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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TWEEDDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTE of Meeting of the TWEEDDALE
AREA PARTNERSHIP held in Eddleston
Village Hall, Eddleston on Tuesday, 14
January 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman), K. Chapman, S. Haslam, E. Small, together with 24 representatives from Partner Organisations, Community Councils and members of the public.

Apologies:- Councillors H. Anderson and S. Bell
In Attendance:- Communities and Partnerships Manager, Locality Development Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Passenger Transport Manager, Democratic Services Team Leader.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership.
- 1.2 Les Turnbull of Peebles Community Council had asked for an item on the future of the Community Fund to be included on the agenda. Shona Smith advised that the paper had not yet been considered by Council but once this had happened the item could be discussed by the Area Partnership. It was hoped that this could be included on the March agenda. The Chairman reminded everyone that there were still funds available and encouraged applications to be made. A request was made to include details of those applications which were rejected in future reports and this was agreed.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 5 NOVEMBER 2019**

- 2.1 The Minute of the meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership held on 5 November 2019 had been circulated along with a summary of the discussion attached as an appendix to the Minute and the Chairman highlighted the main points which had been raised.
- 2.2 With reference to paragraph 5.6 it was noted that Kenny Harrow was to meet with the young people from Walkerburn on Thursday to discuss what assistance might be available for their Youth Club.
- 2.3 The new "Ask Sara" website was highlighted. This was an easy-to-use website available 24 hours a day, seven days a week which provided details of equipment and solutions that could make life easier for people requiring support.
- 2.4 With reference to paragraph 7, it was agreed that Councillors Tatler, Haslam and Small be the Council representatives on the Peebles Parking Working Group.

3. **TRANSPORT UPDATE**

Following the presentation given at the meeting on 27 August 2019, Tim Stephenson advised that as part of the review of services across the Borders he could confirm that there would be no changes to services 91 and 93A. However, they would be up for re-tender in 2 years' time and he would arrange discussions between now and then to ascertain what people wanted these services to look like in the future. He also reported on a recent meeting with communities in Clovenfords, Walkerburn and Innerleithen regarding a possible service to Galashiels at weekends. A taxi service was one possible solution and further discussions would take place once community consultation had been

carried out. In response to a question Tim agreed that a solution for the service to Broughton was required and would be happy to help with pilot schemes.

4. TWEEDDALE LOCALITY PLAN

Action Plan Update

- 4.1 Copies had been circulated of the latest version of the Action Plan. The document would be updated on an ongoing basis. The Chairman advised that he had attended a recent meeting of the Tweeddale Access Panel and was happy to come along to any Group meeting. With regard to the item under the Safer Communities Theme on the Men's Shed it was noted that this was not open 7 days per week

Environment & Place Theme

- 4.2 Morag Cockburn, Senior Project officer with Change Works in Peebles gave a presentation on the organisations that could support the Tweeddale Area Partnership in the realisation of the priorities:

Tackle fuel poverty.

Improve awareness and access to information, support and resources to increase energy efficiency.

The Change Works in Peebles project, funded by Scottish Government and run in partnership with Scottish Borders Council, could support householders and businesses to make energy efficiency improvements to their property. The project worked in close partnership with Home Energy Scotland and Resource Efficiency Scotland. Home Energy Scotland could assess householders for a range of funded programmes, including Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS) and Warmer Homes Scheme and administer an interest free loan for self-funding households. The Changeworks Affordable Warmth team could also support the most vulnerable householders with an advocacy service to deal with suppliers for people around subjects like fuel debt and worked closely with CAB, NHS and Housing Associations. Further information could be found at https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20011/housing_and_homeless/236/energy_saving_advice

- 4.3 Lesley Morrison of Tweed Green gave a presentation on the work of their group. They were a voluntary group who were promoting a self-sustaining community. They also worked with Change Works. They operated the Tweeddale Wood Fuel Group which had a licence to collect wood. They were involved in gardening and growing food and had produced a leaflet on gardens in Peebles and Innerleithen. Their gardens could be used by health care providers to help with social isolation, loneliness and dementia. Their next big project "Plastic Free Peeblesshire" which aimed to eliminate plastic use and a directory of businesses who were supporting this project was about to be printed. She also commented on a range of winter talks and encouraged people to come along.
- 4.4 Those present divided into three groups to discuss the various issues raised and a summary of these discussion is appended to the Minute.

5. TWEEDDALE COMMUNITY FUND UPDATE

- 5.1 There had been circulated for information copies of the interim Community Fund overview map and the internal and external funding maps for Tweeddale. It was reported that there was still £130k remaining in the fund for the current financial year.
- 5.2 There had been circulated copies of applications from Tweed Wheels for a contribution of £10k towards a new minibus and Innerleithen Community Trust for a contribution of £5,427 towards new stacking seating for the Innerleithen Memorial Hall. Those in attendance agreed to approve both applications.

6. OPEN FORUM

- 6.1 Kirsty Peebles and James Taylor advised that they had received funding to employ a consultant for a period of 6 days to do work on the plans for Eddleston 2025. They also commented on plans for a multi-use path linking Eddleston and Peebles. This would help reduce the number of car journeys and link into the cycling and tourism markets. The Community Council were also supporting the proposal by Barony Castle to build Eco lodges.
- 6.2 In response to a request for an update on pothole repairs, Councillor Haslam undertook to send the schedule of works for the year to all Community Councils. She also encouraged those present to report any potholes and suggested that people use the "Fixmystreet" app as a reporting tool.
7. **COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT UPDATE**
A copy of the List of Participation and Asset Transfer requests received during 2018/19 had been circulated for information. Shona Smith asked that anyone with questions regarding participation requests or Asset Transfers get in touch.
8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership would be held on Tuesday, 24 March 2020. The venue had originally been set as the MacFarlane Hall but it was agreed to move to the Peebles High School and bring the meeting time forward to 4.30 pm to encourage pupils to attend and that they, or anyone else in the Community be asked to put forward agenda items to Kenny Harrow in the C&P Team. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting concluded at 8.40 pm

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Appendix
Tweeddale Locality Plan – Community Transport: solutions and actions

Locality suggested transport solutions	Would this work in your community?	Who would take this forward – we need key champions/organisations	What support would be needed (financial, time, resources etc), and what would this look like?
Electric solar information panels at key locations	Melrose tourist point, post offices - direct correlation between usage	Where is this working already? Where are points/ locations	Identification of locations
Display all Border transport in one app	Improving access to 'live' information would be really helpful as it would let people know if buses are delayed or aren't running. Would work in Gala but not where bus is the only option Critical is location tracking	Bus providers Look at Highland for case studies Who can pull all the organisations together – is Travel Line already doing this ?	Bus sizing issue for timings.
Expand volunteer driver schemes + social car share schemes	This has potential – can we pilot schemes – but volunteer capacity may be an issue Do away with bus and get a taxi £3 / + Subsidiary. Kinloch Rannock/Perth and Kinross council ?	Bridge & expertise at DTA consortia Learn lessons from Graham Tulloch	Leaflets, finance/ volunteers to deliver the service
E-bikes scheme (Energy Trust)	Stobo- Broughton- John Buchan way Good trial points Innerleithen and Peebles	Distances across the Tweeddale area may prove too large Expansion of Bike Punks	E-bikes already in place- marketing of current offer bringing operators together. Safe routes need to be considered

SBC e-car scheme	<p>Would like to find out more about the scheme and how it could work as a solution for rural communities – would you be allowed to set up a transport scheme using the e-car service and how could fair and consistent charges be established</p> <p>Need to undertake rural mapping</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Not sufficient vehicles correctly located</p> <p>Pilot to determine what is a success/fail</p> <p>Needs to be in place in rural areas ?</p>	<p>Only 5 on a bus isn't a failure, j</p> <p>Investment required</p>
Maximise the use of Borders College /SBC /NHS/Post Office/Third Sector minibuses	<p>Need to make the process of hiring existing minibuses easier so more people can make use of them</p> <p>Could book a seat on a minibus in advance so that it's a demand led service that is run</p> <p>Would like to pilot this</p> <p>Tweed Wheels expand & incorporate some of the points raised above?</p>	<p>Service providers need to address barriers to hiring minibuses and using a minibus as a regular community transport offer</p>	<p>Tweedwheels - require funding/money and volunteers</p> <p>DI licensing</p>
Extended Rail Connections/Accessibility	<p>Tweeddale Valley – Glentress tourist route could be developed</p>		
Remove need for Travel i.e. Extended delivery of outreach services, localised delivery or enhanced use of modern communications technology.	<p>No – isolation creation</p> <p>Better Broadband</p> <p>Root and branch review of tender packages, consider more and different ways to provide flexible and demand led transport</p>		
Demand responsive transport scheme	<p>Appropriate bus size for market (14/16/18 instead of 40)</p>		

Improve support for the tender process	<p>More small businesses would be encouraged to tender for transport contracts if supported to use the public contacts portal</p> <p>Bulk/ route mapping</p>	<p>SBC procurement</p> <p>Different way of delivering public transport</p>	Zoning route for community tendering route and brand review of the range of providers
Community residents could access school transport	Some school buses transporting rural children and young people aren't full. Local residents could also use the buses to travel in to town	Follow up with SBC transport to see what arrangements could be put in place for different communities	
Further consultation on passenger travel to help with transport planning	Need a detailed picture of the reasons why people are travelling ie work, studying, leisure etc and when they need to travel	Bus Users Scotland public consultation	
Case Studies – where are some of these ideas working already ?	Description	Could this work in your Community?	Who would be able to take this forward?
UBER type scheme ?	<p>Taxi style approach, unlicensed but approved. Access via smart phone technology/apps.</p> <p>Drivers screened – criminal checks undertaken</p> <p>Safety features built-in, tracking customer reviews, driver profiles</p> <p>Vehicle safety inspections</p>	<p>Yes/probably.</p> <p>Mobile phone coverage could be an issue and would depend on number of cars involved.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bo'ness and Area Community Bus Association – reintroduction of bus links between Bo'ness and Edinburgh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruited 2 Full Time drivers and 1 Part time driver and 1 Volunteer driver Recruited an Operations Consultant Recruited an Administration Assistant 	Need to find a route that is profitable and that people will use	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered 10,235 passenger journeys since February 2018 Make 58 journeys a week to and from Edinburgh Covered over 120,000 miles 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEED Ltd (Alnwick) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largely self-financing model Range of services – car scheme / dial-a-ride / family vehicle / group transport Contracts for Council and NHS Entrepreneurial 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chariotts (Wrexham) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branded fleet of accessible vehicles Paid co-ordinator but all volunteer drivers In 2015 provided 12,645 trips, of which 6,642 were for wheelchair users 		Paid co-ordinator is key thing. Similar to the men's shed co-ordinator with funding pulled in from other partners and NHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Access People (Cornwall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer car scheme for non-emergency healthcare appointments Journeys to and from the hospitals in Truro and Plymouth Door to door transport for people who find difficulty accessing transport 	Tweedwheels struggle to find volunteers.	Good model but third sector would need support to deliver. Legislation involved