

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHEVIOT AREA FORUM

MINUTE of MEETING of the CHEVIOT AREA
FORUM held in the THE TOWN HALL, THE
SQUARE, KELSO on 17 April 2013 at 6.30
p.m.

Present:- Councillors T. Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, A. Nicol, S. Scott, R. Stewart.
Community Councillors I. Athey, A. Hall, N. Jarvis, E. McNulty, K. Steel, H. Wight, Inspector B McFarlane, Inspector Carol Wood (Police Scotland – J Division).

Apologies:- Community Councillor R. Breeze

In Attendance:- Area Neighbourhood Manager (A. Finnie), Democratic Services Team Leader.

Members of the Public:- 2

MINUTE

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum of 13 February 2013.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

2. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of 13 February 2013, Councillor Nicol advised that he had received an early request for grit bins and a review of the primary gritting routes from Ednam, Stichell and Berry Moss Community Council. Mr Finnie advised that now that the worst of the winter had passed a review of the gritting routes would be carried out.

DECISION

NOTED.

3. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of 13 February 2013, Mr Finnie advised that Oxnam Road, Jedburgh had been included in the recent report to Council on the programme of revenue and capital road works. Community Councillor Wight commented on the problem of a garden subsidence and the lack of progress in rectifying the problem.

DECISION

NOTED.

POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND – UPDATE FOR ‘J’ DIVISION

4. Community Inspector (East) Brian MacFarlane and Community Inspector (South) Carol Wood were present at the meeting and reported that Police Scotland had published the local Multi Member Ward plans for both Kelso and District and Jedburgh and District and these were available to download from the Police Scotland website with the following links - www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/scottish-borders/kelso-and-district/ and www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/scottish-borders/jedburgh-and-district/. These plans were set as a result of public consultation and would be reviewed annually ensuring that the police were tackling those issues which mattered most to the local communities in the Cheviot Ward and that the police were held accountable to local communities. In relation to the prevention of crime, the first of a series of National Initiatives had been launched by Police Scotland and the Roads Policing and local officers had taken part in a traffic campaign against speeding and inappropriate driving tackling:-
 - Speeding
 - Careless or dangerous driving
 - Use of mobile phones/hand held devices
 - Failure to wear seatbelts
 - Driving without insurance/driving licence
5. The Members were advised that the rugby 7's season was underway and planning was underway in relation to the forthcoming Jedforest RFC/Jed Thistle RFC/Kelso RFC sevens. The Police would be in attendance at these events and were working with organizers, as with all Borders events a strict policy of No Alcohol allowed into the ground was being applied. A No Cold Calling Zone was being introduced in the Howden area of Jedburgh as a result of analysis and local consultation. The scheme already operated in communities across the Borders and was operated by the community in conjunction with the Police and discouraged any cold caller activity in an effort to protect the more vulnerable members of communities from unscrupulous/bogus workmen activities.
6. Kelso Community Officers would take part in a local initiative to tackle the menace of bogus workmen during May 2013. Working with Trading Standards officers it was intended to pro-actively patrol residential areas and check the credentials of workmen found in the area. Community Officers would also engage with the local community at gatherings during May. The need to be vigilant and to always obtain several quotes from local and established businesses when work was required to be done would be highlighted. The new 101 contact number for Police Scotland had already received it's 100,000th call and residents in the Cheviot area were reminded that if it was a non urgent matter they can dial 101 and report crimes or matters of concern for the attention of their local officers. Inspector MacFarlane answered Members questions and advised that a review of speed camera locations was being carried out.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

FUNDING STREAMS

7. Mrs Jean Robertson, Funding Officer, Strategic Policy Unit was present at the meeting to give a presentation on the availability of small grants. Mrs Robertson outlined the various sources of funding which included:-

- Big Lottery Fund - Awards for All - for Improving the community, arts and sports development activities/new organisations
- Investing in Ideas - Developing new ideas or new ways of working
- Communities & Families - Giving children the best chance in life (pre birth to 8 years) Improve quality of life through early learning, play and child and maternal health support, enable communities to shape and deliver support for families
- 2014 Communities - Engaging new people in sports or physical activity
- Young Start - to create opportunities for children and young people to raise their potential (8-24)
- People's Millions - to improve local places and the lives of people in your community.
- Community Spaces Scotland - Supports communities to become more involved in, and to take responsibility for their local environment, communal spaces and places
- Scottish Land Fund - To enable rural communities to achieve sustainable economic, social and environmental development through the experience of acquiring, owning and managing land and land assets
- Scottish Borders Council Community Grant Scheme - Development of new projects or, in certain circumstances, one-off support for groups experiencing temporary financial difficulty
- Scottish Borders Council Landfill Communities Fund - Development of environmental projects which restore land, reduce effects of pollution, enhance natural habitats or improve public amenities
- Local Sports Councils - Promotion and development of sporting facilities/programmes within the local area
- Federation of Village Halls - Assistance with the development of village hall facilities and services in the local area
- Common Good Funds

The Funding Officer further explained the criteria for each fund and the level of funding available. It was agreed that copies of the presentation would be circulated to all Members of the Cheviot Area Forum.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

WELFARE REFORM – IMPACT FOR THE BORDERS

8. Mr Gary Smith, Revenue and Benefits Manager was present at the meeting to give a presentation on the changes to the Welfare Benefits System and the likely impact on the Borders. The aim was to

raise awareness of the changes and a briefing note had been prepared which also included FAQs. Mr Smith outlined the various changes and the timescale for their implementation. He also highlighted the numbers of people in the Scottish Borders who would be affected by the changes.

9. The overarching focus of the awareness campaign was to signpost people to sources of advice and information. The main messages for people currently receiving benefits were:-
- Benefits are changing – are you ready? Changes are being made to the way benefits and tax credits are claimed, what benefits are called and what people are eligible for.
 - If you are of working-age and currently receive benefit, make sure you know how these changes might affect you.
 - Changes will not all happen at once, but some changes are starting to happen now, so make sure you understand them.
 - Organisations in the Borders are working in partnership to prepare for the changes and are here to support you through the changes ahead.
 - Have a benefits ‘check up’ to make sure you are claiming the right benefits.

Each of these messages would be supported by project-specific publicity as required and in accordance with the individual communication plans.

10. Mr Smith answered questions and also advised that he was to meet with the RSLs the following day to discuss the number of their tenants likely to be effected by the reduction in Housing Benefit where tenants who had more bedrooms than they required would receive a reduction of 14% for one bedroom and 25% for more than one bedroom. He was aware that some tenants had already moved but that there were not enough single bedroom properties to meet demand.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

REVENUE, CAPITAL AND SB LOCAL WORKS

11. With reference to paragraph 11(b) of the Minute of 13 February 2013, Mr Finnie tabled the list of schemes funded from the remaining 2012/13 funds, a copy of which forms the Appendix to this Minute. In response to questions Mr Finnie advised that he would investigate the litter problem on the Sprouston straight and the provision of a footpath to the first houses on that road.

DECISION

NOTED.

OPEN QUESTIONS

12. There were no questions from the public.

DECISION

NOTED.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

13. Community Councillor Athey commented on a community heating oil purchase scheme in Lanton which was resulting in a saving of 14p per litre. He also advised that the Community

Council had written to a local landowner regarding road damage caused by timber lorries and he had confirmed he would investigate the matter.

14. In response to a question from Community Councillor Wight, Councillor Brown advised that the update report in respect of the Jedburgh Flood was being prepared and would be presented to the Area Forum.
15. In response to a question from Community Councillor Steel, Councillor Weatherston reported that bus service routes were due to go out to tender and issues regarding the poor condition of some buses had been highlighted.
16. In response to a question from Community Councillor Hall, Councillor Weatherston advised that he would provide an update of the development of community land behind the hall at the next meeting of the Community Council.
17. In response to a question from Community Councillor McNulty, Councillor Weatherston advised that a report on recycling services in the area was expected in July/August. It was also noted that the bottle banks in Ancrum had been removed but once a more suitable site had been identified larger bottle banks would be provided.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 19 June 2013 in Jedburgh.

**DECISION
NOTED the date of the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum and that the venue was to be confirmed.**

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.

**CHEVIOT AREA FORUM
17 APRIL 2013
APPENDIX**

Scheme	Estimated Cost (£)	Final Cost (£)	Current Up-date
Removal of flood material, The Cobby, Kelso	448	448	Completed
Installation of timber gate, Back Lane, Yetholm	255	220	Completed
Remove overgrowth and replant shrubs, Chalkiehaugh Kelso	980	880	Completed
Install metal seat in bus shelter, Blair Avenue, Jedburgh	600	600	Completed
Manufacture street nameplates in the Jedburgh and Kelso	1000	754	Signs manufactured & to be erected a.s.a.p.
Tarring Chalkieheugh Terrace, Kelso	3015	3122	Completed
Footway works, Dukes Field, Ancrum	2482	2,482	Completed (except grass seeding)
C61 Primside Mill Yetholm	3,930	3,930	Completed
D91/3 Cleuchside Jedburgh	1,894	1894	Completed
Install plumbing at the fountain Market Square, Jedburgh	5,000	4881	Completed
Supply and erect basketball goal at play park, Maxton	1,700	1700	Completed
Repair footpath at the community garden, Lanton	845	845	Completed
Supply and erect a notice board at maxton Village	980	980	Completed
Refurbish notice board, Exchange Street, Jedburgh	80	80	Completed
Manufacture and erect sign, Lothian Hall, Crailing	150	150	Completed
Supply & install slide, Ednam Play Area	4,438	4438	Completed
Contribution towards multi-play unit at Morebattle Play Area	5,000	5000	Completed
Supply 2 no. springers, Hume Place, Jedburgh play area.	928	928	Completed
Supply and erect a notice board at Oxnam Village	980	980	Completed
TOTAL	34,705	34,312	

