

FURTHER INFORMATION

We can't achieve the vision alone and therefore need more people to become involved in helping to deliver this vision. For more information on what we are doing:

Find us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/pages/Abbey-St-Bathans-Bonkyl-and-Preston-Community-Council

or look on our website
<http://abpcc.org>



WHO WE ARE

The community council is an elected body which represents and celebrates the communities of Abbey St. Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston.



Preston and is made up of unpaid volunteers who live in the local area. Our role is to ascertain the views of our community in terms of local issues, needs and wishes and to convey those views to Scottish Borders Council and other public bodies. We are also responsible for distributing community benefit funds from the local windfarms.

WHAT WE DID

We decided that we needed to ask the people of Abbey St. Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston how the windfarm money should be spent.



A community plan was commissioned and we tried to speak to as many people as possible. Nearly 150 people enjoyed 2 open events, 143 people completed the survey which was followed up by one to one discussions and a focus group.

WHAT YOU SAID

85% of people in the area said that Abbey St. Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston is a great place to live; a third gave it a perfect 10 out of 10. The things you value most are the scenery and environment, the sense of community and that it is a great place to bring up children.

You told us that the challenges of living in the area are lack of connectivity, lack of a village shop, poor infrastructure maintenance, poor public transport, a lack of information about what is going on and too few events to get the community together.

People enjoy the green areas but are frustrated by poor maintenance of footpaths and roadside verges.

WHAT THIS LED TO



As a result of this information we have drafted a long term vision for the community of Abbey St. Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston. To enable us to deliver some of the projects identified we will establish the Preston & Abbey Community Trust (PACT) which will have charitable status.

Turn over to have a look.

ABBEY ST. BATHANS, BONKYL & PRESTON

community
**ACTION
PLAN**

Project 1:
Development
Trust

- Set up governance structure and recruit Board members
- Keep people up to date through the website and newsletter
- Secure funding to employ a Development Worker
- Recruit local people to assist Trust Board
- Secure external funding for projects
- Continue to consult with community on Trust activities and future developments

Project 2:
Community Facilities
for All Ages

- Draw up plans for new community hall in Abbey St. Bathans in consultation with the local community
- Develop project for Preston playpark
- Secure funding for new hall from windfarms and external funders
- Build new community hall in Abbey St. Bathans
- Build new playpark in Preston

Project 3:
Improve Connectivity

- Recruit volunteers to lead project
- Survey of broadband quality by location to identify problem areas
- Community Broadband and Digital Scotland projects with neighbouring communities

Project 4:
Improve Local
Infrastructure

- Investigate options for improving water supply in Abbey St Bathans
- Talk to Scottish Borders Council about maintenance of paths and cycleways
- Seek funding for improvements to water supply
- Consider further dev of paths and cycleways and encourage more people to use them
- Organise a programme of events using paths and outdoor space

Project 5:
Community Activities

- Recruit volunteers to organise regular events programmes in Abbey St Bathans and Preston
- Form steering group(s) to look at setting up community shop/pub and investigate similar projects elsewhere
- Consult community to assess interest and potential viability
- Trial pub in hall on pop-up basis
- Develop business plan
- Organise joint events to foster social interaction between Abbey St. Bathans and Preston

Project 6:
Encourage Local Use
of the Windfarm Funds

- Circulate application criteria to local community
- Use newsletter and website to encourage applications
- Review Terms
- Increase fund

SHORT TERM

MEDIUM TERM

LONG TERM