

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM**

MINUTE of the MEETING of the  
BERWICKSHIRE AREA FORUM held in the  
Chamber, Newtown Street, Duns on 4  
September 2014 at 6.30pm.

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- Present:- Councillors M. Cook (Chairman), J. Campbell, J. Greenwell, D. Moffat.  
Community Councillors:- Abbey St Bathans – David Morrison, Ayton – John Slater,  
Chirnside – R Gordon, Cocksburnpath – Pauline Hood, Coldingham – Rhona Goldie,  
Coldstream and District – Martin Brims, Edrom, Allanton & Whitsome – Trixie Collin,  
Grantshouse – Kym Bannerman, Lammermuir – Mark Rowley, Duns – Anne Affleck,  
Eyemouth Town – Neil McMurdo, Reston and Auchencrow – Logan Inglis, St Abbs –  
Lynda Brady.
- Apologies:- Councillors J Fullarton, F Renton.  
Community Councils: Hutton & Paxton – June McGregor.
- In Attendance:- Inspector John Scott - Police Scotland, Station Commander David Gिरity – Scottish  
Fire & Rescue Service, D Silcock (Neighbourhood Area Manager Berwickshire),  
Democratic Services Officer (P Bolson).

Members of the Public:- 6

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**WELCOME**

1. The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

2. 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**

3. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of 5 June 2014.

**DECISION**

**APPROVED the Minute for signature by the Chairman.**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**STREET LIGHTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT (SLEEP)**

4. The Chairman welcomed Mr Alex Young, the Council's Street Lighting Team Leader who was present at the meeting to give a presentation to the Forum on the Street Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (SLEEP). Mr Young explained that the principal components of the street lighting asset were the lighting column, luminaire, lamp with control gear and internal wiring, underground cabling, distribution pillar and connection to electricity providers and noted that across the Scottish Borders area, the Council currently had 19,000 street lights within its adopted network. The presentation explained the various types of street lights available, namely low and high pressure sodium lamps with a typical lamp life of four years, ceramic metal halide discharge lamps with a similar lamp life and finally fluorescent and LED technology with an expected lamp life of twenty years or 80,000 burning hours. Within the Scottish Borders, 77% of street lights are low and high pressure sodium lamps, 22.7% is "white light" and 0.3% is LED technology. Mr Young went on to detail the work of the Project and explained that Capital funding of £4.95m had been secured, along with £37k from the Scottish Government and interest free borrowing of £250k. Initial condition surveys were being carried out in various towns and villages and the Project aimed to install 13,500 new LED lights fitted to existing street lamps across the Scottish Borders between April 2014 and March 2020. Mr Young advised that this work would result in energy savings of around £100,000 per year and would also save on

carbon tax and maintenance costs. Further information was available on the Council's website at [www.scotborders.gov.uk/ledstreetlighting](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/ledstreetlighting).

5. A number of questions were raised and Mr Young confirmed that the LED lights being installed were sourced via Scotland Excel and that the type of lamps chosen depended on the technology available at the time. Mr Young also advised the Forum that in terms of repair, a broken lamp would be replaced as was normal practice but if a lamp head was broken then it would be replaced as part of the Project. The Chairman thanked Mr Young for his presentation.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the presentation.**

**BORDERS RAILWAY UPDATE**

6. The Chairman welcomed Mr Jonathan Hepton from the Borders Railway Project to the meeting. Mr Hepton was present to update the Forum on the progress of the Borders Railway to date. Mr Hepton advised the Forum that the Borders Railway covered the route from Edinburgh Waverley Station to Tweedbank in the Borders within a timetable that would see trains run every half hour from Mondays to Saturdays and every hour during evenings/weekends at a return fare cost of £13.10 off-peak and £15.70 peak time. Mr Hepton highlighted the advantages of rail travel and advised that the Borders Railway was scheduled to open one year from now. The presentation generated a number of questions, one of which was in relation to how attractions in Berwickshire would be advertised via the Borders Railway and Mr Hepton confirmed that the Economic Development section within the Council was currently looking at ways in which this could be maximised. Mr Hepton advised that between 60 and 70 bicycle spaces would be available per day on the trains and in response to a further question regarding available additional spaces, he confirmed that this would be flexible up to a point but that ultimately, space was finite and this would have to be taken into account. Mr Hepton also confirmed that the trains would be fully accessible to disabled people and that there would be two wheelchair spaces per two carriage train. These spaces would be available for advance booking via the national booking website. In addition, the station at Tweedbank would have facilities for twelve disabled parking spaces. Mr Hepton responded to a question regarding the extension of the Borders Railway to Hawick/Carlisle, advising that although it would be the wish of Scottish Borders Council to extend the line, external funding would have to be secured and an Act of Parliament required to enable this to happen. The Forum was informed that the Borders Railway was for passenger use only and there were no freight terminals on this line. Mr Hepton also explained that the journeys on the Borders Railway were relatively short and would therefore not generate discounted prices. Further discussion followed regarding railway provision in the Eastern Borders, and in particular to Reston Station and it was noted that the Forum requested a presentation on this subject at a future meeting.

**DECISION**

**(a) NOTED the presentation; and**

**(b) AGREED to receive a presentation on Reston Station at a future meeting of the Forum.**

**SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE UPDATE**

7. Station Commander Girrity was present at the meeting to give an update on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) activity in the Berwickshire area. He explained that a quarterly report was presented to the Scottish Borders Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board and went on to give statistics for Berwickshire for the first quarter of 2014. The Forum was informed that over the first three months of 2014 there had been six Accidental Dwelling Fires, five casualties relating to fires and two deliberate fire settings. Station Commander Girrity highlighted the Home Fire Safety Visit Programme available to all householders and also how they could access free alarms for their homes. Discussion followed and in response to a question on recruitment, the Forum was advised that there were still problems in this area. A report had been presented to the Scottish Borders Police, Fire & Rescue and Safer Communities Board and this would be shared with the Forum. Station Commander Girrity gave some explanation as to the difficulties in recruiting retained firefighters and highlighted that in

the current economic environment, more people worked away from home, thus making it impossible for them to become retained firefighters. He went on to explain the process in dealing with “false alarms”, noting that the first two incidences would be followed up by a letter from the SFRS and the third “false alarm” would initiate a visit by an officer from the SFRS.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

**POLICE SCOTLAND UPDATE**

8. Inspector John Scott presented a report to the Forum updating Members on Police Scotland activity in the Mid and East Berwickshire Wards. Inspector Scott reported a drop in crime figures in both Wards. He went on to explain how to report problems of dog fouling and in relation to dog fouling at Coldingham beach, the Forum noted that a management plan was being taken forward to Scottish Borders Council. Discussion took place regarding the mobilising of Police Officers to the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and what impact that had within local communities. Inspector Scott informed the Forum that significant police resources had been deployed during a recent incident when a diver had gone missing at St Abbs. In terms of the Advanced Young Drivers Course, it was proving difficult to encourage young people to apply for this free course despite a widely publicised campaign. In response to a question on police representation at the Community Safety Panel, Inspector Scott explained that personnel were allocated to attend but if an operational matter arose, that took priority and as all officers were on allocated duties, no-one would therefore be available to deputise.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

**SBLOCAL SMALL SCHEMES**

9. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director for Neighbourhood Services on proposed new SB Local Small Schemes. The report advised that £48,197 was available for small schemes within the Berwickshire Area during 2014/15 financial year and that an additional £20,000 was available for Quality of Life schemes, bringing the total to £68,197. The report explained that the following schemes had been requested for consideration by the Berwickshire Members and local Community Councils: contribute towards upgrading of footway from Berwickshire Housing Association (BHA) offices to the Volunteer Hall in Duns; install a barrier at Home Park, Coldstream; mark out car park spaces at Merse View, Paxton; purchase two picnic tables for Whitsome Play Park; replace old street nameplates in Reston; supply new recycling and litter bins at Coldingham Sands; and manufacture and erect new entrance to village sign at Chirnside. By way of further background, Mr Silcock advised the Forum that public out of hours parking would be permitted at BHA offices in Duns and that more than the minimum number of recycling bins was required at Coldingham Sands to ensure that the Blue Flag was retained the Blue Flag.

**DECISION**

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

<b>(i)</b>	<b>Contribute towards upgrading of footway from BHA Offices to the Volunteer Hall, Duns</b>	<b>£2500</b>
<b>(ii)</b>	<b>Install a barrier at Home Park, Coldstream</b>	<b>£ 615</b>
<b>(iii)</b>	<b>Mark out car park spaces at Merse View, Paxton</b>	<b>£ 550</b>
<b>(iv)</b>	<b>Purchase two picnic tables for Whitsome Play Park</b>	<b>£ 200</b>
<b>(v)</b>	<b>Replace old street nameplates in Reston</b>	<b>£1050</b>
<b>(vi)</b>	<b>Supply new recycling and litter bins at Coldingham Sands</b>	<b>£1200</b>
<b>(vii)</b>	<b>Manufacture and erect new entrance to village sign at Chirnside</b>	<b>£ 250</b>

- (b) NOTED that the above spend would leave a balance of £16,227 in the Small Schemes and Quality of Life budgets for Berwickshire.**

**COLDSTREAM TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

10. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 5 June 2014, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Commercial Services on proposals to amend the (Coldstream) (Regulation of Traffic) Order 1979. The report explained that some Traffic Order proposals had been deferred at the meeting of the Berwickshire Area Forum on 5 June 2014 and that since then, further discussions had taken place between SBC officers and Coldstream and District Community Council to clarify and amend proposals. The proposals that resulted from these discussions would alleviate traffic management problems by introducing parking restrictions and a one-way system. The Forum was advised that any restriction which was less than that in the original proposal did not need to be consulted but that the extension of the double yellow lines at Home Place would require to go to public consultation again.

**DECISION**

**AGREED:-**

- (a) to approve the amendments to the Borders Regional Council (Coldstream) (Regulation of Traffic) Order 1979, as amended, detailed in the plans in Appendix A and the relevant extract from the Draft Traffic Regulation Order in Appendix B; and
- (b) that provided no objections were received through the consultation process, to approve the promotion and making of the Traffic Regulation Order.

**OPEN QUESTIONS**

11. **Transport and Health** – With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of 5 June 2014, Cllr Cook reported that he had spoken with Helen Forsyth, Chief Executive of Berwickshire Housing Association and Chair of the Community Planning Partnership Sustainable Transport Project and it had been agreed that two representatives from the Project would attend the next meeting of the Forum to explore what might be done to improve the perceived situation in Berwickshire.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

12. **Closure of Polling Places** – Mr Rowley, Lammermuir Community Council raised concern about the possible closure of Polling Stations at Abbey St Bathans and Cranshaws and asked if the Elected Members would support a motion to Scottish Borders Council that these Polling Stations should not be closed. Mr Rowley intimated that there was a level of local concern and anxiety in relation to these closures. Discussion followed in respect of rural proofing and how this was applied in Council reports.

**DECISION**

- \* **AGREED TO RECOMMEND that the Polling Stations at Abbey St Bathans and Cranshaws should not be closed.**

13. **Recycling Centre at Eyemouth** – A question was raised relating to the level of access and assistance offered at recycling centres. Cllr Cook explained that recent changes at Eyemouth recycling centre included the installation of two 20 tonne skips. Problems had arisen when one of the skips was not immediately available. The difficulties had been acknowledged and the solution included improved access for all users.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

14. **Floral Gateway Competition** – Mr Silcock recorded his thanks to everyone who had been involved in the recent Floral Gateway Competition.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

15. **Landfill** – A question was raised regarding the amount of residual waste tonnage that had been moved to landfill due to an increased use of black waste bags and whether this had increased

or decreased. The exact figures were not available at the meeting and it was agreed that this information would be made available at the next meeting of the Forum.

**DECISION**

**AGREED** that information relating to the amount of residual waste tonnage that had been moved to landfill due to an increased use of black waste bags would be presented to the next meeting of the Forum in December 2014.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

16. **Woofs Bags** – Ms Bannerman advised that the Woofs Bags would be in circulation during week commencing 8 September 2014.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

17. Discussion took place regarding subjects for consideration at future meetings and it was agreed that the following items be added to future Agendas:-

Blue Light Services / Resilience;  
Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill;  
Continuation of the Market Place on an “as and when basis”.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

18. The next meeting of the Berwickshire Area Forum will be held on Thursday, 5 December 2014 at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber, Newtown Street, Duns.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

*The meeting concluded at 8.50pm.*