



THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

REPORT OF MEETINGS

Borderlands Place Programme Board

25th February 2022

THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY SUMMARY

Working together to put our sector first
Dumfries and Galloway's Third Sector Interface

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A PERSONAL RECORD BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF TSDG, NORMA AUSTIN HART. IT IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS. IT IS NOT A FORMAL MINUTE OF THE MEETING.

Key points

1. The board heard a presentation from Alison Hatcher of Cumbria Council about the strategic approach to place planning in Cumbria and the role of this board in advising the Borderlands board with its decision making.
2. This was followed by presentations on the five place plans which are in development for Dalton, Egremont, Penrith, Ulverston, and Wigton.
3. Dalton is one of the smallest towns to be supported by the place planning. It has an ancient heritage which is reflected in the place plan. It has a high level of community engagement with the most feedback of the five towns.
4. Egremont is a bigger town and faces some anti-social behaviour but also has some assets which though run down are unique. The town team were very involved in the development of the teams with themes which came out of the consultation; vibrant events in the town, develop the heritage, wayfinding and green routes, improved health and wellbeing based on a strong rugby heritage, safe and secure town.
5. Penrith is well connected by transport and already has two business districts. It has a castle and Georgian town centre. It does not necessarily have much to offer those who do visit. There are opportunities for it to become a more significant destination. Empty buildings need to be reused; making it easier to navigate, culturally sensitive, maybe with a national park centre.
6. Ulverston has an emphasis of cultural activities with its own theatre. Culture should be seen as a sector in its own right. It has a high-tech community too which could be developed. The flooding is a challenge. Ulverston has a station which could be exploited as part of its development of the cultural activity.
7. Wigton is in Allerdale and is a well-connected market town by road and rail. There are many green spaces in the town and some major employers. There is also a culture and industrial heritage base. The place plan seeks to provide opportunities that capture the creativity in the town.
8. For the whole Place Programme there are two cross cutting themes, low carbon and inclusive growth.
9. From the five Cumbrian place plans there are three concept themes: heritage and culture; town centre vibrancy; active lifestyles.
10. The town teams which were set up included elected members of the relevant councils. They also included young people's representatives. Ideal size is 10-12, they can become too big. Involvement of MPs has been useful especially in Ulverston and Dalton. The town teams include business and civic society reps.

11. The appointment of the community representatives to the town teams was varied and was decided by the town team itself. Dalton has a community partnership and the chair was appointed. In Egremont an Expressions of Interest were invited. In Wigton (no list in the document) through an invite and in Ulverston there was a community partnership and the chair was invited. In Penrith an invitation was extended to the CVS.
12. English Heritage expressed concern about the extent of progress without taking into consideration the implications of heritage.
13. Each town plan will require more engagement and consultation for the delivery.
14. There was extensive discussion mainly by Cumbrian colleagues, about the deliverability and funding sources for the plans, which was inconclusive.
15. Next meeting is on 22 April.

