

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHEVIOT AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the CHEVIOT
AREA FORUM held in Jedburgh Grammar
School, High Street, Jedburgh on 6 November
2013 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors T. Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, A. Nicol, S. Scott, R. Stewart.
Sergeant Robbie Noble (South CPA), Sergeant Keith Dougal (East CPA) Community Councillors J. Bassett, J. Taylor, N. Jarvis, E. McNulty, R. Breeze, K. Steel,
Apologies:- Community Councillors J. Cox, A. Hall, Inspector B MacFarlane (Police Scotland – J Division), Inspector Carol Wood (Police Scotland – J Division).
In Attendance:- Area Neighbourhood Manager (A. Finnie), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs F Henderson).
Members of the Public:- 12

MINUTE

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum of 14 August 2013.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND – UPDATE FOR ‘J’ DIVISION

2. Sergeant Robbie Noble (South CPA) and Sergeant Keith Dougal (East CPA) were present at the meeting and reported that overall there had been a reduction in crime across the Cheviot Area for the period up to 6 November 2013. 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. It was reported that there had been a number of crimes of dishonesty in and around Lilliesleaf at the beginning of August 2013 and three males had been detained and charged with these offences. Following 2 incidents of sheep being stolen from farms near to Jedburgh, Officers had traced and charged a male believed to have been responsible for these and a number of other sheep thefts in the Scottish Borders and the Lothian's. Enquires were ongoing into the theft of a cement mixer at Yetholm thought to be worth around £600 and any information regarding the incident would be welcomed. The SBC depot at Jedburgh was recently targeted by thieves and a number of tools including a stihl saw were stolen. Police continued their enquires into a number of bogus caller incidents near St Boswells whereby a male pertaining to be a rep from Scottish Water attempted to gain entry to various premises, residents had been reminded to be vigilant and inquisitive when door step callers arrived unannounced.

3. In terms of crime prevention it was reported that Community Policing Officers would continue to undertake high visibility patrols in order to prevent youths gathering, anti social behaviour, property being damaged and provide reassurance to the general public. The use of social media would be enhanced to educate young people about the effects of anti social behaviour and to promote future days of action.
4. The joint work with the licensing Officers would continue in an attempt to disrupt the illegal sale and supply of alcohol to young persons and regular visits to off and on sales premises would be maintained. The school liaison Officers would continue to work closely with drug and alcohol awareness Officers and other agencies to make sure early intervention and appropriate support was available for young people who were found to be abusing alcohol. The Police continued to work alongside Roads Policing Officers to continue to target road safety issues, to improve driver awareness, correct driver behaviour especially with young inexperienced drivers and reduce the number of speeding motorists. Further No Cold Caller Zones would continue to be introduced and Police would engage with vulnerable residents, with follow up visits to residents previously affected by bogus callers. Local Police surgeries would continue to run inviting feedback, thoughts and opinions from residents throughout the area.
5. A member of the public questioned Sergeant Dougal with regard to complaints received about Oxnam Road, Jedburgh and was advised that there had been a number of complaints about speeding in the area and it would be monitored. It was further reported that there had been some minor accidents on the road but these had not be reported to the Police. Inspector Scott advised that the problem could be an engineering problem rather than a Police matter.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

6. In attendance to give a presentation on the proposed Local Development Plan were Principal Planning Officer Charles Johnston and Planning Officer Laura Hill. It was explained that, as part of changes in the Scottish planning system, the Council was required to produce a Local Plan. The Local Development Plan (LDP) would implement requirements of the strategic development plan SESplan 2013, which provided the high level strategic policy for the South East of Scotland. The LDP would replace the existing Consolidated Local Plan 2011. The key outcomes for the LDP were to consider generous housing land supply and affordable housing; protect and improve employment land; protect and enhance town centres; improve connectivity; identify infrastructure needs; protect and enhance environment; and promote sustainable development. Following agreement by Council of the Main Issues Report in January 2012 and a consultation period which resulted in 278 representations covering 1000 issues, the proposed plan had been presented to Council in September 2013. There was now the opportunity for representations on the proposed plan which would run until February 2014. Presentations to Area Forums formed part of the neighbourhood engagement and the presentation went on to look at the structure of the LDP which was made up of Strategy/Spatial Strategy; Policies restructured; and Settlement Statements. Maps were shown to illustrate the principal elements of the Spatial Strategy in the central, eastern and western areas of the Scottish Borders.
7. Mr Johnston gave more detailed information on the content of the LDP relating to policies under the headings of Place Making and Design; Economic Development; Housing; Environmental Promotion and Protection; and Infrastructure and Standards. There were further slides which showed maps relating to the proposed plan which related to the centres of Kelso and Jedburgh. Mr Johnston touched on the regeneration of Kelso Town Square and the LDP generally highlighted where regeneration was required. With regard to the next steps in the process, it was explained that the Proposed Plan was available to view on the Council's website and that printed copies

would be available and circulated to Community Councils early in December. The Chairman thanked Mr Johnston and Ms Hill for their presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

FUTURE BUS SERVICE PROVISION IN KELSO, MOREBATTLE AND YETHOLM

8. Passenger Transport Manager, Colin Douglas, was in attendance to lead a discussion about future provision of specific local bus services. Mr Douglas was present to initiate discussion about the particular service Numbers 80 Kelso Town and 81 Yetholm/Morebattle and explained that a consultation exercise had begun to seek views and establish the demand for these services, which had previously been contracted to the Munro Bus Company and were on temporary contracts until the end of March in the meantime. The situation had been complicated by the free Sainsburys Bus which serviced the Town and which Sainsburys had agreed to fund until end of March 2014. Mr Douglas concluded by advising that responses were invited by way of a questionnaire which was available on the Council's website. The consultation period would end in the middle of December 2013 after which the Council would tender for the options. The new services would be in place from the first week of April 2014. The Chairman thanked Mr Douglas for his attendance.

DECISION

NOTED.

ALCOHOL BYELAWS

9. The Head of Corporate Governance, Ian Wilkie, was in attendance to give a presentation as part of the public engagement process in connection with the proposed Prohibition of Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places Byelaws. He was accompanied by Anne Isles (Legal and Licensing Services Manager), Erin Murray (Business Consultant), Susan Walker (Development Officer Alcohol and Drugs Partnership) and Inspector John Scott (Police Scotland). In his introduction Mr Wilkie clarified that Byelaws were made by Local Councils and confirmed by Scottish Ministers. It would be Scottish Borders Council's decision as to which designated settlements it would apply. The presentation included a statement by the Chief Constable of Police Scotland, in which it was explained that the Scottish Borders was the only local authority area in Scotland that did not have Byelaws restricting the consumption of alcohol in public places. Police Scotland would welcome the introduction of such Byelaws as this would provide an additional tool for local officers allowing them to intervene to prevent alcohol-fuelled incidents. Mr Wilkie referred to the timetable relating to the public engagement process and the future procedure. Following an analysis of responses to the engagement process draft Byelaws would be submitted to the Scottish Government and a further report presented to Council. Should Council approve a decision to apply for Byelaws there would be a statutory advert, to which objections could be made. The final step in the process would be for the Council to make the Byelaws and pass these to Scottish Ministers for confirmation. The presentation went on to cover relevant health issues, designated settlements, exemptions and places where Byelaws would not apply. It was stressed that there would be no blanket bans and that Byelaws were not a threat to the development of the Café Culture.
10. The Chairman invited questions to the team and also allowed input in the form of comments and opinions about the proposed Byelaws. Concerns were raised in relation to enforcing the byelaws and the impact this would have on the great work which had already been done between the public and the Community police team. Some Community Councils expressed reluctance to the implementation of such byelaws. Inspector Scott advised that there were many issues round the introduction of such byelaws and that the curtilage of premises could be licensed to allow drinking outwith the premises but within the curtilage. If the police had the powers then they would be used appropriately. Mr Higgs, Chairman of the Equality Forum and Elder Voice requested permission to address the Forum and raised issues such as prohibiting drinking in local areas, there had not been enough information about the areas which would be subject to Byelaws, there

was potential to drive drinkers underground and he considered that the Police had adequate authority to deal with issues as they arose. It was confirmed that everyone was being encouraged to complete a questionnaire, especially 18 year olds. When questioned about material evidence which indicated there was a problem with alcohol the Development Officer, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership advised that there was a balance to be struck. There was some discussion about whether the existence of such Byelaws reduced criminality. Inspector Scott emphasised that the application of the Byelaw would be used by the police as a preventative tool. Without this, police could only intervene once criminal activity had started. The Chairman confirmed that the comments from the meeting had been noted and that further responses to the consultation should be submitted by 17 January 2014. He thanked Mr Wilkie and his team for their attendance.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

REVENUE, CAPITAL AND SB LOCAL WORKS

11. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 14 August 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 a commemorative bench at Ancrum Village Green, shrub planting at the South entrance to Jedburgh and the upgrade of the footpath alongside the Duke's Dyke, Kelso at a total cost of £2,110. 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.

DECISION

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

	Estimated Cost
	£
(i) Install commemorative bench at Ancrum Village Green	£ 400
(ii) Provision and planting of shrubs at the South entrance to Jedburgh	£ 510
(iii) Upgrade of footpath alongside Duke's Dyke, Kelso	£1,200

(b) AGREED to delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure to allocate the remaining funds for the 2013/14 financial year to small schemes, subject to consultation with the approval by all six members of the Cheviot Area Forum through e-mail.

(c) NOTED the updates on previously approved SB Local Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A to this report.

LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2014

12. There had been circulated copies of the proposed public holidays for 2014 for Jedburgh and Kelso, together with a copy of those public holidays previously approved for 2013 for comparison.

DECISION

AGREED to determine the Public Holidays for Jedburgh and Kelso as set out in Appendix I to this Minute.

OPEN QUESTIONS

13. **Pleasants, Oxnam, Jedburgh** – Mr Kenny Lynn and Mrs Karen Lynn of Hardenpeel Cottage, Pleasants, Oxnam raised concerns about the increase in and speed of the traffic on the Pleasants, the gritting issues, the inadequate lighting and what they considered to be lethal road conditions in and around the Pleasants, Oxnam. Mr Lynn was of the opinion that the Police were not taking their concerns seriously and requested that something be done to alleviate the described problems before a terrible accidents occurred. The Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that Mr Brian Young, Network Manager would be the best person to deal with the traffic issues rasied.

DECISION

(a) NOTED concerns raised.

(b) AGREED that the Democratic Services Officer pass Mr Lynns' details to Mr Young.

14. **St Boswells** – Community Councillor Jackson requested information on identifying funding for the track onto the Green, St Boswells. Mr Jackson was advised to contact Jean Robertson, Consultant – External Funding, Scottish Borders Council for appropriate advice.

DECISION

NOTED.

15. **Flower Show, Crailing** - Mr Henderson raised concerns with regard to the level of charges for hiring Crailing Village Hall for the Annual Flower Show.

DECISION

AGREED that information about Hall charges would be forwarded to Mr Henderson by the Democratic Services Officer.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

16. **Skiprunning Burn, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of 14 August 2013, the Area Neighbourhood Manager advsied that Trial excavations to lcoate existing PU's were undertaken at the beginning of September and had identified that there were a number of existing PU's that would need diverting to allow the proposed design to be constructed. In discussion with Halcrow it was agreed that the cost of diverting the existing PU's would add significantly to the overall cost and that an alternative solution should be considered. A meeting with Council, Halcrow and the B&B owner was held and alternative designs, where possible, were discussed. Following the meeting, Halcrow submitted a sketch of the agreed alternative design to Scottish Borders Council for comments/approval to proceed. The final documents/tender packages had been completed by Halcrow and would be reviewed by Scottish Borders Council. Local contractors had been approached and it was confirmed that SBc Contracts, Rodger (Builders) Ltd and JMS Harkin Ltd were interested in tendering for the work, which would be procured during November/December with construction commencing in December /January 2014.

DECISION

NOTED.

17. **Oxnam Road Wall, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 14 August 2013, the Area Neighbourhood Manager reported that the Court case was currently underway between Scottish Borders Council and the owners of the property known as Airenlea, Oxnam Road, Jedburgh, to determine where the responsibility lay for the repair of the retaining wall situated adjacent to that property and at the rear of the public footway. The situation as it stood was that a proof, (a hearing with evidence) had been fixed for Monday 16 December at the Sheriff Court, Jedburgh with a pre-proof hearing scheduled for Tuesday, 12 November. Officers of Engineering

and Infrastructure, together with colleagues from SBC Legal Services, met recently with the legal representatives of the owners of Airenlea in relation to the forthcoming hearings.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 12 February 2014 in Kelso.

**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 8.30 p.m.