

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**EILDON AREA FORUM**

MINUTE of the MEETING of the EILDON  
AREA FORUM held in the Town Hall, Stow on  
14 August 2014 at 6.30 p.m.  
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- Present:- Councillors B. White (Chairman), S. Aitchison (from para 3), M. Ballantyne,  
I. Gillespie, B. Herd, J. Mitchell.  
Community Councillors P. Docherty (Oxton & Channelkirk), R. French (Newtown  
St Boswells), J. MacKenzie (Stow), Ian Purvis (Galashiels & Langlee), B. Harrison  
(Ettrick & Yarrow), T. Cotter (Lilliesleaf, Ashkirk and Midlem).
- Apologies:- Councillors, V. Davidson, G. Edgar, D Parker, J. Torrance; Inspector A. Hodges  
(Police Scotland), J. Douce (Scottish Fire & Rescue), Earliston, Lauderdale and  
Selkirk and District Community Councils.
- In Attendance:- SBC Neighbourhood Area Manager (Eildon), Strategic Community Engagement  
Officer (C. Malster), Democratic Services Officer (F. Walling).

Member of Public - 7  
  
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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. The Chairman varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

**MINUTE**

2. There had been circulated copies of the minute of 30 April 2014. It was noted that Councillor Ballantyne should be added to the list of apologies for that meeting.

**DECISION**

**APPROVED for signature by the Chairman.**

**MEMBER**

Councillor Aitchison joined the meeting.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES AND CAPITAL, REVENUE AND PAY PARKING WORKS**

3. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director of Neighbourhood Services seeking approval for the proposed new Neighbourhood small schemes. Neighbourhood Area Manager, Craig Blackie, advised that two schemes had been requested by the Eildon Members. Requests had been made to supply and install new metal posts for the painted 'Lauder' sign adjacent to the A68 just north of Oxton, at a price of £630. There had also been a request to surface with bituminous material an old shrub bed and tree pit on Back Row, Selkirk near the junction with Tower Street at a price of £1800. Members agreed the proposed schemes. Mr Blackie went on to advise Members of 3 schemes accepted under the 'Quality of Life' budget for the Eildon Area as follows:-

Contribution to installation of Fountain at Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank	£500
Purchase of water bowser for Lauder in Bloom	£677
Purchase of chairs for Kirkhope Hall	£300

4. With regard to the list of Revenue and Capital Works, which had also been circulated, and in particular with regard to carriageway patching scheduled to be carried out on the A709 between the Gordon Arms and Glenlude, Councillor Ballantyne asked that road safety on the B709, Gordon Arms to Berrybush, be investigated at the same time.

**DECISION**

**APPROVED** the following Neighbourhood Small Schemes for implementation:-

- (a) new metal posts for painted 'Lauder' sign £630
- (b) surface old shrub bed and tree pit, Back Row, Selkirk £1800

**YARROW FEUS – 40 MPH SPEED LIMIT EVALUATION**

5. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of 1 May 2013, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Commercial Services to advise the Eildon Area Forum of the results of a monitoring exercise undertaken to evaluate the effectiveness of a 40 mph speed limit provided in 2013 through the village of Yarrow Feus. Assistant Engineer, Robbie Yates, was in attendance to present the report. He explained that, to allow a meaningful evaluation to be carried out it was considered appropriate that some 'before and after' speed surveys be undertaken at various locations along the 2 kilometres covered by the speed limit. The speed limit signs were erected on 17 September 2013 and the formal Traffic Regulation Order came into effect on 7 October 2013. In May to June 2013 speeds were collected at three approximately equidistant points over the length which would be covered by the speed limit. Repeat surveys were undertaken at the same location in May to July 2014. Appendices to the report showed the locations of the surveys and a summary of results of both sets of surveys. In a discussion of the results the report explained that an approximate reduction of around 10 mph was demonstrated in terms of average and 85 percentile speeds at two of the monitoring sites. At the other site there was a marginal increase for which there was no obvious explanation. However the report concluded that given the reduction in speeds as demonstrated in the results it would be advisable to retain the 40 mph speed limit through Yarrow Feus. In the ensuing discussion Ms Harrison, the Ettrick and Yarrow Community Council representative, explained that there had been a significant level of response to the report from local residents. The Community had expected to be involved in the evaluation of the speed limit and there was a perception that the Council had not carried out local consultation on the proposals. Although the Community Council had not carried out a formal scoping of local opinion Ms Harrison believed that on balance there was support for the speed limit. However there were issues with regard to the start of the section of road subject to the limit in relation to the location of the school. She suggested there should be consultation with local residents with regard to the effectiveness of the speed limit and whether it should be extended eastwards. In agreeing to approve the report's recommendation Members were open to the possibility of extending the speed limit in the future should this be shown to be effective and necessary.

**DECISION**

- (a) **NOTED** the findings of the evaluation exercise in respect of the 40 mph speed limit provided through the village of Yarrow Feus.
- (b) **AGREED** that the 40 mph speed limit be retained.

**VARIOUS STREETS GALASHIELS – TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

6. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Commercial Services seeking approval for amendments to the Traffic Regulation Order for Galashiels. Assistant Engineer, Gary Haldane, was in attendance to present the report. He explained that recent amendments to the Galashiels Traffic Regulation Order had been in relation to the Galashiels Inner Relief Road (GIRR) Scheme. The amendments, shown and described in appendices to the report, were proposed to aid the movements of vehicles within the town, including the provision of a loading bay in Scott Street, time-restricted parking in Paton Street and the introduction of parking on Huddersfield Street. Also included were proposed amendments to the restrictions in High Street related to the finalisation of the GIRR Scheme and restrictions associated with the new Transport Interchange. Statutory Consultation on the proposals had been carried out from 26 August 2013 to 24 September 2013 and the proposals were advertised to the public from 22 May 2014 to 19 June 2014.

No objections or adverse comments had been received. In a discussion on the report Members expressed concern over the prospect of enforcing parking and other restrictions in the light of the withdrawal of the Traffic Warden service by Police Scotland.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to APPROVE the proposed amendments to The Scottish Borders Council (The Borders Regional Council (Various Streets, Galashiels) (Regulation of Traffic) Order 1990)**

**PARTNER UPDATES**

7. The Chairman referred to emails from partner organisations in the absence of the respective representatives. Jeff Douce of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) had given a short summary of operational activity undertaken by SFRS within the Eildon Area during the period 1 May to 31 July 2014. This included attending 15 calls to secondary fires. These related to a number of fires involving grass and bushes, rubbish and bonfires. It was noted that a number of these turned out to be false alarms due to individuals burning garden waste.

**DECISION**

**NOTED**

**THE BORDERS RAILWAY**

8. Borders Railway Community Liaison Officer, Jonathon Hepton, was in attendance to give a presentation and update on the Borders Railway project. He began his presentation with a brief history of the line, referring to the station at Stow which had first opened in 1848. It was closed in 1969 and would now be re-opened with the railway line in 2015. A draft timetable for the new service had been published and Mr Hepton gave a summary of the service to and from Stow. The journey from Stow to Edinburgh Waverley would take 45 minutes. On Monday to Saturday there would be 6 trains before 9 am, the earliest being at 5.30 am. There would be 4 trains from Stow to Galashiels before 9 am and the journey would take 9 minutes. There would be an hourly service at off-peak times and all day on Sundays. The presentation went on to look at the type of trains to be used on the line as well as details of the seating, disabled access, cycle storage and facilities such as toilets and free wi-fi. There would be detailed information at the station displayed on clear electronic signs. Rail fares from Stow to Edinburgh were estimated to be £7.70 single, £12-£13 peak return and £11-£12 return off-peak. Fares would be less with a railcard or season ticket; if the journey was part of a longer trip; and for children up to 15 years of age. Children under 5 travelled free. Mr Hepton ended his presentation with maps of the rail network and the location of stations along the Borders Railway route.
9. A discussion followed about the railway and Mr Hepton answered questions. In response to comments about the likely popularity of the line, he advised that provision had been made for an increase in services should there be the demand, but there was no provision in the design for the line through the Borders to be dual tracked. It was confirmed that parking at the stations in Tweedbank and Stow would be free, the proposed number of parking spaces being 120 at Tweedbank and at least 30 at Stow. Discussion continued about the transport of cycles on the train. There was general recognition of the importance of providing sufficient space in carriages for cycles bearing in mind the increasing popularity of cycling in the Borders. Mr MacKenzie of Stow Community Council gave as an example that Stow hoped to provide facilities for cycle hire as a tourist attraction which would be linked to the railway. The Chairman thanked Mr Hepton for his presentation.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the presentation.**

**OPEN QUESTIONS**

10. There were no open questions.

**DECISION  
NOTED**

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

11. Galashiels and Langlee Community Councillor, Ian Purvis, referred to the apparent proliferation of commercial For Sale signs within Galashiels and asked if anything could be done to reduce the impact of these in respect of their number and size. The Chairman advised that this would be noted and included in a discussion on the issue of empty shop premises which was planned for the next meeting of the Community Council.

**DECISION  
NOTED**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

12. In a discussion about possible future agenda items, Community Councillor Rick Kenny referred to the legacy of the Commonwealth Games and asked if there could be representation from Scottish Borders Council and Borders Sports and Leisure Trust in a discussion on what is happening for sport in the Scottish Borders and what is required to develop sport. Another suggestion was for a presentation on the economic regeneration schemes taking place in Scottish Borders towns. Concern was expressed and further information requested in respect of the withdrawal of the Traffic Warden service by Police Scotland. However the Chairman advised that in this regard findings should be awaited of a review of options for the way forward currently being carried out by Scottish Borders Council.

**DECISION  
NOTED**

*The meeting concluded at 7.55 pm.*

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**NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES, QUALITY OF LIFE and  
CAPITAL & REVENUE WORKS**

**Report by Service Director Neighbourhood Services**

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**EILDON AREA FORUM**

**13 November 2014**

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**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1 **This report seeks approval for the proposed new Neighbourhood Small Schemes from the Area Forum and to up-date the Forum on Quality of Life, Roads Capital and Revenue works.**

1.2 The following schemes have been requested for consideration by the Eildon members:-construction of a circular, masonry raised flower bed at Burnmill, Lauder, provision of a timber bench in Croft Road, Lauder, a new community notice board for Yarrow Feus and plant shrubs on the elevated banking in Newtown St. Boswells.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **I recommend that the Eildon Area Forum**

**(a) approves the following new Neighbourhood Small Schemes for implementation:-**

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>(i) Install a circular, masonry raised flower bed, Burnmill, Lauder.</b> | <b>£1,900</b> |
| <b>(ii) Supply a timber bench, Croft Road, Lauder</b>                       | <b>£150</b>   |
| <b>(iii) Install a new notice board, Yarrow Feus</b>                        | <b>£500</b>   |
| <b>(iv) Plant shrubs on elevated banking, Newtown St. Boswells</b>          | <b>£1,400</b> |

**(b) notes the position to date on spend and projects in the Eildon Area for Neighbourhood Services Small Schemes, Quality of Life , Roads Capital and Revenue works, as detailed in the appendices to this report.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Elected Members, Community Councils and the public can request potential small schemes or work to be undertaken by the Neighbourhood squads by contacting the Neighbourhood Area Manager direct. Neighbourhood Operations is contactable via the new Scottish Borders Council telephone number 0300 100 1800, e-mail address – enquiries@scotborders.gov.uk or by writing to Neighbourhood Services, Council Headquarters, Newtown St. Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA.
- 3.2 The following schemes have been requested for consideration via these routes to enhance the Eildon Area:-
- 3.3 Construct a circular, masonry raised flower bed at Burnmill, Lauder (£1,900). This request was received from the local Community Council.
- 3.4 Supply and install a timber bench at the recently up-graded amenity area on Croft Road, Lauder (£150). This request was received from the local Community Council.
- 3.5 Supply and install a new community notice board at village hall, Yarrow Feus (£500). This request was received from local elected member.
- 3.6 Supply & plant 14 No. Rhododendron plants on the elevated banking near the centre of Newtown St. Boswells (£1,400). This request was received from local elected member.

### **4 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial**

- (a) A budget of £48,200 is available for small schemes in the Eildon Area in 2014/15.

Appendix A lists previously approved small schemes and the current position.

- (b) If the small schemes in 2.1(a) are all approved, the remaining small schemes budget for 2014/15 will be £ 33,680.

- (c) In addition, a budget of £20,000 is available for Quality of Life schemes in the Eildon Area in 2014/15. It has previously been agreed by Eildon Councillors that this budget is equally divided between the three Eildon Wards. Each Ward will have a budget of £6,666.

Appendix D lists previously approved Quality of Life schemes and the current position.

- (d) Appendices B & C list up-dates on the Roads Capital and Revenue works.

#### **4.2 Risk and Mitigations**

If the small schemes budget is not spent, the local area will not benefit from improvement works being carried out.

#### 4.3 Equalities

The proposals within this report will not have an adverse impact on any of the equality groups - race, disability, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief.

#### 4.4 Acting Sustainably

It is anticipated that there will be a variety of economic, social or environmental benefits arising from the proposed schemes in para 2.1.

#### 4.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects anticipated on carbon emissions to the Council by doing or not doing what is proposed.

#### 4.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

#### 4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

No changes to the Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation are required as a result of this report.

### 5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Office, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, The Chief Officer HR, the Service Director Capital Projects and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted. Any comments received have been incorporated in the final report.

#### Approved by

**Service Director Neighbourhood Services**

**Signature .....**

#### Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Craig Blackie	Neighbourhood Area Manager (Eildon) 01835 824000 Ext 8036

**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Jacqueline Whitelaw, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, Tel 01835 825431, Fax 01835 825071, email [eitranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:eitranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk).

**Provisional Programme for Approved Eildon "Small Schemes"**

**APPENDIX A**

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Estimate (£)</b>	<b>Final Cost</b>	<b>Current Up-date</b>	<b>Estimated Completion</b>
Contribution to new play equipment, Bannerfield, Selkirk	5,000		Complete	
Replace two timber circular tree seats, The Green, Bowden	1,340		Complete	
Install two dropped kerbs, Station Rd, Oxton	1,800		Complete	
Install new metal posts for "Lauder" sign, adjacent to A68 nr Oxton	630		Ordered	
Surface old shrub bed & tree pit, Tower Rd, Selkirk	1,800		Ordered	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,570</b>			



# Works Programme

Appendix B

## Asset Programme of Revenue and Capital Works - Eildon Area 2014/15

### Programme of Capital Works - Roads

Location	Description	Estimate	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
A707 The Green, Selkirk	Carriageway Surfacing	£60,000												
B6361 Annay Road, Melrose	Carriageway Surfacing	£30,000												
DG52/2 Hunters Bridge Road, Galashiels	Carriageway Surfacing	£25,000												
C89 Dods Farm	Carriageway Surfacing	£55,000												
A697 Lylestane	Surface Dressing	£16,000			Comp									
A708 Dryhope Bridge	Surface Dressing	£3,900			Comp									
A708 St Marys Kirkyard - West	Surface Dressing	£8,500			Comp									
A708 Gordon Arms - Craig Douglas	Surface Dressing	£32,500			Comp									
B6398 Bowden - Newtown St Boswells	Surface Dressing	£39,800			Comp									
B6400 Clerklands	Surface Dressing	£11,000			Comp									
B6400 Riddle	Surface Dressing	£4,200			Comp									
B709 Hartleap - Berrybush	Surface Dressing	£26,200			Comp									
B7009 Inner Huntly - Halterburn	Surface Dressing	£16,400			Comp									
C12 Threepwood Moss	Surface Dressing	£13,100			Comp									
C13 Clerklands - Dryden Greenhill	Surface Dressing	£18,200			Comp									
C53 Raperlaw - Catshawhill	Surface Dressing	£12,300			Comp									
C76 Middle Blainslie - Milsieburn	Surface Dressing	£15,400			Comp									
C89 Pickie Moss	Surface Dressing	£4,400			Comp									
C89 Boon - Dods	Surface Dressing	£13,100			Comp									
C90 Fans - Darlingfield	Surface Dressing	£13,100			Comp									
A699 St Boswells - Selkirk	Carriageway Patching	£18,000												
A708 Selkirk - St Marys Loch	Carriageway Patching	£24,000												
A7 Gala - Midlothian Boundary	Carriageway Patching	£15,000												
B709 Gordon Arms - Glenlude	Carriageway Patching	£19,000			Comp									
Livingstone Place, Galashiels	Footway Works	£10,000												
Leslie/Montrose Place, Selkirk	Footway Works	£12,000												

**TOTAL**

**£516,100**

# Asset Programme of Revenue and Capital Works - Eildon Area 2014/15

## Appendix C

### Programme of Revenue Works - Roads

Location	Description	Estimate	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
B7009 Selkirk - Tushielaw	Carriageway Patching	£40,000												
C86 Birkenaside - Corsbie	Carriageway Patching	£22,000												
C77 Gala - Lauder	Carriageway Patching	£25,000												
C16 Clarilawmuir - Lindean	Carriageway Patching	£20,000												
A7 High Buckholmside, Galashiels	Walls & Structures	£4,000												
A7 Abbotsford Road, Galashiels	Walls & Structures	£3,000												
DS53/2 Old Bridge Road, Selkirk	Walls & Structures	£18,500												
DS38/2 Kingsland Avenue, Selkirk	Walls & Structures	£20,000												
B6362 Lauder Road, Stow	Drainage Works	£12,000												
DM23/4 Tower Road, Darnick	Drainage Works	£8,000												
D190/4 Melrose Road, Eildon	Drainage Works	£3,000												
The Avenue, Lauder	Footway Works	£3,000												
Hill Street, Galashiels	Footway Works	£5,000												
King Street, Galashiels	Footway Works	£15,000												
Tweed Road, Gala	Footway Slurry Sealing	£2,200												
Whitefield, Newtown St Boswells	Footway Slurry Sealing	£2,400												
Abbotsferry Road, Tweedbank	Footway Slurry Sealing	£3,300												
Windyknowe Road, Galashiels	Footway Slurry Sealing	£3,600												
Broom Drive, Galashiels	Footway Slurry Sealing	£1,800												
Ladhope Crescent, Galashiels	Footway Slurry Sealing	£300												
Hill Street, Galashiels	Footway Slurry Sealing	£550												
Park Crescent, Newtwn St Boswells	Footway Slurry Sealing	£2,100												
Acorn Drive, Earlston	Footway Slurry Sealing	£700												
Queensway, Earlston	Footway Slurry Sealing	£3,000												
Various Rural Locations	Jetpatching		Comp	Comp	Ong									
Various Urban Locations	Rhino Patching				Ong									

**TOTAL**

**£218,450**

## Asset Programme of Revenue and Capital Works - Eildon Area 2014/15

### Programme of Revenue Works - Bridges

Location	Description	Estimate	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
A697 Boghall Bridge	Structural Conc Repairs	£25,000												
B6359 Bowden Stand Dam Bridge	Masonry Repairs	£10,000			Ong									

**TOTAL**                      **£35,000**

### Programme of Capital Works - Street Lighting

Location	Description	Estimate	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
A7 Main Road, Stow	Street Lighting Works	£55,000												
Leslie Place, Selkirk	Street Lighting Works	£30,000												
Winston Road, Galashiels	Street Lighting Works	£40,000												

**TOTAL**                      **£125,000**

# Agreed Eildon Expenditure for "Quality of Life"

## APPENDIX D

Scheme	Estimate (£)	Final Cost	Current Up-date	Estimated Completion
<b>Galashiels &amp; District</b>				
<b>Leaderdale &amp; Melrose</b>				
Contribution to installation of fountain, Gunknowe Loch, Tweedbank		500	Complete	
Purchase of water bowser for "Lauder in Bloom"		677	Complete	
Contribution to Christmas Lights Group, Earlston		780	Complete	
Contribution to Community Day, Earlston Development Trust		558.2	Complete	
<b>Selkirkshire</b>				
Purchase of chairs for Kirkhope Hall		300	Order raised	

Total

0

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**OFF-STREET PARKING/PAY & DISPLAY GALASHIELS -  
TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

**Report by Service Director Commercial Services**

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**EILDON AREA FORUM**

**13 November 2014**

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**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1 **This report proposes to amend the Off-Street Parking/Pay & Display Traffic Regulation Order for Galashiels.**

1.2 Recent Galashiels Inner Relief Road (GIRR) works and construction of the Transport Interchange have affected the off-street car parks within the town. These proposals are to amend the Traffic Order to reflect the changes in size and location of the car parks.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **I recommend that the Eildon Area Forum approves the proposed amendments to The Scottish Borders Council (Off-Street Parking Places) (Galashiels) Order 2002.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Recent Galashiels Inner Relief Road (GIRR) and proposed Transport Interchange works have affected the size and location of the off-street car parks in Galashiels.
- 3.2 These amendments are shown in Appendix A. The changes are amendments to the extent of Stirling Place Car Park and the relocation of Stirling Street Car Park. Also included is a proposed amendment to the extent of High Street Car Park to cover an area previously not enforceable. This area has been included following an omission from a previous Traffic Order amendment.
- 3.3 The Car Park at B&M Bargains (formerly Somerfield) and the Bus Station Car Park have been removed from the Traffic Order. The removal of the Car Park at Huddersfield Street has also been included in the Order as this had been omitted from a previous Traffic Order amendment.
- 3.4 As with all Traffic Regulation Orders, the Council has to undertake a two stage consultation process. Firstly there is a statutory consultation with bodies that have a direct interest such as emergency services, freight and public transport representatives and the Community Council. Following that process, the proposal requires to be advertised locally (local press and on-street notices) to allow others the opportunity to comment or object.
- 3.5 Statutory Consultation on the proposals was carried out from 21/02/2014 to 21/03/2014. No adverse comments were received at this stage.
- 3.6 The proposals were advertised to the public from 21/08/2014 to 18/09/2014. No objections or adverse comments were received.

### **4 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial**

The financial implications associated with the recommendations relate to the advertising costs associated with a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Approximate costs for the advertising is as follows:-

Advertising Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)	£1,000
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The costs would be borne by Network's Aids to Movement budget.

#### **4.2 Risk and Mitigations**

- (a) The risks of not proceeding with the recommendations are that existing enforcement problems associated with parking would continue. Not controlling the new relocated Stirling Street Car Park by a TRO to encourage turnover would lead to its use as a long-stay car park especially once the Waverley line is re-opened.
- (b) There are no known risks of proceeding with the recommendations.

#### 4.3 Equalities

An Equalities Scoping Template has been completed on this proposal and it was anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

#### 4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

#### 4.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

#### 4.6 Rural Proofing

It is anticipated that there are no adverse effects on the rural area from the proposal contained in this report.

#### 4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

### 5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, the Service Director Interim Capital Projects and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received incorporated in the final report.

#### Approved by

**Service Director Commercial Services Signature .....**

#### Author(s)

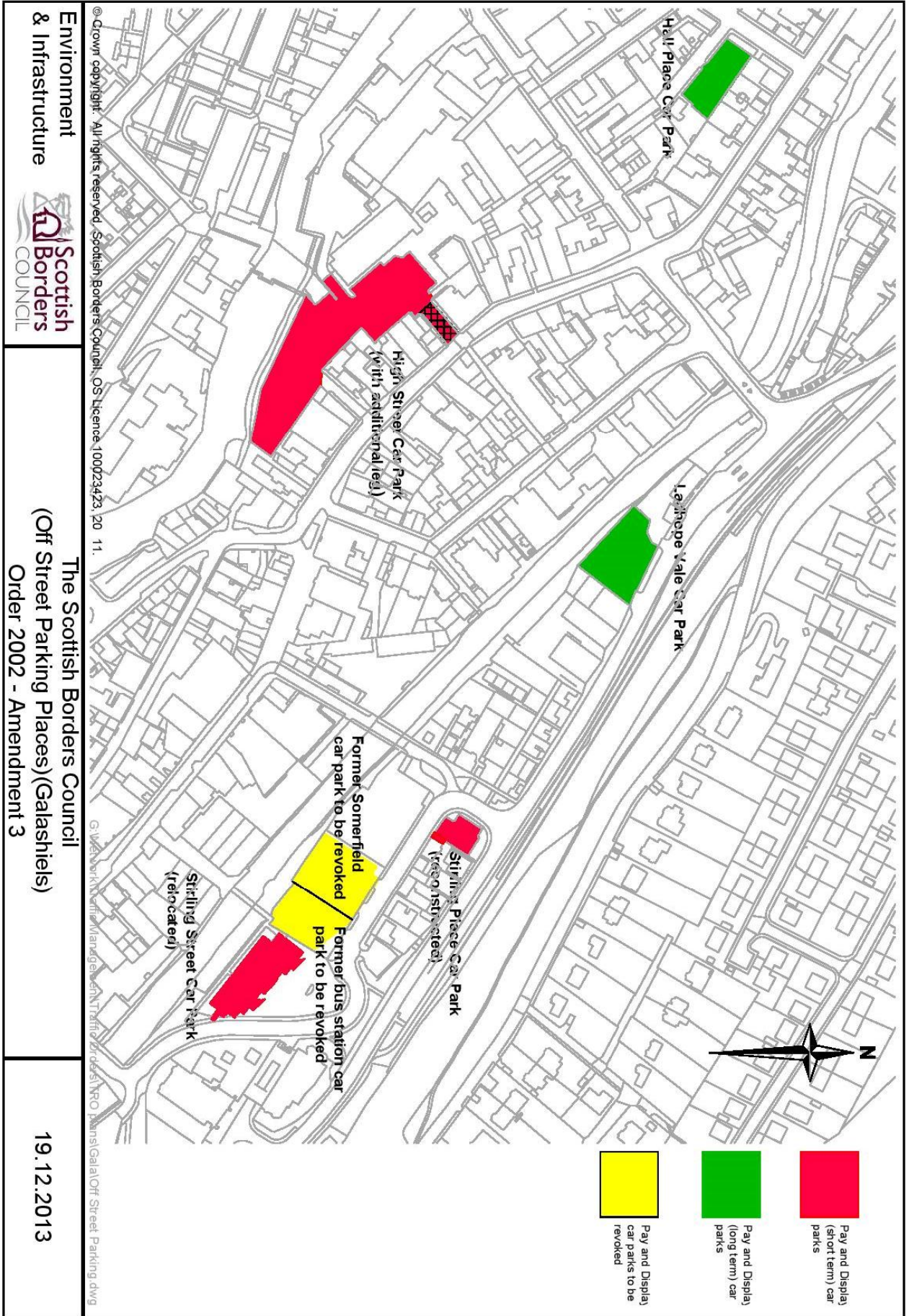
Name	Designation and Contact Number
Gary Haldane	Assistant Engineer, Network 01835 82 6642

**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:** N/A

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Environment & Infrastructure  
**Scottish Borders COUNCIL**

The Scottish Borders Council  
 (Off Street Parking Places)(Galashiels)  
 Order 2002 - Amendment 3

19.12.2013



**Item No 7**

**Eildon Area Forum Satisfaction Survey**

A survey was distributed among those attending the Eildon Area Forum which took place in Stow on 14 August 2014 seeking to gather opinion on the Area Forum and whether it should continue in the current format.

There were 19 attendees at the meeting which included members of the public, community councillors, Scottish Borders Councillors and council officers.

Ten surveys were completed and indicated that those who expressed an opinion think that Eildon Area Forum has a role to play and should continue.

The results can be broken down as follows:

<b>Q1: Where did you hear about tonight's meeting?</b>	
From previous meeting/was sent agenda	50%
Local press	20%
Council's website	20%
Council's facebook page	10%
Other	-

This would indicate that a range of channels are being used to access Area Forum information.

**Q2: In what role are you attending the meeting?**

Of those attending that completed the survey most were members of the public (40%) whilst Scottish Borders Councillors, Community Councillors and Council Officers each made up 20%.

**Q3/4: Have you attend Area Forum meetings before? How many?**

60% of those attending the meeting were doing so for the first time. Of those that had attended previously 50% had attended most of them while 25% had attended all of them and 25% had attended one meeting before.

<b>Q5: Did you think items on the agenda were:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Informative	100%	-
Of relevance to you	75%	25%
Interesting enough to make you want to find out more	60%	40%

**Q6: Were any questions you asked answered to your satisfaction?**

60% asked a question which was answered to their satisfaction, the remaining 40% did not ask a question.

**Q7: Is there anything you would like to see on a future agenda?**

Three (30%) who responded made suggestions for future agendas:

- Progress on the Borders Railway. People need to be informed regularly about this subject
- Legacy from c'wealth games & obesity epidemic – what plans for sports provision – buildings & classes provided etc for Eildon area, by providers - SBC & BSLT
- Even broader spectrum

The request for more information on the railway was not raised verbally at the meeting which may suggest that some people prefer to submit this in writing.

**Q8/9: Was the venue suitable? Was the room layout suitable for the type of meeting?**

90% felt that the venue and layout was suitable for Area Forum meetings (10% did not comment). Comments made were:

### **Item No 7**

- Good sized room and reasonable sound quality
- As long as plenty of space for the meeting, it is only correct to do round of venue
- The Town Hall is a good size for meetings to be held in
- No lift tho' if any people with a disability. Sound – difficult to hear. Consider roving mic in this venue?
- Good acoustics – bright and airy and user friendly
- Room layout welcoming and spacious
- Good layout for (a) involvement an (b) hearing what people were saying
- Venue is spacious for good amount of seats and people
- Hard to hear certain councillors – not all the time

There were conflicting comments about the acoustics this may be due to the different seating areas i.e. round the table vs in the public gallery.

### **Q10/11 Did you feel welcome at the meeting? Were you encouraged to participate?**

All those that responded to this question felt welcome at the meeting and that they were encouraged to participate.

### **Q12: Do you think Area Forum meetings are worth having?**

The survey posed the question whether Area Forums are worth having. 100% of those that responded made positive comments:

- First meeting I have been to, so difficult to say. There was one report that related to our CC area – so good to be able to speak about that
- Yes
- On balance. Yes
- Yes
- They, along with Community Councils are the “eyes and ears” for Councillors and are therefore important
- Yes, very informative
- Yes, in my role I found this informative in terms of being able to offer information to general public within contact centre

### **Q13: Could Area Forums be replaced with something different? If 'yes' please let us know your ideas.**

Three (30%) responses were made about whether Area Forums could be replaced with some thing different:

- Not thought about it
- Not convinced
- They could but I feel that in the current arrangement are quite effective

### **Results**

The overall results of the survey are positive. It is acknowledged that not all agenda items will be of relevance/interest to all those attending and this will vary between meetings. The survey does identify that attention should be paid to the seating arrangements to ensure good sound quality for everyone.

### **Recommendations:**

1. Cognisance to be given to layout of room to allow for poor acoustics
2. Feedback forms/comments slips made available at all meetings to support all those attending to put their views/comments forward.