
Re: Next Steps

From Leitholm Eccles Birgham <leitholmecclesbirghamcc@gmail.com>

Date Sat 06/06/2026 10:59

To Fiona Nugent <fiona@nugenthilliard.com>

Thanks Fiona,

I am speaking with support groups regularly and they understand the strength of it being CCs who are in the forefront due to democratic position. They are right alongside all the way.

Some CCs would like to see a meeting with all involved, with then a few of us representing in ongoing dialogue. This said, it is taking some time for CCs to get back to us due to a lag in meeting dates. My intention, in an effort to keep the momentum going, is to request a meeting with the Chief Exec, Chief Planning Officer and Cllr Watson McAteer (who has been supportive throughout) which a few of us would attend. From this we would ask for a full meeting with planning and elected members towards the end of the the summer.

Bob

On Thu, 4 Jun 2026 at 15:13, Fiona Nugent <fiona@nugenthilliard.com> wrote:

Bob

Firstly, apologies for the late response.

I checked with Newcastleton CC members, the consensus was as follows.

2.a For a few to attend a meeting with SBC rather than reps from all CC's

2.b we agree that we should be consulted and not just as part of the planning process.

As for inclusion with other groups. I would say go for it! The Lauderdale preservation group, action against pylons and the folks across the border, no to the CBC. We should present a completely unified front to this industrialisation. We should be leading on the US of course. Asking for agreement from these groups adds weight to our cause.

We like the idea of the photography but, as I said at the first convention, it's not about scenery, it's about the homes we live in and our businesses that are in peril from this. AAP did something similar and I have the pictures if you would like them

Regards

Fiona Nugent

Secretary

Newcastleton and District Community Council

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From: Leitholm Eccles Birgham <leitholmecclesbirghamcc@gmail.com>

Sent: 25 May 2026 10:22

Subject: Next Steps

This email is being sent to community councils who have agreed or may be interested in agreeing the Unified Statement in the Scottish Borders Council area.

1. I am aware that several community councils have agreed the Unified Statement at their CC meeting, but were unable to attend one of our conventions to sign the the agreement. For these CCs please find attached a signing form which can be signed, scanned and returned to me.
2. One of our next steps is to seek a meeting with key people within SBC to begin a process of discussions on their approach to planning applications for energy infrastructure.

Please let me know your thoughts on how we should best go about this:

a) should we seek a meeting to be attended by the over 20 CCs who have now agreed the US, or should we select a few key people to attend on behalf of all? For me, both have merits - the former will show real impact, the latter might just prove more constructive?

b) what should we hope to achieve, given that SBC planning is usually a consultee as opposed to decision maker? My own thoughts are that the opinions of our communities as expressed by the community council should be part of the decision making process by the Planning Committee when deciding whether to support or oppose an application.

c) while the process is CC led, how should we include the campaign groups who have supported the process this far?

3. Photography Project: We would like to pull together a library of photos highlighting the impact of developments on our communities - this library should reflect all of rural Scotland. Can I ask that we be the guinea pigs to try out the process before I extend to other local authorities? Document attached outlining how to send these in.

Bob Hope

Chair,

