



# Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

## Minute of the 225th Monthly Meeting of the Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District held in the Old Council Chamber, Chambers Institution, Peebles on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

Present: F. Dalglish, M. Durkin, L. Hayworth, G. Mackie, A. MacKenzie, L. Morrison (Acting Chairman), J. Shearer, E. Smith and A. Snoddy

In attendance: SBC Councillors W. Archibald, S. Bell and G. Garvie, L. Crichton (Minute Secretary), S. Renwick and S. Mushet/Scottish Borders Council

Community Councillor L. Morrison opened the meeting as Acting Chairman in the absence of both Chairman and Vice-Chairman and welcomed everyone. She asked the Community Councillors to introduce themselves to the members of the public in attendance.

### 1. Open Forum:

**3G Pitch:** More than 50 residents attended the meeting to voice their concerns over building a new 3G pitch at Victoria Park which Scottish Borders Council's Executive Committee had approved at the end of September as the preferred location after both the Gytes and Craigerne Lane had been ruled out for various reasons. A petition against the proposal has since been signed by over 700 residents.

S. Renwick from SBC explained that a 3G pitch is a synthetic pitch which enables playing rugby and football all year round; a 2G pitch, which is located at the High School, is more suitable for hockey. Scottish Borders Council has a programme of putting in synthetic pitches across the Borders.

Overall the residents were not against a 3G pitch but Victoria Park was not considered as the correct location for it. The main concerns the residents had were:

- The whole community was not involved in the consultation process held by SBC and most residents living around Victoria Park never received an invitation to that consultation despite being told the contrary by SBC.
- The pitch should benefit the whole community and not be closed to other users than rugby and football clubs.
- Victoria Park is common good land and a conservation area. It is classified as protected from inappropriate development and building a 3G pitch there contradicts SBC's own guidelines. It is also the only green space on the South side of Peebles.
- Trees would have to be cut down to build the pitch.
- Victoria Park residents have exactly the same objections as Craigerne Lane residents, i.e. floodlights, fencing, noise etc.
- Pensioners living in a complex next to Victoria Park would be extremely disturbed by the pitch.
- Is it necessary to build a 3G pitch at all as Peebles already has many sports facilities?
- How much work and money has truly been put into investigating other locations such as Hay Lodge Park and the Gytes?
- The Gytes rugby & football pitches are in serious need of upgrading; is it really impossible to locate the 3G pitch there and thus solve these problems?
- Can not an existing 2G pitch be upgraded into a 3G pitch?
- If a new high school was to be built in Peebles could not the pitch be included in these plans?

S. Renwick/SBC commented that although designing a pitch along with new school plans was very appropriate, SBC's 10 year capital plan did not identify such a development and that in the absence of that it was important to try and provide a facility for this need. Cllr Archibald commented that the Common Good Working Group had never been asked about the process.

Cllr Bell pointed out that although it was clear the consultation process had been inadequate it was important to make sure that the opposition to having the pitch e.g. at Victoria Park did not end up ruling out getting one in Peebles altogether. Representatives from the High School and sports clubs have requested a 3G pitch and it is important to take into account also their concerns and needs.

The Acting Chairman, L. Morrison, concluded that there needed to be more transparency around the process in order to properly consult with the people of Peebles. She proposed arranging a public meeting on the subject at the end of October. This would be discussed later on in the meeting in Matters Arising (item 4).

**Dog Fouling:** A resident wished to make sure that this matter was on the agenda. L. Morrison confirmed it would be discussed later on in the meeting.

2. **Apologies:** C. Carleton, J. Crawley, S. Haslam, A. McKelvey, K. Rand, R. Tatler, SBC Cllrs C. Bhatia, K. Cockburn and G. Logan, PC D. Sorrell
3. **Minute of Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015:** The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by F. Dalgleish and seconded by L. Hayworth. The minutes were approved and signed by the Acting Chairman, L. Morrison.
4. **Matters Arising:**

- **Scottish Borders Climate Resilient Communities:** The next public forum will be held on 2 December, 2015 at 3.45 pm at the MacFarlane Hall. It was noted that this event will be widely publicised to inform as many interested people as possible.
- **Public Meeting re Proposed Development at Rosetta Holiday Park:** The public meeting on 15 September had been well attended by over 120 members of the public and a summary of the meeting by A. Snoddy had been circulated. L. Hayworth noted that since the meeting the developer has been looking into taking forward the tourism element of the proposal in a separate full planning application which is encouraging. The officers have also indicated that weight would be given to the Community Council and individuals' demands not to waiver the affordable housing issue and this was considered very important. It was agreed that L. Hayworth would draft a commission to the council on this matter.

**ACTION: L. Hayworth**

- **Peebles High School:** The Community Council had received an invitation from the High School Senior School Council to tour the school but unfortunately the timing did not work. S. Eggleton, representing the High School Senior Council, suggested this take place on a Thursday afternoon after the October break. It was agreed to discuss the matter in private after the meeting to agree on a suitable date.
- **Dog Fouling:** A. Snoddy reported she had sent Sharon Montgomery material on the Green Dog Walkers Initiative and would take the matter forward with her.

**ACTION: A. Snoddy**

- **3G Pitch:** L. Morrison proposed arranging a public meeting on 22 October, 2015 at the Burgh Hall (providing the venue is available). A sub-group consisting of F. Dalgleish, A. MacKenzie, L. Morrison, A. Snoddy and R. Tatler was formed to take care of all practical matters including the important matter of publicity. F. Dalgleish declared a conflict of interest in the matter as she is heading the campaign against having the 3G pitch at Victoria Park but said she was happy to take care of the publicity and to make sure all clubs and other interested parties would learn about the meeting. This was noted. L. Morrison extended an invitation to all Tweeddale Councillors to attend also.

5. **Police Report:** Circulated. In the absence of PC D. Sorrell A. Snoddy went briefly through the Police Report. 20 parking tickets had been issued. There were three house breaking incidents including one where bikes were stolen. A. Snoddy reported that she had emailed PC D. Sorrell to say a resident had been in touch with the Community Council about the number of bicycle thefts in the area recently. The resident wanted to know if there were any existing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Peebles, and also how to set one up.

**ACTION: A. Snoddy**

6. **Chairman's report:** In the absence of the Chairman L. Morrison read through R. Tatler's report in which he highlighted the importance of the Public Meeting on the Rosetta Holiday Park development commenting also that Public Meetings will be organised in the future where similar issues arise. He praised the efforts and hard work of the volunteers at Bonnie Peebles and congratulated them on their recent success in the Scottish Borders Council's Floral Gateway Awards winning the Towns section. R. Tatler also noted that there will be an official unveiling of the Peebles Mural, painted by local artist Michael Jessing in Pennels Close, in November.

7. **SBC Councillors:**

- **Cllr Archibald** has received and replied to a lot of correspondence from residents on the Victoria Park 3G pitch proposal.

Cllr Archibald noted also with delight the opening of the Borders Railway.

**Cllr Bell** noted the approved formation of the Integrated Culture and Sport Trust with Borders Sport and Leisure Trust, welcoming it as a good decision which still had a number of challenges ahead in how to deal with the extended portfolio.

Cllr Bell reported that £160,000 will be invested right across the Borders over the next 2 years as a consequence of the new Borders Railway.

Cllr Bell spoke about the Youth Employment Scotland Initiative in the Borders which encourages local businesses and third sector organisations to create new jobs for young unemployed people. The programme has been successful creating job opportunities for young people across a wide spectrum with six month placements, hoping to result in full time employment. Further funding has been secured to continue the project.

Cllr Bell also noted the Winter Service Plan for secondary salting for rural routes. He mentioned that some pavements should be given more attention to make sure that they also get salted during the winter months.

Cllr Bell noted a question which was raised at the Council meeting in August on how vehicle speeds are controlled in residential areas and that he had proposed to have the issue readdressed.

**Cllr Garvie** talked about the South of Scotland Alliance which is a partnership between Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council and Scottish Enterprise. The alliance seeks to raise the profile of the South of Scotland and the issues faced by our economy.

Cllr Garvie commented on a letter he had received from the High School students asking to get Wi-Fi installed at the school for students' use. He had agreed to take the matter forward with the council officers to make this happen.

Cllr Garvie also noted with enthusiasm the formation of an Integrated Culture and Sport Trust with Borders Sport and Leisure Trust. The date for the Trust to become effective is 1 April, 2016. He pointed out that the Chambers Institution Trust as well as other private trusts would remain separate from this integration.

The Acting Chairman, L. Morrison commented that the residents have appreciated the replies from local councillors to their concerns.

8. **Reports for approval:**

- **Treasurer's report:** Circulated. The Treasurer, G. Mackie noted from the report a slight downfall of approx. £200 in relation to the Peebles Mural finances which has been run as a

separate committee under the Community Council. The Community Council may have to take care of this downfall but this will be determined once the incoming donations have all been received.

- **Bonnie Peebles:** Minutes of the Bonnie Peebles meeting on 23 September, 2015 had been circulated. The Community Councillors congratulated them on their success in winning the town category at the Scottish Borders Council's Floral Gateway Awards.

9. **Planning Report:** A draft report had been circulated. The responses to planning applications had been put on the Community Council website. There being no adverse comments the recommendations as posted were approved.

- **SESPlan:** L. Morrison had submitted the Community Council's response.
- **Local Access and Transport Strategy:** L. Hayworth requested comments to the circulated draft response by 24 October.

**ACTION: L. Hayworth/All**

- **Glentress Master Plan SPG:** Neil Dalgleish representing Tweed Valley Trail Association has kindly promised to send the Community Council their response to the consultation once ready.
- **Veitch's Corner:** Peebles Civic Society has put in their formal response to the application. L. Hayworth pointed out Costa Coffee's plans include a large illuminated sign inside the window.
- **Neidpath Corner:** The works around Neidpath corner, which caused the A72 to be closed to traffic for 7 days, have now been completed with other, finalising work still going on. Scottish Borders Council Roads Department has thanked the community for their understanding and patience around the works and traffic interruptions.
- **Salting of Minor Roads:** This is a broader issue but it was noted that our area is fortunate in having a large number of primary routes which are salted.

10. **Any Other Business:**

- **Report from Community Cllr E. Smith:** Nothing to report.
- **Community Councillor Achievements and Successes:** Cllr Garvie congratulated the Acting Chairman L. Morrison on successfully chairing the meeting.
- **Recognition of Scott Brash's Success:** Bonnie Peebles is planning a sculpture in honour of the successful show jumper, Scott Brash..
- **Chambers Institution:** L. Hayworth encouraged everyone to give feedback on the Chambers Institution consultation as it is a great asset to the community. He added that the Community Council would like to be consulted on any proposed changes.
- **Health and Social Care Integration Consultation:** L. Hayworth noted the 2nd Draft of the Strategic Plan for the Health and Social Care Integration is out for a further round of engagement and consultation and can be found on the Scottish Borders Council website ([scotborders.gov.uk](http://scotborders.gov.uk))
- **Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network (SBCCN):** G. Mackie urged anyone interested to attend the SBCCN AGM on 15 October, 2015 at St. Boswell's and to take an active part in the network. G. Mackie was elected on the Core Group last year but is having to stand down due to other commitments. R. Tatler, L. Hayworth and J. Shearer agreed to go to the AGM. Under the auspices of SBCCN a Digital Engagement Workshop has been arranged for 20 November, 2016 at SBC HQ.
- **Skate Park Initiative:** An information sharing meeting will be held on 29 October, 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Tontine.

12. **Date for next meeting:** Thursday 12th November, 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Burgh Chambers.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.