

Borgue

Local Place Plan Registration

SUBMISSION STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

Borgue is a rural settlement in the Stewartry area of Dumfries & Galloway. It has a population of approximately 350 people most of whom are spread around the area, with a small cluster in Borgue village. The Boundary of the Place Plan is that of the Community Council.

The Plan period is 2025 – 35.

The Borgue Place Plan Committee, in consultation with the Borgue residents created this Place Plan to reflect the aspirations of the community in preserving and, hopefully, improving upon the lives and environment of those living in the area. This plan is being submitted by the Borgue Community Council.

This Plan was supported by funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and drew heavily on expertise from Sleeping Giants, GCAT, SOSHA and D&G Place Plan Officers.

AIM

This Statement aims to support of our Expression of Interest to register the Borgue Local Place Plan with Dumfries & Galloway Council.

The Place Plan and this Statement have been prepared in accordance with:

- Government legislation: Town & Country Planning (Local Place Plans) (Scotland) Regulations 2021
- Scottish Government's Planning Circular 1/2022: Local Place Plans LPP
- Dumfries & Galloway Council's LPP Overview of Requirements

To meet statutory requirements for Local Place Planning, this Statement confirms the following:

Governance

This submission is made by the Borgue Community Council, on behalf of the residents of Borgue Community Council area.

Strategic Context

Borgue's LPP was developed having considered The National Planning Framework 4 (2023), The Dumfries & Galloway Local Development Plan (2019) and The Locality Plan.

The documents and publications below were also taken into consideration during development of our LPP. These cover the national, regional and local landscapes.

A connected Scotland, Priority 1
A culture strategy for Scotland
A Just Transition Statement for Dumfries & Galloway 2025
Addressing Depopulation Action Plan
Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019
Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
Community Wealth Building (impending Scottish legislation)
Connected nations 2024
D&G Active Travel Strategy -
D&G Council Plan 2023 - 2028
D&G IJB Health and Social Care Plan 2022 – 2025
D&G Local Development Plan 2
D&G Local Housing Strategy
D&G Local Outcome Improvement plan 2023-33
Dumfries & Galloway Local Biodiversity Action Plan
Dumfries & Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plan 23 – 33
Dumfries & Galloway Woodland and Forestry Strategy
GSA Biosphere
James Hutton Institute Land Use Transformations
National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4, 2023)
National Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Network
NatureScot – National Landscape Character Assessment
NPF 4 policies 13, 16, 23 & 25
NPF4 Policy 13, Sustainable Transport
Ofcom: Connected Nations
Our past, our Future – Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland
Regional Transport Strategy – Swestrans /Dumfries and Galloway Council
Right Care: Right Place. DGHSC 2023
Scotland's Census data for 2022
Scotland's Landscape Charter 2010
Scotland's Social Enterprise Strategy 2016 – 2026
Scottish 4G Infill Programme
Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045 & Delivery Plan
Scottish Government Emission Targets
Scottish Government Rural Delivery Plan (in progress)
Scottish Government: Housing to 2040
Scottish Government: Local Living and 20-minute neighbourhoods
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
Scottish Land Commission – Transforming vacant and derelict land
Scottish National Strategy for Economic Transformation
Second Homes in Scotland – Spice 2022
SEPA Bathing Waters
Solway Firth Partnership
South of Scotland Cycling Strategy
Southern Upland Partnership Position Statement on Forestry in South Scotland
Swestrans regional strategy 2023 -42
The Local Governance Review (also known as Democracy Matters)
The Wellbeing Economy
Transport Scotland: Active Travel Framework
Visit Scotland
Youthwork D&G; 10,000 voices

Community Engagement

This plan was developed with the aim of recording the aspirations expressed by the community. Residents were offered multiple opportunities to contribute their views into the Local Place Plan. Local business owners, absentee landowners and stakeholders were also invited to contribute by completing questionnaires, online feedback and by attending consultation events. The results all helped to build a picture of residents' perceptions of what is working well, what could be improved, challenges and opportunities.

Consultation timetable

A key element of producing and refining a Plan that reflects the majority of local opinions and aspirations was the consultation process.

Date	Event	Group consulted
14th Nov 23	Community Council Meeting	Whole Community
21 March 24	Open invitation to a meeting to form Place Plan Committee	Whole Community
2nd June 2024	Invitation to consultation distributed to every house in the area	Whole Community
15th June 2024	First Consultation event in village hall	Whole Community
1st Aug 2024	Business / absentee landowner questionnaire	67 Local Businesses and 15 absentee landowners
31st Aug 2024	Young People's event / questionnaire	Young people were encouraged to answer an online questionnaire or attend a discussion meeting, divided into appropriate age groups, facilitated by the GSAB
26th Aug 2024	Groups questionnaire	Local volunteer and community groups
12th Oct 2024	Invitation to 2nd consultation distributed to every house in the area	Whole Community
26th Oct 2024	Second consultation event in village hall	Whole community
1st – 31st Mar 2025	Consultation on Draft Plan – online and hard copies available at village hall and local events	Whole Community Local Councillors D&G Place Plan Officers

Throughout this 18-month process there have been updates, reports and discussions at all Borgue Community Council meetings, updates on the website where all feedback and documentation has been published, and the initial draft plan was also shared internally within Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Public Consultation

In compliance with legislative requirements, we held a formal consultation period from 1st – 31st March 2025.

A copy of the Local Place Plan was sent to local councillors and neighbouring communities, as follows:

- Councillor Dougie Campbell
- Councillor John Denerley

- Councillor Andy McFarlane
- Gatehouse Community Council
- [Please note: Twynholm does not have a Community Council at present]
- The plan was also available to be downloaded or viewed online (<https://www.borgue.org/placeplan/>) with printed copies available in the village hall, or from members of the Place Plan Association

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Using feedback from all the consultations as shown above, action plans on the issues / themes raised by the community were developed. These were:

- The Natural Environment
- Transport and Active Travel
- Facilities & Services
- Housing
- The Economy, Enterprise & Employment
- The topic of Stronger Community was added to these core issues as a result of the consultations.

IMPACT ON THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

At present, Borgue does not feature in Dumfries and Galloway's Local Plan, and we hope this submission will ensure that the concerns and aspirations of its residents will be reflected in the next Local Development Plan.

The community hopes that the process of producing a Plan, and the actual final Plan itself, will help:

- To guide planning policy and decision-making, public services and investment by Dumfries & Galloway Council, Community Planning Partners, the Scottish Government and other public agencies.
- To provide the Borgue Community Council with a point of reference to respond to planning applications.
- To encourage further collation of community opinion and facilitate community action and resourcing.
- To support funding bids for initiatives referred to in the plan, whether they are led by the local community or public bodies.

CONCLUSION

The Borgue Place Plan Committee was very encouraged by the response of Borgue residents to the consultation processes, both at formal sessions and in informal conversation, and hopes that the production of this Plan will energise groups and individuals to work towards making many of the positive ideas happen – both in the preservation of what Borgue residents are proud of at the moment and in the development of ideas and projects to enhance our current position.

Not all responses were in total agreement on some issues but the engagement with the consultation process is a powerful demonstration of the passion Borgue residents have about what they have and what they hope for in the future.

Many of the issues raised in the Action Plan do not, yet, have a clear route to converting aspiration into action, but the aim of the Borgue Place Plan committee was to act as a catalyst in collecting and collating aspirations and giving Public bodies, Community groups and individuals a platform from which to work towards the future.