

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

MINUTE of the MEETING of the CHEVIOT  
AREA FORUM held in Howdenburn Primary  
School, Jedburgh on Wednesday, 26  
November 2014 at 6.30 p.m.

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Present:- Councillors T. Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, A. Nicol, S. Scott, R. Stewart.  
Community Councillors L. Johnston, J. Taylor, E. McNulty, N. Jarvis, C. Cook (sub for C. Balderston), J. Bassett.

Apologies:- Community Councillors C. Balderston, J. Freshwater, A. Hall, S. Stewart, K. Steel, H. White, Inspector Carol Wood (Police Scotland – J Division).

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

Members of the Public:- 0

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**MINUTE**

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum of 4 June 2014.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the Minute.**

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

2. There was no representation from Police Scotland and the Clerk read from the report provided to update the Cheviot Area Forum on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31 October 2014. Police Scotland had published the local Multi Member Ward plans for both Kelso & District and Jedburgh & District and these were available to download from the Police Scotland website with the following links -<http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/scottish-borders/kelso-and-district/> or <http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/the-lothians-and-scottish-borders/scottish-borders/jedburgh-and-district/>. The plans were set as a result of public consultation and would be reviewed annually ensuring that the Police were tackling those issues that mattered most to the local communities in the Cheviot Area and that they were held accountable to the local communities. The Ward Plan Priorities for Kelso and District were highlighted as Young drivers; Antisocial behaviour; Youth antisocial behaviour and Drugs use. The Ward Plan Priorities for Jedburgh and District were highlighted as Speeding; Rural Theft and Youth antisocial behaviour. It was reported that a total of 242 crimes had been recorded in the Cheviot Area to date which when compared to the same period last year of 232 crimes indicated a 38% increase in reported crime compared to the same period last year with a slight decline in the detection figure. However these statistics highlighted that there had been fewer victims of crime. It was further highlighted that the figures fluctuated on a daily basis and should only be used as a guide. In relation to the planned priorities for Kelso and District it was reported that work continued on monitoring and engaging with young drivers within the ward area, with one road check carried out in Kelso and the surrounding area during October 2014. Five conditional offers were issued to motorists for speeding offences in October with one seatbelt offence being detected during the same time period. Engagement continued with those responsible for any youth antisocial behaviour in the ward area and the Community Beat Officer and Locality Integration Officer regularly discussed any

young people who may come to the attention of the police. Six young people were found in possession of alcohol in September, which was taken from them and letters forwarded to their parents. In the past few months a number of drug stop searches had been carried out with persons being found in possession of illegal substances resulting in them being reported to the Procurator Fiscal and a substantial amount of cannabis plants were found at an address in Kelso during July and resulted in person(s) being investigated.

3. The changes in drink drive alcohol limits were due to come into force on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and the police were educating drivers and would have a more visible presence on the roads after this date, particularly in the mornings. The majority of road work had been completed in Kelso town centre, which had included the re-instatement of line markings. The local Community Beat Officer would be carrying out additional patrols and dealing with any parking infringements as necessary. Two street searches were carried out in October, which resulted in no seizures of alcohol or drugs; one Fixed Penalty Ticket was issued and a number of antisocial behaviour incidents primarily related to the nightclub dispersal within the town centre and included offences of Breach of the Peace and Urinating. The local Community Beat Officer was working within the Community to set up a Nominated Neighbour Scheme within the area, which would help prevent vulnerable people falling victim to bogus callers and also encouraged legitimate callers to maintain best practice. New No Cold Caller Zones were being considered within certain areas of the town.
4. In terms of Jedburgh and District, it was reported that eight road checks had been carried out in Jedburgh and the surrounding area during October 2014 and one conditional offer issued to a motorist for a seatbelt offence during the same time period. In terms of rural theft, advice continued to be circulated to farmers and residents in rural areas to take as many safety measures as possible to secure their property. If anyone wished specific advice they could contact their local community officer either by phoning Jedburgh police station or emailing them via the Police Scotland website link. Pro-active visits to itinerant scrap metal dealers continued as well as liaison with a number of partners to ensure premises were run appropriately. Liaison with neighbouring forces continued, including sharing information to assist in tackling rural crimes, particularly in relation to travelling criminals. Seven street searches were carried out in October with no seizures of alcohol or drugs. No Fixed Penalty Tickets were issued during October 2014 and targeted patrols by Locality Police Officer and Community Officers continued in areas where youth issues had previously been identified. Other significant crimes in the Jedburgh and surrounding area in the last few months included Housebreaking to business premises in Jedburgh, whereby a car was stolen (male reported to Procurator Fiscal); Youth flashing lower part of body in garden, Jedburgh (no-one detected at this point); Serious assault, High Street, Jedburgh – number of individuals charged with various offences; and two males detected for housebreaking in Jedburgh. A Road Traffic initiative had been carried out in Jedburgh with a number of road traffic and drug offences detected, two persons arrested and reported for offensive weapons and S38 in St Boswells, one male arrested and reported for theft housebreaking in Newtown St Boswells, theft of 6 catalytic converters in St Boswells and the theft of a tractor in Jedburgh.
5. Throughout the Cheviot Area dedicated foot patrols would continue to deter and deal with youth antisocial behaviour over the coming few weeks and in the run-up to Christmas. A festive campaign would also see increased numbers of road checks being carried out, visits to licensed premises and liaison with schools in relation to school dances. Advice would also be circulated to the public on how to keep themselves safe when out and about over the festive period, whether that was socialising, out shopping or driving in winter conditions. Members expressed concern and disappointment that there was no Police representation at the Cheviot Area Forum and requested that a letter be sent to Police Scotland expressing their disappointment and requesting a presence at future meetings.

## **DECISION**

(a) **NOTED** the report.

(b) **AGREED** that a letter be sent to Police Scotland expressing the Cheviot Area Forum's disappointment that there was no representative at the meeting and requesting that a representative attend future meetings.

## **AMEY – SCOTLAND SOUTH AND EAST UNIT**

6. Mr Stephen Kitt, representing Amey, was present at the meeting and explained that Amey had taken over responsibility for the South East trunk routes from Bear in August 2014. The area was divided into 8 routes with one dedicated person for the A68. In addition there were 2 operatives to address any safety issues which was a key aspect of the contract and while there was some work still to be done movement was in the right direction. Mr Kitt went on to detail works being undertaken at various locations including Lintonlea, Howdenburn Culvert, Camptown, settlement at the BT Exchange, Jedburgh underpass. Mr Kitt further reported that Strategies for Drainage and Landslips were being taken forward. The Chairman thanked Mr Kitt for his very thorough update. Elected Members from Jedburgh thanked Mr Kitt for his prompt attention to matters raised by them.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED** the update.

## **MEMBERS**

Councillor Brown left the meeting, prior to consideration of the following item.

## **FIRE AND RESCUE**

7. Mr Scott Forbes, Station Manager was present at the meeting and explained that the purpose of the report circulated was to inform the Cheviot Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity for the months of August to November 2014. The report detailed that during the period of the report there had been 4 House Fires resulting in 2 casualties, 10 Occurrences of Fire – Open, 10 occurrences of Special Services resulting in 3 casualties and 35 unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. The report explained that within the Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2014-2017 for the Scottish Borders, 5 priorities had been identified: Reduction of Dwelling Fires; Reduction of Fire Casualties and Fatalities; Reduction of Deliberate Fire Setting (Not including Dwellings); Reduction of Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals; and the Reduction in Road Traffic Collisions. In relation to partnership working, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Community Action Team (CAT) within the Scottish Borders core work centred on the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy. The team continued to expand its partnership working with key agencies including Police Scotland, Health, Social Care and Housing in order to focus on members of local communities at high risk from fire and achieve outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires. Fire raising awareness sessions presented by the team to partner agency practitioners had been and continued to be successful in promoting HFSVs and encouraging agencies to make referrals using the SFRS CSET online booking system.
8. In relation to Prevention and protection it was reported that fire **prevention and protection** activity over recent years had been key to reducing the number of fires, casualties and losses in Scotland thus minimising the economic and social impact of fire on communities. The seasonal community safety calendar provided the catalyst for a number of initiatives and schemes throughout the calendar year. Mr Forbes reported on the ongoing activities within the Cheviot Ward which included Home Fire Safety Visits all year round which provided the householder with a home visit, focussing on identifying and reducing the risks of fire in the home; smoke detectors with a 10-year battery life were provided as part of this free service. 'Firesharp' was an initiative for Primary 6 pupils, providing face-to-face education within local Primary schools on matters of fire risk and prevention. Fire Safety Audits provided a targeted examination of business premises and their relevant documents to ascertain how the premises were managed regarding fire safety. The enforcement officer also

engaged with members of staff to confirm their level of fire safety awareness. 'Unwanted Fire Signals' were being addressed by phased intervention actions which identified premises which were producing 'false alarms', provided guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence, and could also invoke legislation if occurrences failed to reduce in number. Legislation and enforcement Policy and Procedure for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals would go live on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. Fire Case Study and Adult & Child Protection Policies ensured multi agency involvement was provided for the support and protection for higher risk members of the community and 'Crucial Crew' - held annually - in September 2014 had seen approximately 1180 children from across the Scottish Borders participating in the Crucial Crew event which provided a series of interactive workshops to teach children important life skills. The Crucial Crew event, which was in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, involved primary seven children taking part in scenarios where they identified potential hazards and responded as if they were real-life situations. Scottish Borders Crucial Crew was a Multi Agency event supported by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, Scottish Borders Council, Scottish Power, Royal Highland Education Centre Trust, Borders Sport and Leisure, Face 2Face and British Telecom. The Autumn season thematic period had commenced and was focusing on Student, Electrical and Chimney Safety; Bonfire Safety and Older/Vulnerable Persons.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES UPDATE**

9. With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of 4 June 2014, there had been circulated copies of a report which sought approval for the proposed new Neighbourhood Small Schemes and updated the Forum on previously approved Neighbourhood and Quality of Life Schemes. The Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that the allocated budget (£34,702) for small schemes was available through Neighbourhood Services for the Cheviot Area in 2014/15. The following Neighbourhood Small Schemes had been requested for consideration by the Cheviot members: - install bench within Ferniehill Cemetery, Kelso; renew existing fence at Hartrigge Field, Jedburgh; install junior goal posts within Maxton Play Area; install dog grids at Ancrum Play Area; provide picnic table in Ancrum Play Area; provide picnic table and benches at Stichill Play Area; install drainage at Kirk Road, Linton; replace existing street name plates at Hendersyde Park, Kelso; re-mark parking bays at Mill Wynd, Kelso; provide street name plates at Yetholm; repaint fence etc. at War Memorial, Kelso; form hard standing at recycling point, Town Yetholm & install new play equipment at Sydenham Court, Kelso and refurbish gates at Bridgend Park, Kelso. The budget remaining should approval be given for the schemes detailed above was £16,134 for future schemes. In addition, a budget of £20,000 was available for Quality of Life schemes in the Cheviot Area Forum Area in 2014/15. It had previously been agreed that this budget would be split equally between Kelso and District and Jedburgh and District Wards. There remained £10,000 for Kelso and District and £6,790 for Jedburgh and District.

## **DECISION**

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

	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
(i) <b>Install bench within Ferniehill Cemetery, Kelso</b>	<b>£ 150</b>
(ii) <b>Renew existing fence at Hartrigge Field, Jedburgh</b>	<b>£ 747</b>
(iii) <b>Install junior goal posts within Maxton Play Area</b>	<b>£ 680</b>
(iv) <b>Install two dog grids at Ancrum Play Area</b>	<b>£ 1,700</b>
(v) <b>Provide picnic table in Ancrum Play Area</b>	<b>£ 50</b>
(vi) <b>Provide picnic table &amp; benches at Stichill Play Area</b>	<b>£ 350</b>
(vii) <b>Install drainage at kirk Road, Linton</b>	<b>£ 2,540</b>

(viii) Replace existing street name plates at Hendersyde Park, Kelso	£ 400
(ix) Re-mark parking bays at Mill Wynd, Kelso	£ 500
(x) Provide street name plates at Town Yetholm	£ 450
(xi) Repaint fence etc. at war memorial, Kelso	£ 790
(xii) Form hard standing at recycling point, Town Yetholm	£1,671
(xiii) Install new play equipment at Sydenham Court, Kelso	£5,000
(xiv) Refurbish gates at Bridgend Park, Kelso	£1,160

(b) **NOTED:-**

- (i) the update on previously approved Neighbourhood Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A to the report; and
- (ii) the updates on previously approved Quality of Life Schemes as detailed in Appendix B to the report.

- (c) **AGREED to delegate authority to the Service Director Neighbourhood Services to allocate the remaining funds for the current financial year to Neighbourhood Small Schemes, subject to consultation with and approval by all six members of the Cheviot Area Forum through email.**

**LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2015**

10. There had been circulated copies of the proposed public holidays for 2015 for Jedburgh and Kelso, together with a copy of those public holidays previously approved for 2014 for comparison.

**DECISION**

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

**OPEN QUESTIONS**

11. There were no questions from the public.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

12. **Oxnam Road Wall, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 17 of the Minute of 4 June 2014, the Area Neighbourhood Manager reported that following a number of meetings between Council Officers and the owners of the property known as Airenlea, an agreement was reached on an acceptable process and timescale for the wall to be repaired. The Council subsequently issued a formal written offer to the owners of the property for the Council's in-house contractor, SBc Contracts, to carry out the repair works to the wall. The offer specified a number of terms and conditions relating to the work to be executed, timescales to be met and the costs to be recovered by the Council. The offer was accepted and signed by the owners of the property and dates were then agreed for the wall repair works to commence. Work started on site on Monday 20 October with an anticipated 6 weeks required to complete the wall repair works. Unfortunately the particularly wet weather experienced since the start of the works had resulted in the repair works being delayed and these were 2 weeks behind programme, with the anticipated completion date for the wall repair works Friday 12 December 2014.

13. In conjunction with the wall repair works, the owners of Airenlea wished to erect a new timber fence, which did not form part of the wall repair works and would be undertaken by the owners themselves. Due to a change in the fence construction, both Planning and Building Warrant permissions were required and the owners were seeking these permissions. Officers of the Council's Asset Management section were liaising with both the owners of the property and the Council's Regulatory Services section to ensure that the erection of the new fence was carried out as soon as possible. However, due to the anticipated timing of the new fence being erected, it was likely that the temporary two-way traffic management arrangements would remain in place until into January 2015.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

14. **Skiprunning Burn, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of 4 June 2014, the Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that following the previous update, it could be confirmed that the proposed works for Phase 1A (early implementation works) and Phase 2 (Flood Protection Scheme) were approved by Council on 30 October 2014 together with authorisation to publish the Phase 2 Flood Protection Scheme. The Scheme was published as planned on 13 November 2014 and was in the 28 day objection period. Assuming there were no objections, the Scheme was on programme for works to commence summer 2015. The first Phase 1A works (replacing the fence at the fire station) was due to start on 24 November/1 December 2014 and the remaining Phase 1A works would be undertaken early in the New Year.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

15. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 4 February 2015 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 7.30 p.m.*

## APPENDIX

### PUBLIC HOLIDAY DATES - 2015

#### JEDBURGH

NEW YEAR 2015	THURSDAY 1 and FRIDAY 2 JANUARY
MERCHANTS' HOLIDAY	MONDAY, 2 MARCH
SPRING	MONDAY, 30 MARCH
MAY DAY	MONDAY, 4 MAY
CALLANTS' FESTIVAL (Annual Festival Week 5 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> July)	FRIDAY, 10 AND SATURDAY, 11 JULY
ANNUAL TRADES	*COMMENCE ON MONDAY, 20 JULY FOR TWO WEEKS
AUTUMN	MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER
CHRISTMAS	FRIDAY, 25 AND SATURDAY 26 DECEMBER
NEW YEAR 2016	FRIDAY 1 AND SATURDAY 2 JANUARY

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#### KELSO

NEW YEAR 2015	THURSDAY 1 and FRIDAY 2 JANUARY
SPRING	MONDAY, 30 MARCH
MAY DAY	MONDAY, 4 MAY
MAY / JUNE (This date replaced Spittal Trip holiday)	MONDAY, 25 MAY
ANNUAL CIVIC WEEK (Annual Civic Week 12 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>h</sup> July)	*FRIDAY, 17 AND SATURDAY, 18 JULY
AUTUMN	MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER
CHRISTMAS	FRIDAY, 25 AND SATURDAY 26 DECEMBER
NEW YEAR 2016	FRIDAY 1 AND SATURDAY 2 JANUARY

\* most shops and offices remain open.

