

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the
 BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM held in the
 Chamber, Newtown Street, Duns on 5
 September 2013 at 6.30 p.m.

- Present:- Councillors M. Cook (Chairman), J. Campbell, J. Greenwell, D. Moffat, F. Renton, Inspector B McFarlane, Police Scotland, Ed Witkowski, NHS Borders.
 Community Councillors:- Abbey St. Bathans, Bonkyl and Preston – David Morrison, Ayton – John Slater, Chirnside – Dave Arran, Cocksburnpath – Pauline Hood, Coldstream and District – Martin Brims, Cranshaws, Ellemford and Longformacus, - Mark Rowley, Duns – Andrew Mitchell, Edrom, Allanton and Whitsome – Trixie Collin, Eyemouth Town – Neil McMurdo, Gavinton, Fogo and Polwarth – John Marjoribanks, Grantshouse – Kym Bannerman; Hutton and Paxton – June McGregor, Leitholm, Eccles and Birgham – Alan Craig, Reston and Auchencrow – Logan Inglis, St. Abbs – Helen Crowe, Swinton and Ladykirk – Robert Sloan
- Apologies:- Burnmouth – Lynne Craighead, Coldingham – Rhona Goldie, Foulden, Mordington and Lamberton – Howard Doherty, Greenlaw and Hume – Hazel Paxton
- Absent:- Councillor J. Fullarton
- In Attendance:- Democratic Services Officer Team Leader
- Members of the Public:- 4
-

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

1. The Chairman welcomed those present and everyone introduced themselves.

MINUTE

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of 7 May 2013. Noted that the Edrom Allanton and Whitsome representative should have been recorded as Trixie Collin and that this had also been omitted from the membership section on the agenda.

DECISION

APPROVED the Minute for signature by the Chairman as amended.

PRESENTATION – SUICIDE PREVENTION

3. The Chairman welcomed Allyson McCollam, Joint Head of Health Improvement to the meeting who gave a presentation on the work being done on suicide prevention in the Scottish Borders. There was on average 15-18 suicides each year in the Scottish Borders although the number had risen to 23 last year. She highlighted where this work fitted into the community planning structure. The national objectives included early identification, co-ordinated planning activity, evidence based interventions, supporting those affected by suicide and training and workforce development. Attempts were also being made to reduce the lethality of methods which to date had included changes to the type of household gas and restrictions on the numbers of paracetamol which could be purchased. In terms of work in the Scottish Borders good partnership working was required on matters such as welfare reform. Community networks were important as were opportunities in the arts and sport as lack of social connectedness was an issue. It was also important to understand the risk factors and that these were different for men and women. The main factors were social isolation, financial worries, lack of opportunities, abuse and violence. Ms McCollam asked those present to consider what might make a difference in their communities and what things were already happening which would help prevent suicide. The Health Improvement Suicide

Prevention Team were trying to identify what services were missing and what should be prioritised. A Suicide Prevention week was being held from 9-14 September. Ms McCollam answered questions on the effects of bereavement and cyber bullying. In response to a question on mental health issues she advised that the Council were looking to identify mental health champions and encouraging both the Council and the NHS to sign the "See Me" pledge following the recent campaign. Inspector McFarlane commented on the increasingly sophisticated methods being used, which was linked to increased internet access, and the difficulties this created for prevention. It was noted that the majority of the suicides in the Borders involved men with many in the older age group. With regard to the new Borders Railway, Ms McCollam advised that a Steering Group had been set up including representatives from the local Police, Fire and Rescue and the British Transport Police. It was agreed that copies of the presentation be emailed to all Forum Members.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR SCHOOL KEEP-CLEAR ZIG-ZAG MARKINGS

4. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environmental Services on proposals to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to enable enforcement of existing school keep clear zigzag road markings throughout the area covered by the Berwickshire Area Forum. The report explained that the Council had approved a motion in 2010 to promote Traffic Regulation Orders to cover a total of 7 lengths of road where school keep clear zigzag markings existed in the Berwickshire area to prohibit parking on Monday to Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm. Statutory consultations had been carried out and no objections were received. All of the schools currently had "keep Clear" markings but these were not legally enforceable. Inspector McFarlane advised that he supported these proposals as parking outside schools generated a large number of complaints for the Police and this would allow them to take enforcement action.

DECISION

AGREED to approve The Scottish Borders Council (School Keep Clear) (Traffic Regulation Order) 2013 to introduce prohibition of parking on Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm on existing school keep clear markings at:-

- (a) Home Place and Duns Road in Coldstream;
- (b) A6112 Coldstream Road in Swinton;
- (c) Coldingham Road in Eyemouth;
- (d) A1107 School Road and West Loch Road in Coldingham; and
- (e) Callander Place in Cockburnspath.

All as shown on the plans appended to the report.

SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES

5. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure on proposed new SB Local Small Schemes. The report explained that the following schemes had been requested for consideration by the Berwickshire members & local Community Councils: Re-paint pavilion at the play park, Longformacus; Replace existing play equipment, play park, Ayton; Repair town clock, Museum Square, Eyemouth; Enhance area for Flodden 500, Guardsroad, Coldstream; Replace picnic table, The Green, Greenlaw; Install fencing around bottle banks, Ayton; Install bus stance, Woodheads, Duns; Erect fencing, tennis courts, Greenlaw; Repair various rural benches, Greenlaw; Overlay with tarmac, Macbains Path, Chirnside; Repair stone wall, Crofts Acre, Cockburnspath; Repair hard standing at bottle banks, Greenlaw; Purchase barrels and remove fencing, Burnmouth; Repaint fence at play park, Westruther; Manufacture and erect no dumping sign, The Avenue, Eyemouth; Purchase and install 3 benches, Burnmouth.

6. There was tabled at the meeting a further list of schemes for consideration which included planting at Coldingham Priory, erection of fences in Burnmouth, reconfiguration of parking at Cove Harbour, signs for Burnmouth, fence at Leet Green, Coldstream, dropped kerb in Greenlaw, repairs to Ford at Ricklebeck House, benches at Cove Harbour and planting at East End Car Park, Chirnside. Members agreed to approve the recommended schemes. In response to a question regarding an area at Generals Wynd, Eyemouth the Chairman advised that this would be raised with the Neighbourhood Area Manager.

DECISION

(a) AGREED to approve the following small schemes:-

(i)	Re-paint pavilion at the play park, Longformacus	£675
(ii)	Replace existing play equipment, play park, Ayton	£5000
(iii)	Repair town clock, Museum Square, Eyemouth	£3000
(iv)	Enhance area for Flodden 500, Guards Road, Coldstream	£540
(v)	Replace picnic table, The Green, Greenlaw	£115
(vi)	Install fencing around bottle banks, Ayton	£1400
(vii)	Install bus stance, Woodheads, Duns	£1800
(viii)	Erect fencing, tennis courts, Greenlaw	£1200
(ix)	Repair various rural benches, Greenlaw	£200
(x)	Overlay with tarmac, Macbains Path, Chirnside	£4800
(xi)	Repair stone wall, Crofts Acre, Cockburnspath	£850
(xii)	Repair hard standing at bottle banks, Greenlaw	£750
(xiii)	Purchase barrels and remove fencing, Burnmouth	£950
(xiv)	Repaint fence at play park, Westruther	£656
(xv)	Manufacture and erect no dumping sign, The Avenue, Eyemouth	£250
(xvi)	Purchase and install 3 benches, Burnmouth	£300
(xvii)	Plants for Coldingham Priory	£123.25
(xviii)	Fences for Upper Burnmouth play park and car park	£1488
(xix)	Renewal of fence at Lower Burnmouth	£860
(xx)	Reconfigure car park at Cove Harbour	£1200
(xxi)	Burnmouth Entrance/Exit signs	£250
(xxii)	Fence at Leet Green, Coldstream	£178
(xxiii)	Gate and Fence, Ross, Burnmouth	£641
(xxiv)	Dropped Kerb near cemetery, Greenlaw	£1350
(xxv)	Repairs to ford at Ricklebeck House, Coldingham	£2200
(xxvi)	2 new benches, Cove Harbour Car Park	£200
(xxvii)	Planting at East End Car Park, Chirnside	£1650

(b) NOTED the updates on Roads capital and revenue works.

FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM

7. There had been circulated copies of a Briefing Note prepared following the meeting to discuss future arrangements for the management and operation of the Berwickshire Area Forum. Those present favoured the informal layout of the room, agreed with moving the meeting dates to the first Thursday of the month to avoid, where possible, clashes with Community Council meetings and that the venue be the Council Chamber in Duns. The re-introduction of the Market Place prior to the meetings and to consult on possible agenda items in advance of meetings both by email and by holding regular pre-meetings was also supported. With regard to presentations it was agreed that where possible any slides would be sent out in advance.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the proposals contained in the Briefing Note for future arrangements for the management and operation of the Berwickshire Area Forum, a copy of which is appended to this Minute.

OPEN QUESTIONS

8. (a) Concern was expressed that the A1 junction at Reston was becoming more dangerous and new white lines had only partly been completed. It was suggested that this be raised with the A1 Action Group.

DECISION NOTED.

- (b) With regard to Houndwood Churchyard it was asked if there were any plans for an extension as the existing area appeared to be almost completely utilised. It was agreed that the matter would be raised with the relevant officer.

DECISION AGREED to report back with the answer.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

9. The Council were commended for their work on the Hornburn Wind Farm Application Appeal which had been refused by Scottish Ministers. It was noted that two other appeals within the Borders Area had also been refused.
10. It was reported that Duns Community Council would be holding a public meeting on Tuesday, 24 September to discuss the consultation on the proposed Alcohol Byelaws at 7 pm in the Berwickshire High School and all were welcome to attend.

DECISION NOTED.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11. Following discussion it was agreed that the following items be included on the next agenda:-
- (a) Cleaning Up Scotland Campaign
- (b) Discussion on arrangements to cover services previously provided by the SBC Wardens Service, including the future operation of the Woofs Scheme and possible budget implications.

DECISION AGREED that the above items be included on the next Berwickshire Area Forum Agenda.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12. As agreed at paragraph 7 above, the next meeting of the Berwickshire Area Forum would be held on Thursday, 5 December 2013 at 6.30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Newtown Street, Duns.

DECISION NOTED.

A1 ACTION GROUP

13. There had been circulated by e-mail prior to the meeting a copy of the Minutes of the Scottish A1 Action Group which had been held on Thursday 1 August 2013 in John Muir House, Haddington. The Group was proposing a two point approach dealing with the dualling of the A1 and also safety issues. It was noted that the meetings were open to all and it was suggested that interested Community Council representatives should attend so that local views were considered. The Chairman proposed that the Area Forum should formally move that " Berwickshire Area Forum were pleased to note the recent meeting of the Scottish A1 Action Group and supported their work on dualling and road safety." This was unanimously approved.

DECISION

AGREED that the Berwickshire Area Forum were pleased to note the recent meeting of the Scottish A1 Action Group and supported their work on dualling and road safety.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

**APPENDIX
BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM
5 SEPTEMBER 2013**

BRIEFING NOTE

A discussion meeting had been called by the Chairman of Berwickshire Area Forum (BAF), Councillor Cook, to discuss the future arrangements for the management and operation of Berwickshire Area Forum. All Community Councils within Berwickshire were invited to attend.

Present: Councillors M Cook and D Moffat;
Representatives from Coldingham CC; Eyemouth Town CC; Foulden, Leitholm, Birgham & Eccles CC; Mordington & Lamberton CC; Gavinton, Fogo & Polwarth CC; St Abbs CC.

Apologies: Councillors J Campbell, J Greenwell and F Renton;
Representatives from Abbey St Bathans, Bonkyl & Preston CC; Duns CC; Grantshouse CC; Hutton & Paxton CC; Reston & Auchencrow CC; Swinton & Ladykirk CC.

Background

Councillor Cook explained the background for calling the meeting. The following matters were discussed in detail and it was agreed that they be brought to the Berwickshire Area Forum on 5 September 2013 for consideration.

1. Frequency and Dates of Meetings

Proposal that meetings should take place quarterly on the first Thursday of the month. This would mean that the dates for the current cycle of meetings would be:

5 December 2013;
6 March 2014; and
5 June 2014.

2. Venue for Meetings

Proposal that all meetings be held in the Council Chamber, Newtown Street, Duns to allow the Forum to settle into a recognised routine. Re-consideration could be given to moving the venue to other locations within Berwickshire should this be requested at a future date.

3. The Market Place and Briefing Session

Proposal that The Market Place be re-introduced from 5.45pm – 6.15pm, prior to commencement of the formal Agenda.

Proposal that The Market Place be followed by a 15 minute pre-meeting when the Chairman would brief the Forum on any issues on the Agenda.

4. Regular Pre-Meeting for the Berwickshire Area Forum

Proposal that a regular pre-meeting be introduced whereby the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would meet with a nominated small group of Community Council representatives to discuss and agree the Agenda for the upcoming meeting, and that this pre-meeting be scheduled for two weeks in advance of the Forum.

5. Agenda Items

Proposal to continue with an Agenda which included Open Questions, Community Council Spotlight and Future Agenda Items. Acknowledged that presentations made to the Forum should be time-limited. The number and length of these presentations to be determined after consideration of the time available for the whole Agenda.

Proposal that the balance of SBC-determined items versus other items of interest on the Agenda be considered.

SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES

Report by Director of Environmental & Infrastructure

BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM

5 DECEMBER 2013

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 **This report proposes that the following new SB Local Small Schemes are approved by the Area Forum.**

1.2 The following Schemes have been requested for consideration by the Berwickshire members and local Community Councils: Install planters and soil, Burnmouth: Build stone planter at Whitome: Manufacture and erect a bench at Paxton: Install fence at The Green, Swinton: Install railings at The Orchard Paxton: Re-paint the railings at War Memorial, Edrom: Install planters and perennial plants, Eyemouth: Re-paint the mile markers in Berwickshire: Install two benches, Reston.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **I recommend that the Berwickshire Area Forum approves the following SB Local Small Scheme:**

i.	Install 4 planters and soil, Upper Burnmouth	£234
ii.	Install stone planter, Whitsome play park	£1806
iii.	Manufacture and erect bench, Back Lane, Paxton	£35
iv.	Install fence at The Green, Swinton	£670
v.	Install access railings The Orchard, Paxton	£1470
vi.	Purchase flowers and planters for Eyemouth	£995
vii.	Re-paint the railings at war memorial, Edrom	£150
viii.	Re-paint the mile markers in Berwickshire	£220
ix.	Install 2 benches at the Play Park, Reston	£200

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 Environmental and Infrastructure, Council HQ, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose TD6 OSA. The following Schemes have been requested for consideration via these routes to enhance the Berwickshire area:-

- (a) To install 4 planters and soil at Upper Burnmouth. This was requested by the village enhancement group.
- (b) To install a stone planter at the play park in the middle of the village as a focal point. This was requested by the Community Council.
- (c) Manufacture and erect a rustic bench consisting of 2 posts and a beam. This has been requested by the Community Council.
- (d) To install a fence on The Green at Swinton to stop children running out onto the road. This was requested by the Community Council.
- (e) To install railings on the Jubilee step for safety. This was requested by the Community Council.
- (f) To re-paint the railings at the War Memorial, Edrom.
- (g) To install 5 planters, soil and perennial plants in Eyemouth. This has been requested by the Town Enhancement Group.
- (h) Re-paint the mile markers on Berwickshire roads. This has been requested by Councillor Cook.
- (i) Install 2 benches at the Play Park, Reston. This has been requested by the Community Council.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

A budget of £48,197 is available through SB Local for Small Schemes in the Berwickshire area in 2013/14. The above recommended Schemes in Para 2.1 are the first Schemes looking for Members' approval this financial year 2013/14. If the above Schemes are approved, then there will be a budget of £9,809 remaining for future Schemes.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

If the SB Local Small Schemes budget is not spent, the local area will not benefit from improvement works being carried out.

4.3 Equalities

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

It is anticipated that there will be a variety of economical, social or environmental benefits arising from the proposed Schemes in Para 2.1.

4.5 Carbon Management

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

4.6 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

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

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Head of Corporate Governance, the Head of Strategic Policy, the Head of Audit and Risk, the HR Manager and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the report.

Approved by

Director of Environment & Infrastructure Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Daren Silcock	Neighbourhood Area Manager (Berwickshire) 01361 886131 Ext. 6131

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, Environmental and Infrastructure, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 OSA, Tel 01835 825413, Fax 01835 825071, email e&itranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk.