



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 210th 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 8th of May 2014

Present: M. Baete, C. Carleton, L. Foster, D. Horsburgh, G. Mackie, A. McKenzie, A. Snoddy, A. Stewart (Chairman), E. Smith, R. Tatler, M. Tolhurst,

In attendance: SBC Councillors G. Garvie, S. Bell, K. Cockburn, C. Bhatia and PC. D. Sorrell

Apologies: A. Kubie, L. Morrison, G. Rennie and SBC Cllrs W. Archibald and G. Logan

- 1. Police report:** circulated. **Anti-social behaviour:** PC Sorrell reported that progress is being made on the issue of petit vandalism in School Brae and she hope to give further feedback on this next month. **Counterfeit currency:** an arrest has been made. **Dog fouling:** PC Sorrell is to clarify whether photographic evidence from a member of the public of anyone who does not clean up after their dog has any standing as evidence. **Break-ins:** Cllr Bell asked whether the recent break-ins in Peebles and Innerleithen were linked and evidence of organised crime in the area. PC Sorrell will seek clarification. **Parking:** With regard to parking on Peebles High Street, Cllr Bhatia confirmed that Police Scotland has reassured her that community officers can take over from traffic wardens. PC Sorrell agreed but pointed out that time constraints on patrolling car parking needs to be taken into account.
- 2. Open Forum:** Cliff Scupham on behalf of Rosetta Road residents expressed dissatisfaction with the description provided by the Community Council of the traffic constraints on Rosetta Road and the future of the Crossings in the context of the application by developers for the Rosetta Road Caravan Park. There was some disquiet on the proposal to use Dalatho Road as a possible through road to relieve congestion. C. Carleton indicated that the statements made should be read in context – which was that if a development were to proceed despite CC objections, it was appropriate to specify what constituted the minimum of accompanying measures. Thus if all site-specific planning conditions were met, the community would still require that the roads network in this part of town be re-organised, at a cost to the developer(s), to meet the cumulative additional transport pressure associated with 100+ new houses (current proposals are for a total of 250). At a minimum this should involve a new bridge route to Edinburgh Road (through Dalatho Crescent), and notices indicating prioritisation of The Crossings for walkers, cyclists and horse riders (not at the exclusion of motor vehicles, but simply to indicate that preference should be given to these other users). In general the traffic network in Peebles needs to be looked at across Peebles.
- 3. Introduction of new Community Councillors:** A. Stewart welcomed the three new members Lewis Foster, Graham Mackie and Eddie Smith.
- 4. Co-option:** John Swanson and Alan McKenzie have been co-opted.
- 5. Minute of Meeting of 10th of April 2014:** Acceptance of minute was proposed by R. Tatler and seconded by A. Snoddy. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.
- 6. Matters arising:**
 - Rumble strips:** Cllr Bhatia confirmed that SBC is working on the rumble strips and that they are striving to achieve a balance between safety and noise disturbance. Speeds on this road into Peebles (most notably relating to vehicles leaving Peebles) are still on the high side but several measures to slow traffic down are now in place.

- **Coffee morning:** note circulated. Thanks to Chris Mackie and Kath Wilkinson for their help.
- **Tweed Island:** note circulated. Peeblesshire News is to publish an article and readers are invited to submit comments.
- **Peebles in Bloom:** judges are being invited.
- **Eshiels CRC:** cessation of green waste collection has not been well organised with reports by members of the public complaining about closures and long queues at the facility. Cllr Garvie recommended the use of the £10 per month collection of green waste in Peebles.

7. **Chairman's report:** same as for the report delivered at the AGM.

8. **SBC Councillors:**

- Cllr Bell gave an overview of the arrangements for the Tweedlove festival (24 May – 8 June). 3,000 participants are expected. Some half day half road closures are foreseen for Peebles High Street and some roads through Cardrona to Traquair. This is a very high profile event for the Tweed Valley.
- Cllr Bell also indicated that another event to take place in August will be the Tour of the Borders. As people will be affected by road closures it is intended to have a consultation about this. Information on road closures can be found in the Peeblesshire News. It was agreed to invite one of the organisers Neil Dalgleish to the next Community Council meeting for a brief presentation under the Open Forum session. **Action:** M. Baete
- Cllr Bell congratulated several Peebles establishments for winning national tourism awards.
- Cllr Bell also reminded the meeting that car parking charges in Peebles are due to come into effect on the 12th of May.
- Cllr Cockburn highlighted that £48,000 is available to provide free advanced driving skills for 17 to 25 year olds in the Scottish Borders through the Institute of Advanced Motorists' Skill for Life programme. Information is available from the SBC website, but the main point is that whilst course fees need to be paid up front, if and when the candidate passes the Advanced Driving Test, these costs are refunded through the programme.
- Cllr Bhatia welcomed the opening of the new PHS sports wing for the use of students and the public.
- Cllr Bhatia indicated that a new 3G is being considered for Peebles, but some concerns have been raised about locating it at the Gytes, due to flooding worries.
- Cllr Garvie announced that a new Lord Lieutenant has been appointed, Mr Hew Strachan.

9. **Reports for approval:**

- Treasurer's report: circulated.
- Bonny Peebles: circulated
- Floral Gateway: to be circulated

10. **Special Topic:** Co-option of Community Councillors – as per circulated note. All agreed.

11. **Planning report:** draft report has been circulated. No planning committee was held this month

- Draft LDP: 188 responses received covering 500+ planning issues – these are being collated and advice on how these impact on the draft LDP will be presented to the SBC council meeting in June.
- SESplan 2: the next iteration of the regional structural planning document has now begun, and community input to the drafting of the next Main Issues Report is now being sought – inputs are welcome.
- The next public meeting for Vision for Peebles will be held in the Burgh Hall on Saturday 7th June. This will be arranged as a workshop format and will mainly deal with the "people" systems in the town – health, schooling, jobs, care, tourism.
- This will be followed on the 6th September with a public meeting featuring presentations on the experiences of other communities in having greater impact on the development of their communities.

- Extension to licensing hours – Hayloft Bar, Rosetta Caravan Park: no objections as long as no anti-social behaviour results from it.
- Hag Law windfarm proposals: public meetings scheduled for 13 May at Newlands Centre, Romanobridge and 14 May Graham Institute, West Linton
- The Keg – application for a licensed tearoom – no objections provided kept within reasonable hours
- Cross Keys: proposed sign: no objections

12. **Any other business:**

- **A72 action group:** No action pending a reply from SBC Roads Dept. Only after the statistics have been provided would the appropriate progress of such a group be clear.
- **Licensing:** awaiting L. Morrison's report
- **First Bus timetable and Edinburgh terminus:** the changes to the terminus in Edinburgh (move from the bus station to Waterloo Place) has led to a number of complaints from Peebles residents. The 62 bus also no longer provides a direct service to the Borders General Hospital. The changes to the timetable are seen as not that relevant. Real Time Information would be very useful. It was agreed to write a letter to First Bus. **Action:** R. Tatler
- Hill run – R. Tatler asked for volunteers to marshal the hill run on Wednesday 14 May. Interested Community Councillors to arrive at 6 pm at the Gytes. Alasdair and Anne are to be in charge of the registration.

13. **Date for next meeting:** June 12th, 2014 at 7 pm.

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