



Community Council of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minute of the 219th 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 March 2015

Present: C. Carleton, F. Dalgleish, D. Horsburgh, A. McKelvey, G. Mackie, A. Snoddy, E. Smith, A. Stewart (Chairman) and R. Tatler

In attendance: SBC Councillors W. Archibald, S. Bell, and G. Logan, L. Crichton (Minute Secretary), Margaret Smail/Scottish Borders Council - Community Learning and Development, PC D. Sorrell and PC A. Bruce

- 1. Open Forum:** The Chairman, A. Stewart introduced Margaret Smail who gave a brief presentation on Community Learning and Development. She spoke about new partnerships in each of the nine High School catchment areas of Scottish Borders where local services and organisations involved in learning for children, young people, adults and communities have come together to form Learning Community Partnerships (LCP). The purpose of these partnerships is, in response to Scottish Government legislation, to strengthen joint planning, delivery and evaluation of community learning and development. The Tweeddale Learning Community Partnership covers the area served by Peebles High School and its nine feeder primary schools and it aims to support learning within the community. Margaret Smail encouraged anyone in the community in need of help within learning to contact them for support. She also asked for the Peebles Community Council to keep updated on the work of the partnership and promised to send a copy of an overall planning document for Scottish Borders later on this year once it was ready. C. Carleton pointed out that the document would be a key aspect for the Master Plan of Peebles.

A resident questioned Scottish Borders Council's decision of installing permanent traffic lights at Neidpath Corner. They pointed out that the speed some drivers were going around the corner after the current, temporary traffic lights was scary and felt this was an accident waiting to happen, especially with cars overtaking other vehicles immediately after getting through the lights with some even overtaking cyclist in the corner itself. Cllr Archibald pointed out that the main reason for the traffic lights was to protect the road structure from breaking under the strain of the weight of the traffic especially if heavy vehicles met simultaneously. It was agreed that it was also a question of attitude and drivers needed to take other road users into consideration. PCs A. Bruce & D. Sorrell commented that the police were not aware of any problems at Neidpath Corner but promised to look into the matter.

Another resident wished to know who was responsible for approving the colours of the band stand currently being re-painted on the Tweed Green, which is in the conservation area. Cllr Archibald advised that the Common Good Fund's Working Group was paying for it and C. Carleton reinforced the need to refer to the Peebles Civic Societies pallet for paint colours within a conservation area.

- 2. Special Topic:** Resilience Project progress report
John Swanson talked about the Resilient Communities Project which is an initiative to set up a network of volunteers who will be on call to respond to emergencies such as severe weather, fire and power failure as well as assisting members of the community on a smaller scale. This plan is intended to support communities and help them to help themselves in an emergency as an

augmentation of the response by the emergency services. The first such an initiative is up and running in Peebles and John Swanson urged anyone who was interested to help other people in the community by assisting e.g. in clearing snow from pathways to working in emergencies like flooding to join as a volunteer. The volunteers are covered by the Peebles Community Council's insurance. **For more information please contact John Swanson, tel. (01721) 720115 or 07813256437.** The Chairman, A. Stewart thanked John Swanson for all his hard work in getting the Peebles Resilient Community organised and hoped for many people to follow suit.

3. **Apologies:** A. Kubie, L. Morrison, G. Rennie, SBC Cllrs C. Bhatia, G. Garvie and K. Cockburn.
4. **Minute of Meeting of 12th February 2015:** The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by E. Smith and seconded by F. Dalgleish. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman, A. Stewart.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Hay Lodge Hospital:** The Chairman, A. Stewart and Cllr Bell had met the doctors at Hay Lodge Hospital to discuss the possibilities of increasing the services offered by Hay Lodge Hospital. Cllr Bell reported that Hay Lodge Hospital did not have the same circumstances as the community hospitals in Hawick and Kelso. The Hay Lodge Hospital ward is constantly full and he commented that as Peebles is developing rapidly, adequate capability must be taken into account when going through this consultation. The day ward at Hay Lodge Hospital is still finding its feet and may not be fully utilised, which it definitely should. R. Tatler proposed asking Liz Forsyth from NHS Dumfries and Galloway to come and give a talk to the Peebles Community Council about how the Community Hospital in Langholm has developed and increased its facilities for the local community. Liz Forsyth is an area coordinator for the NHS in Putting You First (PYF) and Safe and Health Partnership (SHAP) based in Langholm. She has extensive knowledge of working with the Third, Private and Public Sector. Cllr Bell reinforced this and said that type of care would make best use of a day hospital and it would be good to bring it up at the time of the consultation. C. Carleton pointed out that most people still got the GP practice and the hospital mixed together. Cllr Archibald reminded the meeting that the Tweeddale Area Forum was an ideal place to get more information on such community matters but that unfortunately the public did not attend these meetings. A resident commented that it was difficult to know or find out when and where different meetings took place. Cllrs Archibald and Logan assured that Scottish Borders Council was aware of the situation and that in the future e.g. Area Forum & Common Good Fund meetings will be published in the local press but for the time being all meeting details could be found on SBC website.
 - **Cuddy Bridge Closure:** The Chairman commented that the diversions around the Cuddy Bridge closure had worked with minimum disruption and PC D. Sorrell also said the police had been content with the arrangements.
 - **Bin the Litter:** R. Tatler called out for lots of volunteers to come and join in the annual Bin the Litter event which will take place on **Sunday, 22nd March starting at 9.45 am at Kingsmeadow's car park.** The public are encouraged to give ideas on which areas to focus on for tidying up Peebles.
 - **First Bus – Borders College Service:** As First Bus had not yet got back with their response there was nothing to report on the matter.
 - **Fence on south bank of the river:** Cllr Bell reported that he had spoken to the constituent who had raised this matter and asked Jason Hedley/SBC to look into it to see what can be done. C. Carleton alerted the council to the fact that the north side of the river bank was falling down also and Cllr Bell promised that this could be investigated at the same time at the same time.
 - **Crossing of A72 at Kerfield:** C. Carleton reported that he had not yet heard anything back from the council concerning the proposed crossing of Innerleithen Road by the new development to the multiuse path to Innerleithen.

- **Community Council election 2015:** The Chairman reminded the meeting that nominations to the Peebles Community Council needed to be in by 24th March and that the co-opted members must also put in their nomination papers to be elected as full members. Amanda Kubie had advised the Chairman that nomination forms were with the library staff on 3rd March. If there is to be an election it will be held 21st April.
6. **Police Report:** circulated. The Chairman introduced the new community sergeant for Peebles, PC A. Bruce and welcomed him to the meeting. The illegal parking in town was discussed again as there are people who constantly park on double or single yellow lines and disrupt the traffic. Most of the problems are caused by people who live in or near Peebles. PC D. Sorrell commented that the police are and will continue to do what they can but that they do not have the resources to solve the parking problems. Cllr Logan reported that the working group dealing with parking was to meet again shortly and that work was being done even if it was taking time. There was concern that it would take years before anything was done to resolve the problem but Cllr Bell assured that the council would act as quickly as possible and without delay.
- Cllr Logan asked the police to look into speeding on Bonnington Road. A. Snoddy asked who was responsible for the CCTV camera by McHardy's Art & Framing business premises as it was not working and was advised to contact SBC about it.
- PC D. Sorrell talked briefly about SBAAlert which is a new Scottish Borders messaging system. The system provides up-to-date emergency and crime prevention advice, weather warnings and utility failure updates as well as alerts local residents to crimes and safety issues affecting their community and area. It can be accessed by individuals and organisations within communities across the Scottish Borders to receive alerts by phone, text or email (to join go to www.sbalert.co.uk). PC D. Sorrell promised to come back to the subject at a later date with more information.
7. **Chairman's report:** The Chairman considered time to be pressing so the report would be circulated with the minutes. He also encouraged people to put nominations into the ballot box for the community councillor elections.
8. **SBC Councillors:**
- **Cllr Archibald** said that the subcommittee for parking was revisiting the issue of car parks. A new system was implemented a year ago resulting in better balance of parking with less revenue than before.
- Cllr Archibald pointed out the Borders Care & Repair service which offers independent advice and assistance to help people repair, improve or adapt their home so that they can live in comfort and safety in their own community. The service used to be free but charges now an annual subscription fee of £36 and is a service provided by Eildon Housing Association Ltd in partnership with Scottish Borders Council.
- Cllr Archibald had also visited all the care homes in the area and reported that the standard of care of all the homes was excellent with very good quality of staff.
- Cllr Archibald informed that the next Area Forum meeting will take place on 27th May.
- **Cllr Bell** mentioned the Teacher Recruitment Open Day organised by Scottish Borders Council which will be held at the Macdonald Cardrona Hotel on 28th March aiming to attract teachers to come and work in the Scottish Borders.
- Cllr Bell reminded of the Scottish Government's Asset Mapping Funding administered by Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) for helping to find the best methods of rejuvenating town centres and urged the Community Trust to apply.
- **Cllr Logan** informed that the Scrutiny Committee was up and running and looking for ideas and concerns from local communities. He encouraged also the Peebles Community Council to put in ideas.

9. Reports for approval:

- **Treasurer's report:** circulated. G. Mackie advised that very little had happened recently and that there was nothing specific to report.
- **Bonnie Peebles:** Minutes of the Bonnie Peebles meeting held on 25th February 2015 had been circulated. The Gardening Calendar for 2015 was approved. It was agreed not to appoint a new representative to Bonnie Peebles before the Community Council elections in April.

10. **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 Reporter has asked for further information from the Council and consultees on several issues and the Peebles Community Council Planning Committee will submit its response to these. C. Carleton reminded that all planning reports and minutes of the Community Council from the past year can be found on the website.
- **Eshiels Recycling Centre:** It was noted that the Eshiels Recycling Centre was closed for refurbishment until 23rd March.
- **Neidpath Corner & Dirtpot Corner:** Both corners are bottlenecks and strategic issues for Peebles. This brings into stronger focus the need for a more strategic and coherent approach to upgrading of the A72, and examination of any proposals for a second bridge for Peebles in the context of both in-town connectivity and integration with the Borders roads system.
- **Flood Plan Consultation:** New flood maps highlighting where there are problems are now out for consultation. Individuals, businesses and community groups are encouraged to give their views for a public consultation aimed at protecting communities at the greatest risk of flooding in the Scottish Borders.
- **Cloich Forest Wind Farm:** The Community Council will seek further public views around the subject and will run a poll on its Facebook page and in Peeblesshire News to establish the extent to which Peebles is for or against the proposed development.
- **3 G Pitches adjacent to Craigerne Lane:** On balance the Community Council Planning Committee considers this to be an appropriate site for the pitch.
- **Tapestry:** The Chairman informed that the Scottish Borders Council will organise a joint public meeting for Peebles and Innerleithen to explain the plans. The date and time of this meeting is still undetermined.
- **Central Bar – extension of licence:** The Central Bar has applied for an extension to their opening times on Thursdays until 1 pm. It was agreed to get more information on other businesses' opening hours before commenting on the application. The Chairman wished to recognise the tremendous work C. Carleton and the Community Council Planning Committee have done and how the function of this committee has changed considerably over the past years moving to more strategic issues.

11. Any other business:

- **Eddie's Eyes:** Eddie commented that one suggestion had been posted in the suggestion box and he had passed it on to A. Snoddy. It was agreed that A. Snoddy will reply to all suggestions which come by post/through suggestion box. Eddie also reported again on illegal parking and requested traffic wardens to be reinstalled. The Chairman commented that this was currently not possible but suggested Eddie took a note of all illegally parked vehicles and the list of registration numbers could then be passed on to the police.
- **Works on A72 west of Peebles:** It was noted that the banking had collapsed and was being repaired with temporary traffic lights in place.
- **Parking:** Discussed earlier on with Police Report.

- **Cloich Forest – public opinion gathering:** It was agreed that the question to be posed to the public on the matter must be very specific and the poll should be very carefully planned. The poll would be best run from a separate website with a link from the new Peebles Community Council Facebook page as well as the Community Council website. A separate group will be formed to plan how the poll will be carried out as well as to draft the question.
- **NHS Borders – Health and Social Care Integration:** As L. Morrison was not present this item was not discussed.
- **NHS Borders – Respite care for bed-bound adults and children:** As L. Morrison was not present this item was not discussed.
- **Draft Flood Plans consultation:** Discussed earlier on with Planning Report.
- **Common Good Working Group – Appoint new representative:** It was agreed not to appoint a new representative for the working group before the community council elections.

12. **Date for next meeting:** Thursday 9th April 2015 at 7.30 pm at the Burgh Chambers.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.