



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 226th 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 12th November, 2015

Present: C. Carleton, F. Dalgleish, S. Haslam, M. Durkin, L. Hayworth, A. MacKenzie, K. Rand, R. Tatler (Chairman), E. Smith and A. Snoddy

In attendance: SBC Councillors S. Bell, C. Bhatia, K. Cockburn and G. Logan, L. Crichton (Minute Secretary), PC S. Furness, Rory Changleng (High School Senior School Council Representative).

The Chairman, R. Tatler opened the meeting welcoming the members of the public. He proposed the matter of The Public Meeting on 22nd October 2015 about the 3G Pitch (in Item 5) on the Agenda to be taken as Item 2. This was agreed.

1. **Presentation:** The latest news about the AIM Up Project in Innerleithen

Gordon Donald gave a brief presentation on the current situation of the AIM Up (Action for the Innerleithen Mechanical Uplift) Project which he emphasized was still very much alive and up & running. The funding of the uplift system is still not finalised but they hope to have the system ready for use in the Summer of 2017. The Chairman, R. Tatler thanked G. Donald for the presentation commenting that the Peebles Community Council was keen to be kept up to date on the project and that this would be a regular item on the Community Council's Planning Committee agendas.

2. **The Public Meeting on 22nd October 2015 about the 3G Pitch**

Councillor C. Bhatia read through, on behalf of all the Tweeddale Councillors, a project update prepared by the council officers. The update stated that after the Public Meeting held on 22nd October the officers had carefully reconsidered all proposals for the location of the pitch but that Victoria Park remained their preferred option as there was no other location feasible for the project. Therefore, Victoria Park would be progressed although with an adjusted layout. Changing rooms could be located in Victoria Day Park Centre. Cllr Bhatia encouraged everyone to comment, whether for or against, on the Planning Application which will be submitted on 20th November 2015. The submission of the planning application will be followed by an application for funding to Sport Scotland and a report and business plan to Peebles Common Good Fund.

The Chairman, R. Tatler said that the Peebles Community Council needed to make its own stance clear and invited the Community Councillors to give their views on the matter. The Chairman then asked for a show of hands for and against the plans. The Community Councillors' consensus was that a 3G pitch is desirable but should not be built in Victoria Park. It was agreed that the Community Council will write to Councillor Vicky Davidson, Executive Member for Culture, Sport, Youth and Communities at Scottish Borders Council to state its opposition to the project suggesting the council does not progress with the matter before looking closely into other options.

ACTION: CC Planning Committee

C. Carleton urged the public to comment on the forthcoming Planning Application (can be found via www.scotborders.gov.uk) and requested that the Community Council be copied on these comments.

The residents present at the meeting were appalled and devastated at the council officers' decision to progress with Victoria Park as the preferred location despite the strong opposition at the public meeting on the 22nd October attended by over 200 residents and a petition which has gathered more than 1500 names. The Community Council was thanked by the residents for arranging the

Public Meeting and for supporting the people of Peebles in this matter. The residents commented they would continue to oppose the plans to build the 3G pitch on Victoria Park.

3. **Open Forum:** There were no questions raised.

4. **Apologies:** J. Crawley, G. Mackie, A. McKelvey, L. Morrison, J. Shearer, PC D. Sorrell

The Chairman, R. Tatler read out a letter from D. Horsburgh in which he tendered his resignation from the Community Council due to work and family reasons. R. Tatler and A. Snoddy have both sent him letters to thank him for his contribution as a Community Councillor.

5. **Minute of Meeting of 8th October 2015:** The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by L. Hayworth and seconded by A. MacKenzie. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, R. Tatler.

6. **Matters Arising:**

- **The Public Meeting on 22nd October 2015 about the 3G Pitch:** Dealt with as Item 2.
- **Dog Fouling:** A. Snoddy reported that a resident, Kathleen Marshall was keen to pursue the Green Dog Walkers Scheme to raise its profile and the matter was being progressed.
- **Visit by Community Councillors to Peebles High School:** A number of Community Councillors visited the High School on 5th November and found the tour very interesting. It was apparent that the school is very full already and the school roll will increase over the next few years. The buildings ranged from the inadequate and unsatisfactory (the maths tower and science laboratories) to the “state of the art” sports and leisure centre which was built in 2014. The councillors had been very surprised to learn that students studying science attend, where their families can afford it, weekend courses elsewhere to meet the requirements of their advanced courses. This is not acceptable. The Community Councillors agreed to make representations where and when possible to achieve better school facilities. A thank you letter has been sent to the High School Senior School Council for arranging the visit.
C. Carleton asked if Scottish Borders Council had any plans for the High School and Cllr Bhatia replied that there was nothing in the 10-year capital plan for Peebles. She commented, however, that a school review was to be conducted and if the people of Peebles wanted a new high school this would provide a good opportunity to comment. She also pointed out that a site for a new school should be included in future development plans.
It was agreed to comment on this matter in connection with the ongoing council budget process consultation. This item will also be on the agendas of the Community Council Planning Committee as well as Vision for Peebles.
WiFi at the school: R. Changleng confirmed that pupils had voted that they would like to have access to wifi in the school. Cllr Bhatia confirmed that Cllr Garvie was progressing the pupils’ request.
- **Provost for Peebles:** A. Snoddy reported that the Peeblesshire News had eventually run a poll on whether or not Peebles should have a provost but there had not been one response. It was agreed that this matter would not be pursued at this time as there appeared to be no appetite for such a position.
- **Scott Brash – recognition of his success:** A. Snoddy clarified that this was a Bonnie Peebles initiative.
- **Report on the AGM of the Scottish Borders Community Council Network (SBCCN):** L. Hayworth gave a brief report on the AGM where he was elected onto the core group as a representative from Tweeddale. He was unsure on how effective SBCCN was as an organisation but will continue to attend the meetings to find out more. There should be a second representative from Tweeddale on the core group and L Hayworth requested that the SBC Councillors ask for a volunteer when attending other Community Council meetings in Tweeddale.
ACTION: SBC Councillors
- **Skate park – an Update:** A report had been circulated on the meeting held on 29th October. S. Haslam reported the meeting had been very positive and that there was a need for a skate

park in Peebles. A further meeting will be held in January 2016. S. Haslam will keep the Community Council up to date on this matter.

7. **Police Report:** Circulated. PC S. Furness went through the Police Report. The Community Officers had run an **initiative around Halloween & Bonfire Night** whereby they visited all the shops in Tweeddale asking the shopkeepers to display a poster and restrict the sale of eggs and flour to young people. The initiative had been successful with no incidents this year on eggs being thrown at properties. **Bike thefts** have been looked into with a view of carrying out crime prevention initiatives in the future. There have been various **cold callers in the Tweeddale area**. **15 parking tickets** had been issued, the police continue to give attention to the parking in town. There had been **2 incidents of anti-social behaviour** and **1 house break attempt**. PC S. Furness reported that one of the mountain bikes stolen from Caledonian Road in September had been recovered thanks to the social media and people sharing posts.

R. Tatler suggested that the Community Council put on its Facebook page instructions on how to deal with such incidents. This was agreed and PC S. Furness promised to provide further information.

ACTION: F. Dalgleish/PC Furness

A. Snoddy reported that she had received a reply from PC D. Sorrell about Neighbourhood Watch Schemes explaining that the Police do not get involved in these schemes other than perhaps attending meetings in an advisory capacity. It is up to the residents if they wish to start up such a scheme. For anyone interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme more information can be found at neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk.

8. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman, R. Tatler reported that he had attended the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of the Peebles Community Council. He had also attended, together with Anne Snoddy, Secretary, the Festival of Remembrance Concert at the Parish Church on 11th November which had been excellent. The Chairman highlighted the forthcoming unveiling of the Mural on the 18th of November at 10.30 am. He was delighted that the Mural group had been able to secure funding from Scottish Borders Council to produce leaflets explaining the elements of the Mural. These will be available for a £1 donation at different local shops. The next part of the project is to install an interpretation panel in front of the Mural.

9. **SBC Councillors:**

- **Cllr Bhatia** commented that she and the other Tweeddale Councillors had been very engaged around the 3G pitch meetings.
Cllr Bhatia noted that the Scottish Borders Council had that day agreed to facilitate refugees to come to the Borders with the aim of welcoming up to 10 families over the next four years, the first families being located in the Galashiels area in early 2016. In the first instance the refugees will come from Syria but hopefully later on from other countries also.
L. Hayworth expressed his disappointment on the amount of refugees the council was going to take and asked if the council will facilitate further opportunities to do so later on. Cllr Bhatia replied that she hoped the numbers would increase and encouraged the communities to get involved in the reception of the refugees.
- **Cllr Cockburn** reported that repairs to the wall at Neidpath Corner would be completed by the end of November and that the permanent traffic lights will be in place early 2016 at the latest. He wished to express special thanks to Mr. S. Winyard of Stobo Castle who had financially supported the provision of the sentry arrangements during the road closure in October which allowed emergency vehicles to pass through the closure during overnight periods.
R. Tatler commented that the Peebles Community Council had received an email from the council on this matter and that the Community Council is happy to minute their appreciation to Mr Winyard.
- **Cllr Logan** said that all Community Councils will receive a letter encouraging them to send in ideas and comments to be dealt by the Scrutiny Committee and noted that unfortunately the Peebles Community Council had not sent in anything yet.
R. Tatler asked that as the Scrutiny Committee could not deal with planning matters would it be acceptable to ask how a consultation was handled? Cllr Logan confirmed this was an

example of the type of matter the Scrutiny Committee could look into. It was agreed that the Community Council's Planning Committee would look into this matter

ACTION: CC Planning Committee

L. Hayworth inquired if the Scrutiny Committee meetings were open to members of the public. Cllr Logan confirmed they were and L. Hayworth said he would attend one to see how the committee operated.

- **Cllr Bell** commented on an excellent presentation given at the SBC Council meeting on 12th November on Multi-Member Ward Police Plans which outline the priorities the community identified during the most recent Police Scotland consultation. The greatest concerns the residents had were about anti-social behaviour, assault and violent crime, house breaking and theft and road safety. The plans inform the public of the action the Police have taken to date to address those priorities and sets out how they plan to continue to address them throughout the year.

Cllr Bell noted with surprise that he had not seen any feedback from the Peebles Community Council on the SESPlan consultation. C. Carleton replied that L. Morrison had submitted the Community Council's comments and that the matter had been taken care of. Cllr Bell went on to point out that there was an ongoing consultation to review the planning system and encouraged the Community Council to have a look at this on the council's web site in order to give feedback by the closing date 1 December 2015.

Cllr Bell explained that there is a campaign for Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders to be considered as one NUTS II Region (*NUTS = Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics*) which would attract more EC funding than both areas receive at present in their current groupings.

Cllr Bell was delighted to have heard G. Donald give a presentation at the beginning of the meeting and wished the project well.

R. Tatler asked about the council's budget consultation process. Cllr Bell replied that the on-line consultation of the Scottish Borders Council's budget 2015-2020 is open until the end of January 2016 for individuals and communities to give out their views. He urged the Community Council to take part and to give input. R. Tatler confirmed the Community Council would take the opportunity to do so.

A. MacKenzie inquired about the road works and road closure on FranksCrofts which will be effective from 16 November for six weeks. Cllr Logan pointed out that the closure was due to the utility company doing works in the area, not the council. He commented that the council can invite the utility companies to put in forward plans for road closures etc. but they do not have to comply with this which is unfortunate.

10. Reports for approval:

- **Treasurer's report:** Circulated. Nothing special to report.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** Minutes of the Bonnie Peebles meeting on 28 October, 2015 had been circulated.

11. 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.

- **Local Development Plan (LDP):** The Planning Reporter has finalised its report on the draft and the SBC Planners are now required to re-draft the plan accordingly. A new draft LDP may be ready within the next few months.
- **Rosetta Holiday Park:** This project is still at the Planning Permission in Principle stage but the timeline remains unclear. The Community Council Planning Committee will seek further information from SBC Planning on this matter.

It was agreed that the CC Planning Committee will draft a letter to SBC Planning against the developer's request to the waiving of affordable housing.

ACTION: CC Planning Committee

- **Traffic Monitoring on North of River:** The CC Planning Committee are making enquiries with SBC Roads and Transport for further details.
- **Glentress Master Plan SPG:** The CC Planning Committee re-stated that they had hoped to see this development proposal nested within the wider context of tourism development in the Upper Tweed Valley, expressed as a strategic planning framework for the Valley as a whole – through an SPG or a Master Plan with a footprint that went beyond the narrow footprint of the Forestry Commission estate within the Valley. The CC Planning Committee will draft a letter to the SBC Planning team along these lines.
- **Chambers Institution:** The CC Planning Committee would like to get further information from the Chambers Institution Board as to the process and intent of the recent consultation.
- **Peebles Town Action Plan & Town Master Plan:** The Peebles Town Action Plan is currently being drafted and will be available for debate early in the New Year when another Open Forum event will be put on by the Peebles Community Trust. It is also hoped that a first draft of the Vision for Peebles Whole Town Master Plan will be available for discussion then.
- **Kingsmeadows House:** Concerns remain around the 2nd entry/exit to service the new building, the issue of the 2nd bridge, how the woodland is to be managed and the issue of public access.
- **Windfarms:** It was commented that it is difficult for the Community Council to take part in this discussion as part of the community is for and part against the proposed windfarms.
- **Veitch's Corner:** Concern remains as to when the owners of the building are going to upgrade the fabric of the exterior, including repair and maintenance of the main Veitch's signage, which forms a key element in the heritage value and listing of the building. There is also concern that developers are free to contest a decision but the same freedom is not available to local residents.
- **Prince of India – extension of license:** There was uncertainty as to what the application for amendments to operating plan could mean exactly (re Franco's outside seating area) and it was agreed to make a note to that effect when commenting on the application.
ACTION: CC Planning Committee
- **Co-operation between Civic Society & CC Planning Committee:** It was agreed that a member of the Civic Society can in the future sit in on the Community Council Planning Committee's meetings as an observer. This will enhance joint thinking between the two bodies which considered a very good idea
- **Scottish Civic Trust Annual Conference:** R. Tatler noted the Scottish Civic Trust's Annual Conference in Linlithgow on 24 November 2015, the cost of which is £40 and would be paid by the Community Council. S. Haslam said her husband would be attending the meeting as a local architect and had offered to report back to the Community Council. This was agreed with thanks.
- **Borders Community Empowerment Conference:** C. Carleton noted the Borders Community Empowerment Conference on 21 November 2015 in Newtown St. Boswells (no fee). L. Hayworth and R. Tatler will be attending and reporting back to the Community Council.

12. Any Other Business:

- **Possible Torchlight Procession:** Hillside Outside proposes to arrange a Torchlight Procession on Hogmanay in Peebles. Participants can buy and carry a torch for local charity. The Community Councillors agreed to support the event and write to N. Dalgleish to approve of the arrangements and to offer help if needed.
ACTION: A. Snoddy
- **Health and Social Care Integration Consultation:** L. Morrison has been asked to draft a reply to the consultation and report back to the Community Council.
ACTION: L. Morrison
- **Digital Training Day at SBC HQ on 20 November 2015:** L. Hayworth, R Tatler and A Snoddy will be attending this meeting and will report back to the Community Council.

- **Road Safety: 'Better Late Than Dead On Time':** It was agreed this did not come under the Community Council's remit. Cllr Cockburn agreed to take it up in the next Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board meeting on 13 November 2015.
- **Report from Community Cllr E. Smith:** Nothing to report.
- **Representation at the Scottish Human Rights Commission event 10 November 2015:** None of the Community Councillors had volunteered to attend.
- **Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society AGM 21 November 2015:** This was drawn to the Community Councillors' attention should anyone wish to attend.
- **Tour O' the Borders 2016:** The Chairman, R. Tatler proposed that this project should feature as the special topic in the Community Council's February 2016 meeting. This was agreed.
ACTION: A Snoddy
- **Help to Adapt:** A. Snoddy reported that this is a scheme for people who need assistance to adapt their own homes, helping them to live independently for as long as possible.
- **Community Councillor Achievements and Successes:** R. Tatler commented on the success of the Public Meeting held on 22nd October about the 3G Pitch. Cllr Cockburn pointed out how public meetings were a brilliant way to express the views of the community. R. Tatler was congratulated on successfully chairing the meeting.
- **Response of Tweed Valley Trail Association to Glentress Masterplan Consultation:** The local mountain biking community has been critical of the proposals and has communicated its concerns to the Forestry Commission. The Community Council Planning Committee are supportive of their main concerns and are happy for this group to take matters forward
- **Borders Community Empowerment Conference 21 November 2015:** Dealt with in Item 11 Planning Report.
- **Update on Chambers Institution:** Dealt with in Item 11 Planning Report.
- **Invitation to Scottish Rural Parliament Event in Musselburgh 24 November 2015:** The invitation to this event will be circulated should anyone wish to attend.

12. **Date for next meeting:** Thursday 10th December at 7.30 pm at the Burgh Chambers.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.