

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHEVIOT AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the CHEVIOT AREA FORUM held in the TAIT HALL, KELSO on 14 August 2013 at 6.30 p.m.

- Present:- Councillors T. Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, A. Nicol, S. Scott, R. Stewart.
 Community Councillors J. Bassett, A. Hall, N. Jarvis, E. McNulty, K. Steel, Inspector B MacFarlane (Police Scotland – J Division).
- Apologies:- Community Councillors R. Breeze, Ian Athey, Inspector Carol Wood (Police Scotland – J Division).
- In Attendance:- Area Neighbourhood Manager (A. Finnie), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs F Henderson).
- Members of the Public:- 1

MINUTE

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum of 19 June 2013.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND – UPDATE FOR ‘J’ DIVISION

2. Community Inspector (East) Brian MacFarlane was present at the meeting and reported that crime continued to fall in Kelso although there had been a slight increase in Jedburgh. Overall there was a reduction in crime across the Cheviot Area for the period up to 31 March 2013. It was reported that the spate of crime reported at the previous meeting had been resolved. 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 Area and that the police were held accountable to communities.

The Ward Plan Priorities were:-

- Protecting People - focusing on Bogus Workmen and Cold Callers - planned day of action targeting itinerant scrap metal dealers.
- Making Our Roads Safer - focusing on Speeding and Inconsiderate Driving - three Vehicles had been seized for not having insurance and four drink drivers had been arrested. Other road issues highlighted were speeding, not wearing seatbelts and mobile phone use while driving.
- Tackling Substance Misuse and Underage Drinking – there had been eight seizures of alcohol from underage drinkers.

- Reducing Anti Social Behaviour among groups of Youths and anti social driving – there had been one person arrested for Breach of an Anti Social Behaviour Order and there would be a planned day of action targeting inappropriate driving in Jedburgh. Recorded youth calls for Kelso and Jedburgh both showed reductions on the previous year.
3. Inspector MacFarlane was asked for his opinion on the proposed Byelaws Prohibiting the Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places across the Scottish Borders. Inspector MacFarlane advised that he had not worked as a uniformed officer outwith the Scottish Borders and therefore could not comment on any other area. Inspector MacFarlane further advised that Officers from Edinburgh, who already have the byelaws in place, and who were deployed in the Scottish Borders during the Jim Clark Rally, had expressed surprise at the amount of alcohol being consumed by the public in public spaces during the event. Inspector MacFarlane was of the opinion that the introduction of the byelaws would reduce instances of anti-social behaviour. In answer to a question regarding detection rates, Inspector MacFarlane advised that within the Cheviot Area 148 crimes had been recorded and 77 resolved (52%) for the period to 31 March 2013 compared with 172 recorded and 104 resolved (60%) for the same period in 2012. In response to a query regarding the CCTV cameras within Kelso Town Centre not working, Inspector MacFarlane confirmed that there were problems with the CCTV cameras within Kelso and work was being undertaken to resolve the issue, however the cameras were outwith the control of the Police.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

THE BRIDGE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

4. Heather Batsch and John Chick of The Bridge, Hawick were present at the meeting and gave a presentation on The Bridge – Community Transport. It was explained that the Mission of the Bridge was to encourage and support the growth of Scottish Borders community activity through the development of a high quality, dynamic and effective voluntary and community sector which focused on improving the quality of life for all Scottish Borders citizens. Accessible community transport services were available from Teviot Wheels which covered the Cheviot and Teviot & Liddesdale Area; Tweed Wheels which covered the Tweeddale area and Gala Wheels which covered the Central Borders. There was a bus located at C&R Tyres, Kelso – which was purchased in November 2009 and had a max of 9 seats incl 3 wheelchair spaces and driver; a bus located in Jedburgh which was purchased in 2012 and held a maximum of 8 seats incl 2 wheelchair spaces and driver and was based at the Bonjedward Garage, Jedburgh. The Community transport provided affordable door-to-door wheelchair accessible transport at 55p per mile and aimed to help Individuals with mobility needs and Community Groups – eg MS Society, Stroke Club. The transport, which required to be pre-booked was staffed by volunteer drivers. The Social Car Scheme provided by Scottish Borders Council subsidised the scheme by 25p per mile for eligible individual clients and eligible journeys (social, doctor, dentist, access to other public transport) which reduced the cost to 30p per mile for the first 60 miles of each journey and was administered through The Bridge. The voluntary drivers worked 1074.5 hrs from April to July 2013 and funding was given from Scottish Borders Council for running costs; Charitable Grants for vehicle replacement and through Roxburgh Thrift Shop. The joint working with Borders Community Transport Network – which brought all the local community transport providers together for integrated support and joint action; The Bridge (Teviot, Tweed and Gala Wheels); Berwickshire Wheels (BAVS); British Red Cross (cars) and Royal Voluntary Service (cars) was highlighted.
5. Mrs Batch went onto explain the issues facing the scheme in that there was a cap on annual Social Car Scheme subsidy allocation; the Scheme were unable to take concessionary bus passes (see Age Scotland campaign); the cost of fuel continued to rise; there was an increasing demand for the service which was almost at capacity, which in turn required more vehicles and more volunteer drivers.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW 2012 – KELSO AND MAXTON

6. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure which sought approval to amend the existing speed limit orders in Kelso and Maxton to take account of the findings of a recent region-wide Speed Limit Review. The report explained that in accordance with Government guidance, speed limits should seek to reinforce people's assessment of what was a safe speed to travel. Scottish Borders Council had a statutory duty to set local speed limits in situations where local needs and considerations deemed it necessary for drivers to adopt a speed which was different from the national speed limit. A Scottish Borders wide Speed Limit Review was carried out in 2012, to consider representations which had been made (generally seeking lower speeds) or on sites which officers had identified as warranting investigation. A total of 12 lengths of road were identified to be recommended for adjustment to the statutory speed limit, two of these sites were in the Cheviot Area. One at Maxton to replace the existing 40mph speed limit with a 30mph speed limit and to extend the existing 40mph speed limit on Ednam Road, Kelso to a point beyond the new cemetery access. As with all Traffic Regulation Orders, the Council undertook a two stage statutory consultation between 14 January 2013 and 11 February 2013 and again between 23 May 2013 and 20 June 2013. No comments or objections were received.

DECISION**AGREED:-**

- (a) to approve that The Borders Regional Council (A699 – Maxton) (40mph Speed Limit) Order 1994 be revoked
- (b) to approve the amendments to the Scottish Borders Council (The Borders Regional Council)(Restricted Roads) Order 1985 and The Scottish Borders Council (Various Roads) (40 MPH Speed Limit) Order 2004 to allow:
- (i) The reduction of the existing 40mph to a 30mph speed limit in Maxton; and
- (ii) The extension of the existing 40mph limit on Ednam Road in Kelso as detailed in Appendices A and B of the report.

INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR ZIGZAG MARKINGS

7. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of Scottish Borders Council held on 25 November 2010, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure which sought approval for the proposed introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order to enable enforcement of existing school keep clear zigzag road markings throughout the area covered by the Cheviot Area Forum. The Order was proposed to further promote road safety in the vicinity of schools by making currently advisory zigzag school entrance road markings enforceable. There were a total of 13 lengths of road where school keep clear zigzag markings existed in the Cheviot Area and it was proposed that these be the subject of a Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting parking on Monday to Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm. These lengths of road were adjacent to schools at:- Howdenburn Primary School, Parkside Primary School (2 lengths), Jedburgh Grammar School (2 lengths), Broomlands Primary School (2 lengths), Edenside Primary School (2 lengths), Kelso High School, Ednam Primary School and St Boswells Primary School (2 lengths).

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, all as detailed in the plans appended to the report and in respect of:-

- (i) **Howdenburn Drive, Priors Road and The Pleasance, Jedburgh**
- (ii) **B6461 Ednam Road, Broomlands Drive, Edenside Road and Bowmont Street in Kelso**
- (iii) **B6461 Duns Road in Ednam**
- (iv) **Springfield Terrace in St Boswells.**

REVENUE, CAPITAL AND SB LOCAL WORKS

8. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 19 June 2013, there had been circulated copies of a report which sought approval for the proposed new SB Local Small Schemes. The schemes which had been requested for consideration were the Installation of four benches along the Riverside Walk, Jedburgh, two to be positioned within Lothian Park and the other two adjacent to Bongate Industrial Estate at a cost of £600. The second scheme for consideration was the installation of an additional piece of equipment comprising of a concrete ramp and steps within the existing Skate Park, Shedden Park, Kelso at a cost of £2,450, which would further enhance the range of equipment available within a well utilised facility. On considering the schemes before them, the Forum were of the opinion that the skatepark had had their fair share of available funding and there would be no more funding available to the Kelso skatepark facility in the foreseeable future. The Area Neighbourhood Manager updated Members with regard to the Provisional Programme for Approved SB Local Small Schemes contained in Appendix A to the report and the Asset Programme of Revenue and Capital Works contained in Appendix B to the report.

DECISION

- (a) **AGREED to approve for implementation the following new SB Local Small Schemes:-**

	Estimated Cost
	£
(i) Install benches, The Riverside Walk, Jedburgh	£ 600
(ii) Install new equipment, The Skate Park, Kelso	£ 2,450

- (b) **NOTED the updates on Roads Capital & Revenue works and previously approved SB Local Small Schemes as detailed in Appendices A and B to this report.**

OPEN QUESTIONS

9. There were no questions from the public.

DECISION NOTED.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

10. **Skiprunning Burn, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 13 of the Minute of 19 June 2013, the Area Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that Halcrow had completed the design of the Phase 1 work, subject to minor changes following a design meeting during w/c 12 August 2013. During discussions with Halcrow the adjacent B&B proprietor requested that no construction works take place during september 2013 as this was a busy month for his business. Taking this into account it was proposed that the work would be procured during August/September and construction would commence in October 2013. The main risk which may prevent the proposed dates being achieved would be any difficulties with Public Utilities. In order to minimise any risks there continued to be liaison with the Public Utility companies.

DECISION NOTED.

11. **Oxnam Road Wall, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of 17 April 2013, the Area Neighbourhood Manager reported that the Sheriff Court proceedings with regard to the

retaining wall in Oxnam Road, Jedburgh had been extended for six weeks with the next due date for appearance being Tuesday, 3 September 2013.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

12. The following were identified as possibly requiring work to be undertaken and the Area Neighbourhood Manager was requested to survey each site and identify what work, if any, was required:-
- Wooden Bridge – Upper Hyndhope
 - Cattlegrid – Middlesknow

**DECISION
NOTED.**

13. Karen Steel, St Boswells Community Council queried the level of grassing cutting on the Green, St Boswells and sought information on why it did not appear to be getting cut on a regular basis. The Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that the Parks and Open Spaces section had been under pressure and had trialled the possibility of reducing the numbers of cuts, however they had recognised that that was not the best solution and had re-instated the grass cutting on the Green, St Boswells. There were no plans to reduce grass cutting at present.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 6 November 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 p.m.