

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**CHEVIOT AREA FORUM**

MINUTE of the MEETING of the CHEVIOT  
AREA FORUM held in Jedburgh Grammar  
School, High Street, Jedburgh on 2 April 2014  
at 6.00 p.m.

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Present:- Councillors T. Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, A. Nicol, S. Scott,  
Community Councillors L. Johnston, D. Ogilvie, J. Taylor, E. McNulty, N. Jarvis, C.  
Balderston, T. Jackson, Inspector Carol Wood (Police Scotland – J Division).  
Apologies:- Councillor R. Stewart, Community Councillors J. Bassett, K. Steel, J. Cox,  
In Attendance:- Area Neighbourhood Manager (A. Finnie), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs F  
Henderson).  
Members of the Public:- 3

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. 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**

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum of 12 February 2014.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the Minute.**

**POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND – UPDATE FOR ‘J’ DIVISION**

3. Inspector Carol Wood was present at the meeting and reported that Police Scotland were in the process of preparing the multi member ward plans for 2014 to 2017, following a consultation process that local CBOs undertook during October/November 2013 as well as data collated by local housing associations. These would be published soon and copies would be accessible on the Police Scotland website. The plans would be reviewed annually ensuring that they were tackling those issues that mattered most to the local communities in the Cheviot Area and that the Police were held accountable to local communities. There had been a slight increase in crime across the Cheviot Area for the period up to 2 April 2014, compared to the same period last year. In relation to notable incidents, Inspector Wood reported on various break-ins and thefts over the Cheviot Area and referred in particular to a reported sighting of a gun at a house in Allerley Crescent, Jedburgh on 29 March 2014, a fire arms incident was declared and the incident dealt with. It transpired that the call had been a hoax and enquires were ongoing.
4. In terms of prevention, it was reported that Police in the Scottish Borders continued their local campaign to tackle housebreaking across the region. The Police Scotland initiative, Operation RAC, was officially launched in December 2013 as the Force looked to address an overall 4% increase in

housebreaking offences since last year. The majority of housebreaking offences related to sheds, garages and outbuildings, with only a very small number of break-ins to homes. Nevertheless, these crimes had a serious impact on communities and dedicated resources had been put in place to address housebreaking in the areas which had been identified as a local priority. Police Scotland continued to proactively pursue those responsible for housebreaking across the region and Community Officers would also be engaging with the public to offer a range of crime prevention advice and useful information to safeguard homes and belongings. Communities were asked to remain vigilant for suspicious activity in their area, particularly around the homes of elderly or vulnerable members of the public and report any concerns.

5. Crime prevention advice was available by speaking to the local policing team or visiting the Police Scotland website at [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk). In the coming months the Police would undertake Operation Monarda which was the 'J' Division response to the issues surrounding cold callers to households and bogus workmen, and would run for 6 weeks commencing on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2014 with a media launch. Local CBOs would be conducting various activities to highlight the issues and to assist in preventing such issues within communities. An operation focussing on Youth Anti-Social Behaviour would commence on 4<sup>th</sup> April for three weeks and would involve Locality Integration Officers working with identified youths who had caused issues in the schools and community. There had been no hot spots identified within the Cheviot Area in relation to youth crime and youth calls remained low. The Cheviot LIO would deliver a one week Rural Urban Training course, which would focus on motorbikes. Community officers would continue to offer crime prevention surveys, which would be carried out at the homes of vulnerable people and properties. Road checks at prime times during the late evening and early mornings to target travelling criminals in the area would continue as would the work with local and across borders partners and police colleagues to identify persons involved in rural thefts and proactively target these individuals. Extensive work with partners, Community Safety Officers and enforcement Officers would continue to collectively address issues of anti-social behaviour.

#### **DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES UPDATE**

6. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 12 February 2014, there were circulated at the meeting, copies of Appendix A which detailed the updated programme for approved Neighbourhood 'Small Schemes' 2013/14. The Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that the allocated budget for small schemes had been spent and on those schemes which were still to be completed. It was noted that the Area Neighbourhood Manager would meet Mr Johnston on site at the Buccleuch Gardens, four of which were housing for heroes and ex-service personnel and another 2 owned by SBHA where the parking provision was inadequate.

#### **DECISION**

**NOTED the update.**

#### **ST BOSWELLS TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

7. With referenced to paragraph 6 of the Minute of 22 February 2012, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure which proposed to amend the Traffic Regulation Order for St Boswells to prohibit waiting between the hours of 8 a.m. and Noon daily (loading and unloading permitted) in a length of Main Street. The report explained that since the introduction of the St Boswells Traffic Regulation Order in 2012, the Co-operative Supermarket (Main Street, St Boswells) had changed its delivery schedules. Following an approach from the Co-operative Food Supply Chain logistics, Officers from Environment and Infrastructure agreed that changes should be made to the Traffic Regulation Order to enable the introduction of a loading bay to meet the supermarket's long-term delivery requirements. A copy of the draft Traffic Regulation Order was appended to the report and the Team Leader, Network advised that the statutory

consultation had been carried out as had the advertising to the public and only one objection had been received in relation to a resident raising concerns that the loading bay marking on the road would de-value his property.

#### **DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the amendment to the Scottish Borders Council (Various Street, St Boswells) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2012), (Amendment No.1) as detailed in the plan in Appendix A and the relevant extract from the Draft Traffic Regulation Order in Appendix B to the report.**

#### **OPEN QUESTIONS**

8. There were no questions from the public.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

#### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

9. **Skiprunning Burn, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of 12 February 2014, the Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that, as previously reported the Phase 1 works were completed on 4th March 2014 and work had started on Phase 2 (formal flood protection scheme) of the Jedburgh (Skiprunning Burn) FPS. A meeting was held on the 21 February 2014 with the three Jedburgh Councillors and other stakeholders to discuss various options and following the meeting it was decided to undertake some additional flood risk management measures in advance of the Phase 2 works. These advance works, referred to as Phase 1A, would be concentrated within the town centre and would be undertaken in 2014. Phase 2 was programmed for completion in 2015. A preferred scheme report, detailing the Phase 1A and Phase 2 works, was being prepared and would be issued to stakeholders in due course.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

10. **Oxnam Road Wall, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of 12 February 2014, the Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that a Judgment by the Sheriff was awaited in the Legal proceedings between Scottish Borders Council and the owners of the property known as Airenlea, Oxnam Road, Jedburgh to determine where the responsibilities lay for the repair of the retaining wall situated beyond the fence bounding the Oxnam Road public footway and within the confines of the garden of Airenlea. The Proof for the case was heard at Jedburgh Sheriff Court on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and a site visit took place at the start of proceeding on the first day prior to both sides' witnesses giving their evidence. On behalf of Scottish Borders Council officers from the Engineering and Infrastructure section gave evidence and Legal submissions on behalf of each party were heard on the second day. At the end of the proceedings, on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March, the Sheriff indicated that he planned to issue his decision on the matter within the next two to three weeks.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

#### **URGENT BUSINESS**

11. Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chairman was of the opinion that the item dealt with in the following paragraph should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, in view of the need to make an early decision.
12. The Chairman advised that there had been a request from Councillor Nicol, seconded by Councillor Mountford, that consideration be given to suspending standing orders to allow discussion on a proposed motion to Council that an allocation of up to £10k of Cheviot Quality of Life funding be

used to provide a garden waste collection service in Kelso for the financial year 2014/15. Councillor Nicol advised that although Kelso was to get a Recycling Centre, it would not be completed for at least one year and residents of Kelso were therefore required to travel long distances to dispose of their re-cycling. Members present agreed to the suspension of standing orders to allow the matter to be discussed. The Chairman advised that each Area Forum had been awarded additional Quality of Life Funding and it was a decision for each Area Forum to decide how it would be spent. The Democratic Services Officer further advised that as Council had previously agreed to cease the garden waste collection from the end of March 2014, standing orders would require to be suspended to allow Council to consider a motion on the provision of any interim garden waste collection in the Cheviot area.

**DECISION**

**AGREED that Councillors Nicol and Mountford would submit a suitably worded motion for an interim garden waste collection within the Cheviot area, advocating the use of some Quality of Life Funding, to the next Council meeting schedule to be held on 24 April 2014.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 4 June 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 6.45 p.m.*