

## **Community Briefing - Community Conversations 2023**

In 2022 a series of community events, '*Community Conversations*', took place in different wards in the Scottish Borders. Community Conversations will return this year starting in August running through September.

Similar to 2022, the sessions will be held in towns across the region. Members of the community will again be given the opportunity to meet and talk to their local Councillors and senior officers of the Council to discuss what matters to them in their local communities.

The first event takes place in Galashiels on Tuesday 22 August in Galashiels Academy.

We would very much like to see members of your local community at the events and ask for your support in spreading the news about the sessions so they have the opportunity to attend and share their thoughts.

Two additional elements to this year's Community Conversations include:

- holding a specific session with a selected group of school-aged members of the community inviting them to share their views on education, leisure, transport or any other topic they would like to bring to the attention of their local Councillors or Council. These are closed sessions and will take place during the school day in the school premises.
- Live Borders will be represented at the series of events, supporting the ongoing stakeholder sessions, seeking the views of communities to help shape the future of the public sport, leisure and cultural services and facilities in their area.

The evening sessions will take place between 4 and 7pm, as these sessions are taking place in local secondary schools, we would very much encourage young people and families to come along.

Community Conversations are not formal presentations or Q&A sessions, they are planned to facilitate and encourage 1 to 1 or small group conversations in a relaxed setting, café-style set-up. People are encouraged to drop-in anytime during the three hour evening slot. Please see dates, venues and time of the events below, updates will be shared on SBC Facebook and Twitter:

- Tuesday 22 August - Galashiels Academy - 4-7 pm Please note, no parking will be available on school grounds
- Tuesday 29 August - Peebles High School - 4-7 pm
- Wednesday 30 August - Selkirk High School - 4-7 pm
- Thursday 31 August - Earlston High School - 4-7 pm
- Tuesday 5 September - Eyemouth High School - 4-7 pm
- Wednesday 6 September - Berwickshire High School - 4-7 pm

- Wednesday 13 September - Kelso High School - 4-7 pm
- Thursday 14 September - Jedburgh High School - 4-7 pm
- Wednesday 20 September - Hawick High School - 4-7 pm

This information is also available on Scottish Borders Website at <https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/communityconversations>

Please do share information and dates of the relevant Community Conversation events with members of your community, giving as many people as possible them the opportunity to attend.

Regards, Jenni Craig, Resilient Communities