

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHEVIOT AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the CHEVIOT AREA
FORUM held in Jedburgh Grammar School, High
Street, Jedburgh on 19 June 2013 at 6.30 p.m.

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

Apologies:- Councillor J. Brown, Community Councillor R. Breeze

In Attendance:- Area Neighbourhood Manager (A. Finnie), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs F
Henderson).

Members of the Public:- 0

MINUTE

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum of 17 April 2013.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND – UPDATE FOR ‘J’ DIVISION

2. Community Inspector (East) Brian MacFarlane and Community Inspector (South) Carol Wood were present at the meeting and reported that there had been a slight drop in crime in the Cheviot Area between 1 April and 19 June 2013, although there had been a rise across the Scottish Borders. Inspector McFarlane further reported on a spate of crime within the Jedburgh area, although there was a good line of enquiry for these crimes. Anti-social Behaviour crimes had dropped by 7% across the Borders as a result of early intervention.
3. The Members were advised that parents/carers were being targetted with regard to disseminating information on so called Legal Highs, with information evenings, the last of which would be held in Hawick on 20 June 2013. The Police and Fire safety had run joint courses for Small Businesses.
4. Inspector MacFarlane answered Members questions and advised that the blitz on drug related crime had resulted in imprisonments and had had a significant impact on the supply of drugs and drug related deaths had reduced. In relation to the Travelers camped at Mayfield, Kelso, Inspector McFarlane advised that the family were regular visitors to Kelso and there had never been any problems with them. Railway sleepers had been laid along the grass verge to prevent motor vehicles being driven onto the riverside and the police were monitoring the situation on a regular basis.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

5. The NHS Borders Health Improvement Specialist, Haylis MacKay, was present at the meeting and gave a presentation on Suicide Prevention in the Scottish Borders. It was explained that the Strategy and any feedback would link to the National Consultation on Suicide Prevention. The presentation summarised the objectives of the Strategy, which included early identification of risk, coordinated planning and activity, training and workforce development, supporting those affected by suicide and reducing the availability of methods. Services and partnerships were already in place which worked well together. Although below the Scottish average, in each year, in the Scottish Borders, 17 – 19 people took their own lives; risks identified were financial worries, social isolation and lack of opportunities. There was also a difference in the risk factors for men and women; in general there were more suicides amongst older men coming to the end of their working lives.
6. Following the presentation Ms MacKay proceeded to answer questions and asked for the views of those present in respect of further possible prevention measures and priority actions. She explained that if a person had a significant mental health problem then the route for assistance was clear, however it was more complicated if the person did not have a clinical, mental health problem and there was a need to respond to this group. There were links with Job Centre Plus, Mental Health and Addiction Services to offer a coordinated response. The Forum discussed implications of the welfare benefits reform and Ms MacKay reported that they were trying to link up with Job Centre Plus and the Welfare Benefits team to try to support people affected by the changes. Initiatives such as Suicide Prevention Week and training within the NHS, community groups and social care increased awareness. For relatives and friend who had lost someone through suicide, there was a self help support group - 'Survivors of People Bereaved by Suicide'. Discussions were also taking place with Human Resources and the Unions to appoint a Champion for Mental Health. The Chairman thanked Ms MacKay for her attendance and for the informative presentation.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED the presentation.**
- (b) **AGREED that the presentation on Suicide Prevention in the Scottish Borders be circulated to all members of the Forum.**

MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCILS ROADS ASSET – CHEVIOT AREA

7. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure which sought approval for the proposed allocation of additional Capital funding identified to carry out resurfacing works in the Cheviot Area. The Asset Manager, David Richardson explained that the Council had agreed in March 2013, to consult with Area Forums over the allocation of an additional £1.14m of Capital funding for road surfacing works. Officers required the Cheviot Area Forum to make a decision on which schemes should be included within the sum allocated to the Cheviot Area of £290,000. The following additional capital works were proposed for consideration, as listed in Annex A to the report:-

- C133 Bownmont Street, Kelso
- A6089 Golf Course Road, Kelso
- B6397 Stodrig Junction & Bend
- C41 Oxnam Road, Jedburgh
- B6400 Nisbet Bridge
- B6461 Houndridge Bend

Reserve

- B6400 Ancrum – A68
- C78 Leaderfoot

8. There had been circulated at the meeting copies and an amended Annex A for consideration. It was explained that the A6089 Golf Course Road, Kelso was to be removed due to the works which would be required in relation to the proposed new Kelso High School and the B6400 Nisbet Bridge be removed as there was no allowance for waterproofing. These would be replaced with the B6400 Ancrum – A68 and C78 Leaderfoot works which were on the reserve list and the DK58/4 Oakfield Court, Kelso and the B6401 Starland would be added to the list as reserve works.

DECISION

AGREED the following schemes:-

- **C133 Bownmont Street, Kelso**
- **B6397 Stodrig Junction & Bend**
- **C41 Oxnam Road, Jedburgh**
- **B6461 Houndridge Bend**
- **B6400 Ancrum – A68**
- **C78 Leaderfoot**

Reserve

- **DK58/4 Oakfield Court, Kelso**
- **B6401 Starland**

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

9. The Neighbourhood Operations Lead Officer joined the Neighbourhood Area Manager to give a presentation on the changes to the department structure and new service arrangements. The service was now more localities based with multi-skilled, flexible operatives. Neighbourhood Services had responsibility for all environmental services, planned and reactive roads maintenance and delivery of winter services. The Service also offered apprenticeships and training opportunities. The changes had allowed Neighbourhood Services to have more impact on the rural community and to utilise staff from different sections when there was high demand within individual services. For 2013/14 in the Cheviot area, Neighbourhood Operations would deliver a Recycling on the Go trial in selected communities, carriageway patching, footpath up-grading, £10,000 bridge and retaining wall improvements as well as delivery of the small scheme projects and continued support for community events.
10. The team highlighted the Resilient Communities Plan programme, which signed up volunteers to respond to local issues such as snow clearing, sandbag provision to prevent flooding and checking on neighbours in severe winter weather. Thirteen communities had signed up for the plan with over 500 volunteers. Eyemouth High School was to pilot the Resilient Schools Plan. The presentation moved on to look at the Apprenticeship Scheme being offered by Neighbourhood Operations. It was proposed that the programme, which was aimed at 16 to 25 year olds and those requiring supported employment, would support 6 apprentices per annum. The aim would be to give apprentices experience and training in all aspects of the service. The Team invited questions and informed the Forum that although there would be flexibility, generally operatives would stay in their respective trades. The Chairman raised the issue of recycling within Kelso and the removal of the mobile recycling unit. The Area Neighbourhood Manager explained the 'Recycling on the Go' initiative within Kelso Town Centre.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

REVENUE, CAPITAL AND SB LOCAL WORKS

11. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 17 April 2013, there had been circulated copies of a report which sought approval for the proposed new SB Local Small Schemes.

DECISION

AGREED to approve and implement the following new SB Local Small Schemes:-

	Estimated Cost	£
(a) Extend recycling compound at Town Yetholm	£ 1,400	
(b) Construct circular planter at Teapot Street, Morebattle	£ 304	

OPEN QUESTIONS

12. There were no questions from the public.

DECISION

NOTED.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

13. Councillor Stewart advised that Halcrow were currently undertaking detailed design work for Phase 1 of the Jedburgh (Skiprunning Burn) Flood Protection Scheme. Phase 1 was the early implementation work which did not require any orders or a controlled activities regulations (CAR) licence and consisted of A large sump downstream of the grill at Larkhall which would be able to collect up to 1000 litres per sec of any out of bank flow and channel it back into the culvert and Non-return discharge pipes through the Jed Water flood wall opposite the A68 underpass. It had been intended to construct flood walls at the ends of the vennels as part of Phase 1 as an interim measure, however during consultation with property owners in Exchange Street it became evident that they were vehemently opposed to this even though it was the intention to build a flood wall opposite the end of Burn Wynde. The proposed sump was an alternative to the flood walls. Phase 1 design work would be completed by the 30 June 2013 and while construction of Phase 1 would take place in 2013, a start date was yet to be determined. It was further reported that Phase 2 would consist of Debris management within the catchment and Reconfiguration of the grill at Larkhall. Phase 2 which was programmed for 2015/16 would require more extensive consultation especially with agencies and landowners and consequently would be more long term.

DECISION

NOTED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 14 August 2013 in Jedburgh.

DECISION

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