

# BAVS MEMBERS ENGAGEMENT

## SUMMARY REPORT



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## ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT

Over the past 3 months, BAVS held 6 engagement sessions: 2 one to one conversations, 3 focus groups and 3 larger group conversations in communities, reaching an audience of 88 people. In these sessions, we shared information about the impact of the changes in community development and Bavs new plans for the future.



## INFORMATION SHARING AND FEEDBACK

We wanted to ensure that our members were fully informed on the changes in relation to the creation of the new Borders Third Sector Interface and the re-design of BAVS as a result. Most of all, we wanted to ensure our members had information about the the continuation of BAVS services through the new entity and, that their feedback was considered in the BAVS re-design plan.



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## THE CHANGES

**A new entity serving the needs of the third sector across the Scottish Borders: The Borders Third Sector Interface (Borders Community Action) - Fully operation from April 2023**

### What does it mean for Bavs members?

- Greater share of TSI grant spent on service delivery, rather than management and facilities
- Greater access to expert specialists for Berwickshire charities
- A new trusted entity is needed to be able to administer grants
- A coordinated and consistent support for the third sector across the Scottish Borders
- Greater influence in local and national policy
- A one stop shop to all third sector needs in the Borders



## WHAT ABOUT BAVS?

Community Development functions passed on to the new Borders TSI

BAVS initial focus on Shops – waste reduction

Community Transport - Berwickshire Wheels integrate to become one community transport for the Borders



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# THREE YEAR STRATEGY PLAN

## 2023 Short-term Plan

Period of adjustment

- Zero waste – shops development
- Community Transport Merge
- About Berwickshire evaluation



## 2023-2024 Medium-term Plan



- Zero waste – Reduce, reuse, recycle projects
- Borders Community Transport Service established
- Income generated from Shops returned as community benefits:  
About Berwickshire continuation  
BAVS Microgrants scheme

## 2024-2025 Long-term Plan

- Shops established as zero waste hubs
- Skills development:  
Retail/ customer service employability or further education pathways
- Building capacity:  
Seedcorn fund  
Project/ ideas incubator
- Mental health & Wellbeing:  
•Supporting people to connect with others in their communities



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## MEMBERS FEEDBACK

*The main concern raised in all engagement sessions was with regards to Berwickshire representation and the risk of a new Borders entity being centrally focused.*

*The following questions were asked to guide the conversations:*

### **Should BAVS continue as a Berwickshire organisation only? If yes, why?**

*The vast majority of responses agreed that BAVS should have a Berwickshire focus. The reason provided varied from: name, presence and being 'the main point of contact' for all organisations in Berwickshire.*

*Involve partners in zero waste plans (Berwickshire Swap, Sea the Change, Retweed, Abundant Borders etc). Continue the Berwickshire Alliance.*

### **What practical help is needed in Berwickshire/Borders to support people and communities?**

*Support pilot ideas, funding, employability, network and partnership encouragement. One voice, reduce competition, information database, coordinated/ strategic approach.*

### **What are the main barriers faced by people using services/activities delivered by your group/ organisation?**

*Transport is still a massive issue, a lot of people also need 1-1 ongoing support to attend activities. Lack of ongoing support for people struggling with mental and physical health - practical peer support.*

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## OPEN DISCUSSION

In open discussions, a variety of points were raised, there was a lot of duplication across all sessions. The main points have been collated as below:



# 08 SWOT ANALYSIS

THERE ARE CLEAR OPPORTUNITIES BUT ALSO THREATS AS BAVS DEVELOP ITS NEW STRATEGY. THE SWOT ANALYSIS BELOW REFLECTS THESE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH WERE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED AS PART OF THE ENGAGEMENT CONVERSATIONS.

## Strengths

- Branding
- Income Generation
- Reserves
- Track record - funding
- Track record - reliability
- Board, Staff and Volunteers
- Credibility

## Opportunities

- Independence
- Innovation/modernisation
- Pilot new concepts and ideas
- Identify clear gaps in the market
- New projects + funding streams

- Staff reduction
- Limited capacity to deliver services
- Change in personnel
- Geographical limitation

## Weaknesses

- Loss of funding
- Cost reduction/ key financial decisions
- Mission adrift
- Duplication of efforts
- Competition

## Threats