



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 214th 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 9th of October 2014

Present: C. Carleton, D. Horsburgh, A. Kubie, G. Mackie, L. Morrison, E. Smith and A. Stewart (Chairman).

In attendance: SBC Councillors: C. Bhatia, S. Bell and K. Cockburn, L. Crichton (Minute Secretary) and PC D. Sorrell.

1. **Open Forum:** No points were raised. The Chairman reported that there had been several people expressing their interest in possibly becoming members of the Community Council at the stall at Sainsbury's on 27th September and welcomed Mrs. F. Dagleish who was present.
2. **Apologies:** L. Foster, G. Rennie, A. Snoddy, R. Tatler, SBC Cllrs: W. Archibald, G. Garvie, G. Logan.
3. **Minute of Meeting of 11th September 2014:** Acceptance of the minute was proposed by G. Mackie and seconded by E. Smith. The minute was approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Veitch's Corner – Update:** C. Carleton gave an update on the situation and explained that the letter the Community Council had agreed to resubmit to SBC Planning Department in its last meeting to emphasize its concerns had not been sent. This was because the planning officers had in the meantime asked the applicant for more details. In response to this request the applicant had submitted a floor plan, which was shown to the meeting. As this was still lacking in detail it was agreed that the Community Council would now submit a further letter of objection to SBC emphasizing the economic impact of yet another restaurant being considered for Peebles. It was, however, noted that the matter was delicate as there was a strong desire and pressure to get the building into use and no other expressions of interest.

ACTION: CC
 - **NHS Borders Consultation:** L. Morrison went through the NHS Borders Consultation Summary Report which she felt resulted in a sensible document providing good guidelines for future practice with an emphasis on health improvement. The Chairman suggested a future Special Topic for this meeting could be 'Out of Hours Care'.

Action AK
 - **Eshiels Recycling Centre:** Cllr Cockburn explained that the operators of the centre had been working hard to make the service as accessible as possible and that in general this had been successful. Cllr Bell commented that any complaints should be forwarded directly to the centre as they were working hard to improve communication with the public. He also encouraged everyone to take part in the survey which is being carried out on the services. It was agreed that the Community Council members will do this.

ACTION: All

- **Parking in Old Town and High Street:** PC Sorrell commented that on their own the police would not be able to sort out the problem although they were acting where they could. Cllr Cockburn said SBC were establishing a working group to look at parking in the town.
 - **Stall at Sainsbury's – conclusions:** C. Carleton reported that the stall at Sainsbury's on 27th September had been successful with 5-6 people indicating their interest in possibly joining the Community Council and in raising issues of concern within the community. The Community Council will have a stall in Tesco just before the elections next year. It was agreed that the Community Council should continue to work towards raising its profile and could do this by taking part in events like the Christmas Market.
5. **Police Report:** circulated. PC Sorrell reported that she had spoken to individuals in connection with skateboarding around Edinburgh Road car park. It was noted that the lighting in the car park was very poor. Cllr. Bhatia noted that the drive for a skate park in Victoria Park had disappeared although the Councillors were all in support of this parent initiative and SBC would adopt the park once created. With regard to the acts of anti-social behaviour PC Sorrell explained the grading system the police have for all calls and what it equals to in response times. All the noisy parties are graded '3' which means a target of 40 minutes to attend. This often means that the music has been turned down by the time the police arrive but they still speak to the responsible householders. Underage children if found drunk are taken to hospital and their parents informed. If they are in possession of alcohol but not drunk the alcohol is removed and destroyed.
6. **Chairman's report:** There had been a number of initiatives for attracting new members of public to the Community Council, notably an article in the Peebles Life and a stall at Sainsbury's in September. The public event planned around the SBC Neighbourhoods Review has had to be postponed awaiting the outcome of an SBC committee meeting on 23rd October.
7. **SBC Councillors:**
- **Cllr Bell:** Wished to defer his part to discuss the SES (South East Scotland) Plan under Planning Report.
 - **Cllr Cockburn:** SBC officers should be commended for their hard work in obtaining a grant for the renovations of the War Memorial and for getting it underway.
 - **Cllr Bhatia:** Through Halyrood's Safer Route to School initiative it emerged that there was a need for a pedestrian island for children to cross Neidpath Road at the top of Old Town. This looks like it will be taken forward under the Quality of Life Funding.
8. **Reports for approval:**
- **Treasurer's report:** G. Mackie had not circulated a report due to only recently taking up the position of Treasurer as well as still waiting for the signature rights to be processed by the bank.
 - **Bonnie Peebles:** The Chairman invited any volunteers to join Bonnie Peebles and welcomed E. Smith who was happy to be appointed as second representative from PCC.
9. **Special Topic: Neighbourhood Review:**
- The Chairman commented that as discussed earlier it was fruitless to have any further discussions around the Neighbourhood Review before hearing the outcome of the SBC committee meeting on 23rd October.
10. **Planning Report:** A draft report had been circulated. C. Carleton explained that the last Planning Committee meeting had not been quorate and that there should always be reasonable representation at each meeting. The responses to planning applications had been put on the Community Council website. There being no adverse comments the recommendations as posted were approved.

- LDP (Long-term Development Plan) – this has moved onto next phase and is expected to be finalised in March/April 2015. The planned second bridge causes concern and uncertainty for the future.
- SES Plan – Cllr Bell advised the meeting that although planning officers were recommending 75 houses over five years as appropriate it was clear there was already pressure by developers to permit 300 houses in the short term. He stressed that the Community Council should making a very strong representation to the SES Plan Main Issues Report to ensure that developers do not obtain permission to build without provision of infrastructure.
- Vision for Peebles – this is developing and is a high priority given the need to respond to the SES Plan. The Community Trust is applying for funding for the part purchase of the Kings Meadows estate.
- Community Empowerment Bill: Opinions on a very small part of the Bill had been sought and C. Carleton had responded to the effect that it is ridiculous to expect volunteers to spend so much time in responding.
- SBC's small project fund could be used for improving signage around Peebles.

11. Any other business:

- **SBCCN:** G. Mackie reported from the Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network meeting in September which he and A. Snoddy had attended. SBCCN also held their AGM at the same time and G. Mackie was elected as a member.
- **Legal Status of Community Councils:** The Chairman informed that this will be looked into and reported at the next meeting.
- **Dog Fouling:** This will be taken to the next meeting.

11. Date for next meeting: Thursday 13th November 2014 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.