition of development.

*“The key word is MANAGED - housing change in the village is random and is impacting the overall ethos of the village. Any new development needs to be considered with the overall impact to the many facets of village life.”*

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<sup>10</sup> Tweed Local Plan District: Local Flood Risk Management Plan, Scottish Borders Council, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

The Broughton settlement profile<sup>11</sup> of the Scottish Borders Council Local Development Plan notes that there is planning permission in principle for a housing development on the western side of Dreva Road opposite the two housing allocations and the existing housing at Springwell Brae.

In terms of managing new housing development, community input to planning proposals may be all that is reasonably achievable. There was however limited faith in existing planning processes to effectively manage new housing development in a way that benefitted Broughton. The Community Council may have a role to promote wider awareness of planning processes and decisions and to facilitate greater community interaction with the processes.

## VEHICLE SPEEDS

Although there was strong support for reduced vehicle speeds in the survey, there were mixed views expressed in the interviews and the open survey questions about the extent of the problem; some people believed this to be a serious issue, others considered it not to be an issue at all. There was little consensus about the main locations, times or risks associated with speeding vehicles, although the primary school was frequently cited as a particular risk.

*“Not needed, just enforcing current speed limits”*

*“Particularly in the areas coming in and out of the village. The route in from the south is used as a race track by motorbikes and cars. Noisy and dangerous. Maybe signage further out of the village to slow people down sooner?”*

*“We are fortunate there has not been a serious accident.”*

There were similarly mixed views about what should, and could, be done if it were an issue. Some respondents felt that this was simply a matter for enforcement of existing legislation, but most respondents favoured a mix of traffic calming measures including rumble strips, cameras, vehicle activated speed signs, etc.

There was some support for a Community Speed Watch<sup>12</sup> initiative in which local volunteers may be trained by Police Scotland to operate hand held speed cameras. There was an equal resistance to this idea from other respondents who felt that there were risks to the volunteers, and that this form of detection and enforcement was the role of Police Scotland. Work is ongoing to establish this initiative.

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<sup>11</sup> [https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory\\_record/30501/broughton](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/directory_record/30501/broughton)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/>

## ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

There was strong support for the installation of electrical vehicle charging points<sup>13</sup>. This was seen to have the potential to attract visitors to the village, who may then contribute to the local economy by visiting the bistro while their vehicle charged. The Village Hall car park was considered to be the most suitable location, with the potential for chargers to produce some income for the Village Hall, although it was not clear how this would be produced. There is also a need to clarify the position of the bodies responsible for management of the Hall and car park.

## ACCESS TO GRANT FUNDING

In recent years, grant funding for community projects has become more easily accessible through windfarm funds. There was support for more information on the range of grants available and how to access them, and an idea that the Community Council should have a lead role in promoting this information.

Despite this 'in principle' support, many respondents in interviews felt that information on grants was already easily available, and that successfully obtaining grants was also not difficult. There was a view expressed by a small number of people that the relative ease of access to grant funding had produced a negative impact on community. The relatively easy availability of funding through grants meant that more participative and community-based forms of mutual fundraising were bypassed, and the benefits of that kind of activity were lost.

*"I don't think the grant funding has turned out to be that good a thing. In the past if a group needed new equipment, they would organise a dance or a raffle or something that brought people together and raise the money. Now they just fill in a form at their computer and a cheque falls through the door. It's good if all you want is the money, but it's not good for community."*

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<sup>13</sup> A search of the Tesla charging point database on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 showed that there are 5 locations in Southern Scotland, suggesting that a persuasive business case for a sixth in Broughton Village may be challenging.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

This idea set includes

- Support for older people who may be isolated or need care in their own homes
- Training for older people on using the internet and information technology
- Improved internet broadband
- Access to medical prescriptions by post
- Increased access to Post Office services
- Support to local enterprise, e.g. cycle hire, workshops, taxi, etc

### SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Broughton Village and district has around 100 residents aged over 65, and possibly has a greater number of older people in isolated and remote dwellings than in many comparable settlements. There is concern about their social isolation, about their capacity to live independently and about risks to them should there be an accident or a health related incident.

*“There are a lot of older people in old houses outside the village. I’m not sure if they see other people regularly. I think most of them may be quite fit right now, but they won’t always be. We need to do something now to look after our older people.”*

*“We need provision for community support in times of unforeseen circumstances- e.g. extreme weather conditions preventing social care workers travelling to rural areas. Collaboration required to safeguard vulnerable people.”*

*“There are older people who are very isolated, but I am not too sure how we can help other than pop in when we can. Some of us do.”*

There was a clear understanding of the distinction between the statutory and professional responsibilities of emergency, health and social care services, and the potential for a more organised form of community based social support.

*“There is a strong community spirit and the ethos of keeping an eye out for elderly neighbours without being intrusive should be encouraged. However direct involvement in the provision of care should be carried out either by district nurses or welfare officers from SBC”*

Broughton Village has a strong infrastructure of community organising, including volunteer transport for hospital appointments and lunch clubs and social activities for the more active and mobile in the village. There is the potential to extend this to create a more organised form of checking in on older and isolated residents.

There is some evidence that this kind of ‘checking in’ already takes place informally, but there is also a concern that there may be people who are overlooked. The challenge associated with greater organisation is of course the input of time required. In recent years, increasing concern with the social isolation of older people has led to the creation of several professional services<sup>14</sup> which check in on older people either by telephone or in person, though not in our area. An alternative plan may be to secure funding to commission such a service. As a first step, it may be useful to seek to identify one or two individuals to undertake a small project to establish the present extent of the problem and to forecast the potential scale of the problem in the near future.

The Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Partnership<sup>15</sup> has responsibility for reducing the number of hospital admissions and improving capacity within the community for people who have been in receipt of health and social care services to better manage their own conditions and there is a need for support those who care for them. The Partnership may be able to support such research and potentially a service development as a means of delivering these outcomes.

## INTERNET BROADBAND

The available speed of broadband internet reportedly varies widely across the area. Low download speeds, and lower upload speeds, were considered a barrier to small business and home working:

*“Internet in the village is good but needs expanding outwards”*

*“Internet should not be dropping out as much as it does. Pressure needs to be put on organisations to improve our Internet access”*

The Government and British Telecom have announced a Universal Service Obligation<sup>16</sup> which gives everyone in the UK the right to download speeds of at least 10 Mbps by 2020. A check with a range of commercial broadband providers has shown that download speeds of between 10 Mbps and 74 Mbps are offered in Broughton Village. This of course does not mean this is available to every dwelling in the area. There may be a case for an audit of broadband speeds by dwelling and a coordinated campaign, using the Universal Service Obligation, to ensure that

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<sup>14</sup> <https://www.goodmorningservice.co.uk/>

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20014/social\\_care\\_and\\_health/381/health\\_and\\_social\\_care\\_integration/1](https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20014/social_care_and_health/381/health_and_social_care_integration/1)

<sup>16</sup> <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/CBP-8146>

everyone who wants broadband has access to at least the minimum guaranteed by the obligation.

Some work is ongoing to improve the infrastructure for broadband in Broughton and district, and this may go some way to addressing these issues.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

This idea was motivated by a concern that older people in the village were at risk of exclusion by virtue of not being online, and that their quality of life was potentially limited by being unable to access the resources of the internet.

*“We don’t have a village shop any more. We’ve got older people who don’t drive. How do they get any groceries? If we could get them online and get them a simple supermarket account, then they could just order their weekly shopping. They could also keep in touch with each other and family more easily.”*

There were a few voices from older people in the village who rejected the idea of the desirability of being online.

*“I don’t have email. I don’t want it. What would I do with it? It’s just one more way for people to pester you.”*

Any action on this idea would have to clarify that it is in fact welcomed by older people in the village. There was support for the idea of classes or groups in the village hall or other public location to provide training for older people, possibly as part of the programme and resources provided through a club for older people. This would not however address issues of access to information technology for older people in their own homes.

There may be some benefit in a project which supplies older people with inexpensive internet enabled devices and a connection, along with training on their application and safe use. This could increase the safety and connectedness of older people, enhance their quality of life and enable them to live independently in their own homes for longer. A funding proposal for equipment and training may be relatively easily prepared on this basis.

### ACCESS TO MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS BY POST

This idea was motivated by concerns about older people’s access to health services, exacerbated by the limited availability of public transport to health providers in Peebles and Biggar. Prescription by post services are available from several high street community pharmacies for people registered to a GP in England, but this service is not available to people registered to a GP in Scotland.

*“I had never thought about this before but I can see the benefit of this if you have limited access to a vehicle it could be very difficult to collect medication.”*

There are many online pharmacy services which claim to be able to provide repeat prescriptions by post. Some of these may offer a simple solution to this issue.

## POST OFFICE SERVICES

Post office services used to be available in Broughton. Since the closure of the post office, a mobile post office van is supposed to visit Broughton for a short period on a Friday. This is considered an insufficient level of service and the limited availability of post office services is a significant source of dissatisfaction for Broughton residents.

Plans are underway for a potential community purchase of the village shop site and the creation of a “not for profit” community shop enterprise on the site. There was strong support for the inclusion of post office services as part of this.

*“A Post Office in my view is an essential service and as such should have a presence in any community. We are currently looking to reopen our shop so perhaps a limited POS could be built in with the business model.”*

*“Any type of post office service in Broughton would be welcome, especially a collection point for undelivered parcels.”*

Post office services in the UK are provided through a network of private businesses operating on a franchise model with the post office. The establishment of post office services within the context of the planned community shop enterprise is a matter for consideration in their business planning. The shop may take on the lead role in delivering this idea if it is considered viable.

## SUPPORT TO LOCAL ENTERPRISE

It was generally raised in abstract as a ‘good idea’ that there should be local enterprise and that this enterprise should be supported. In part this was motivated by an understanding that there are few local employment opportunities and hence a greater impetus for self-employed economic activity. There was little evidence however that there were local entrepreneurs seeking this kind of support, or of demand for service and resources that a local entrepreneur could use as a basis for business.

There was some evidence of an active crafting community in the village, but this appears to be largely hobbyist in nature and there was little evidence that the people involved had ambition to increase their business.

*“Should anyone want to take on these enterprises, they should be supported. Not sure how.”*

## OTHER IDEAS

A small number of other ideas were raised by one or two people. These have not been included in the main analysis due to the low levels of evidenced support for them, but they are listed here in the interests of completeness and to allow opportunities for further consultation to establish if there is greater support for them.

### FUEL PUMPS

Two participants supported the availability of fuel pump services in Broughton Village, citing that this had previously been available through a private sector source. An earlier investigation into the commercial viability of this idea concluded that replacement pumps were prohibitively expensive.

### BIRD WATCHING

One participant supported the establishment of Broughton Village as a centre for bird watching.

### SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Despite exhaustive efforts through local people and Peebles High School, the consultation for this community plan could not access any young people, and the survey attracted no responses from anyone under 16. Nevertheless, there were some suggestions from adults that there was a need for “something for young people.” National evidence suggests that traditional models of informal recreation opportunities for young people are no longer in demand by young people. The availability of opportunities to associate with peers in online settings have, to a great extent, meant that opportunities to associate with peers either in public spaces, or in organised youth provision are no longer required by young people.

Although Broughton Village has a higher than average proportion of younger people in comparison to the Scottish Borders as a whole, the actual numbers are still small. There is a risk that any provision which only attracted a fraction of young people in the village would have too few numbers to be sustainable.

The inadequate nature of public transport – and the lack of any at all on Sundays – hits young people particularly hard, as they may find it difficult to visit recreational facilities in nearby towns or in Edinburgh and cannot participate in some after-school activities because they cannot easily get home afterwards.

## THE PLAN PRIORITIES

This plan contains a relatively small number of ideas and actions. Nevertheless, availability of time from people in the community to lead on taking these ideas into action is perhaps smaller still. It may be noted that, despite broad support for a number of initiatives from all 86 respondents to the survey, only 17 people indicated that they were prepared to volunteer time to help make things happen.

There is therefore a need to set priorities on what can, and what should, be done by the small number of people presently available. Naturally, it is our fervent hope as a Community Council and as residents of Broughton Village that, through the publication of this plan and taking action on our priorities, more people come forward to lead and support actions, and more actions may be taken forward.

Any statement of priorities is, to some extent, subjective. We make no apology for that. These priorities are what we, as a Community Council, believe we can make happen. They are a mix of the achievable and the important: the quick wins and the things that will make the greatest difference. We welcome further contributions from anyone in Broughton Village who may have other priorities. We will also always welcome additional ideas from those who are prepared to put time into making them happen: we may be able to put such people in touch with helpers and funding sources.

## THINGS WE CAN DO

There are things that we, as a community, can do for ourselves. Some of them will require us to attract new funding. Some of them may require partnership with public sector organisations. Much will depend on the willingness of enough local people to join the Community Council and give up a little of their time to making things happen.

## OUR COMMUNITY

Broughton Village's community organisations are assets to be proud of, but as the research for this plan has proved, the sustainability of those organisations is fragile and threatened by the availability of people to run them. There are no simple solutions to this problem, but the fact that this is a challenging problem does not mean we should accept this or do nothing. We hope to take forward an information initiative to maximise awareness of our community organisations, the things they do, and the opportunities for people to participate in their governance and management.

We may also conduct further research into how other communities comparable to ours have met this challenge with a view to identifying solutions that may be applied in Broughton Village.

## OUR INFORMATION

We want to take forward an initiative to establish improved access to information about Broughton Village and the surrounding area. This will include a website which offers information on village activities for local people, and on the history, local walks and other assets for both local people and potential visitors.

It will also include a community noticeboard in a public location available to all local groups. We will seek funding for the set up and ongoing costs of this from windfarm funds.

In the consultation for this plan, the re-establishment of the village shop was consistently raised as a major source of information, both formal and informal. As part of this priority, we will continue to support the Broughton Village Shop Development group in their plans to establish a community shop.

## OUR OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

We would like to take forward an initiative to improve awareness of, enjoyment of and access to our outdoor environment. This will include signage to local walks, riding trails and other assets. It will include leaflets and online resources providing information on them. It may also include the installation of an outdoor gym, and barbecue equipment – which would increase the opportunities for local people to meet and interact with each other. We will seek funding for the capital costs of this from windfarm funds.

## OUR OLDER PEOPLE

We need to take forward an initiative to ensure that our older people are supported and are able to enjoy their lives to the full. This could include an audit to identify them and their locations, the creation of a formal volunteering programme to ensure that someone checks on the wellbeing of older people at an appropriate frequency, and exploration of support for a club to allow older people to meet. We will support initiatives which could help older people to access the resources of the internet, including online shopping. We will explore the options for easing access to prescriptions, including postal delivery to home addresses, delivery to a central secure location and/or volunteer collection.

Funding and professional support for this will be sought from windfarm funds and the Scottish Borders Health & Social Care Partnership.

## THINGS WE NEED OTHERS TO DO

The plan also identified a number of actions are important to our community but that are beyond the power of our community to implement. We can however seek greater clarity on how decisions are made and lobby for change.

### IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Almost 100% of those consulted for this plan felt that there is a need for improvements to public transport. This exercise has helped to clarify the nature of the improvements that are supported. Clarity on what we want is a major step forward in any lobbying activity. We have formally written to Scottish Borders Council, drawing attention to this evidence and requesting they make suitable budgetary provision and enter into dialogue on implementing improvements.

### FLOOD PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

We will continue to work with Scottish Borders Council on the development and implementation of flood prevention and management actions. We will monitor and record the locations and frequency of flooding, and report this to Scottish Borders Council and others as appropriate. The Tweed Flood Risk Management Plan states that asset owners and riparian landowners are responsible for the maintenance and management of their own assets including those which help to reduce flood risk.

### REDUCED VEHICLE SPEEDING

There are conflicting views on the extent to which this is a problem, and a variety of views among those who think it is a problem on what should be done to address it. We will support any initiative from the community or from the relevant statutory authorities to monitor, manage and reduce vehicle speeding. Where there is firm evidence of particular locations or times of problem speeding, we will notify the relevant authorities of this. Where there is anecdotal evidence, we will support any actions which may generate further evidence.

### SUPPORT TO LOCAL ENTERPRISE

There were mixed views on the need and demand for this. Support for local enterprise is provided by Scottish Borders Business Gateway and Scottish Borders Council Economic Development Services. We have no evidence that local entrepreneurs have experienced specific challenges in accessing this support. We therefore propose to do nothing unless further evidence arises.

## IMPROVED INTERNET BROADBAND

There are ongoing actions to improve broadband accesses. We will support any local people experiencing challenges in obtaining adequate broadband access who want to work with the relevant authorities to resolve the problem.

## THE NEXT STEPS

We have set out above some priorities for community action. Nothing will happen, however, unless enough local people put some time into achieving them. In some cases, individuals may be able to bring about change by working on their own or through particular interest groups to which they belong. For most of the identified priority areas, however, leadership could usefully be provided through the Community Council, but this will only happen if enough local people are willing to join the Council and take an active part in pushing initiatives forward. Of course, some local people may not want to join the Council but would be willing to help on particular projects, and they should make this known to any Council member. By working together, we could prevent further erosion of the sense of community and make our area an even better place in which to live.

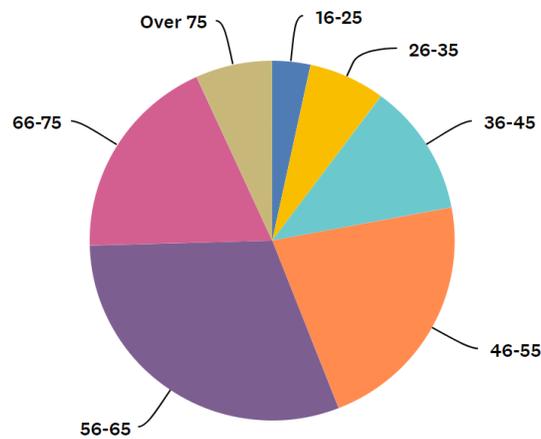
## APPENDIX I – SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Survey respondents were almost evenly split by gender with 47% of respondents being male, 48% female and 5% who preferred not to say.

The survey achieved responses from a good spread of ages. Just over quarter of responses came from people over 65, reflecting the high number of retired people in the area. Around three quarters came from people of working age, suggesting that there is some interest in the area from this section of the population who are often regarded as hard to involve.

### I am aged...

Answered: 59 Skipped: 20



Unsurprisingly, the majority of respondents live in Broughton village or elsewhere in Upper Tweeddale. A small number of responses came from elsewhere in Scotland and the world, reflecting the continued interest in the village from people who have lived or visited there, but now live elsewhere.

### I live in...

Answered: 58 Skipped: 21

