

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

CHEVIOT AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the CHEVIOT
AREA FORUM held in the Tait Hall, Kelso on
Wednesday, 4 February 2015 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors T. Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, S. Mountford, A. Nicol, S. Scott, R. Stewart.
Community Councillors J. Taylor, N. Jarvis, C. Cook, P. Bridgewood, J. Shanks, J. Freshwater, Trevor Jackson.
Inspector Carol Wood and Temp. Inspector Keith Dougal, (Police Scotland – J Division), Mr Scott Forbes, Station Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Mrs Carol Gillie, Director of Finance (NHS Borders).

Apologies:- Community Councillors J. Bassett, K. Steel, A. Hall, S. Stewart, H. White, L. Johnston, E. McNulty.

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 26 November 2014.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

SCOTTISH BORDERS LAND USE STRATEGY PILOT PRESENTATION

2. With reference to paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Minute of 12 February 2014, Derek Robeson from Tweed Forum was in attendance to give a presentation to update Members on the Land Use Strategy (LUS). He explained that the National Land Use Strategy was published in March 2011, under the Climate Change Act and included 10 high level principles and 13 proposals (strategic actions). The first revision was due in 2016 and would focus on opportunities for multi-benefits, based on an ecosystem approach, trade-offs, climate change adaptation and people engagement. The pilot regional land use framework reflected SG policies and regional/local policy, had regard to 10 LUS principles for sustainable land, considered all major land uses in area, Regional or catchment-scale, provided clarity for decision makers (opportunities & constraints, grant funding), was prepared in partnership (land use sectors), took an ecosystem approach and accounted for changing circumstances and cumulative impacts of land use change, although the Land Reform Review was not part of the brief.
3. It was further explained that since the meeting in February 2014, Opportunities and constraints had been considered with the development of mapping and extensive stakeholder engagement programme including catchment workshops from September 2014, Interim consultation on key points (May-June 14); Draft Framework (August – November 14) and Public consultation (approved by Council 18th Dec). From the Key Stakeholder Group, 20 organisations were represented and met every 12 weeks. Although the Borders was a large area, engaged with over 44 organisational representative and 36 Community Councils. and had case Study Areas with 7 sub catchments.

The contents of the Draft Framework were explained together with the next steps and the arrangements for monitoring and assessment. Concerns were raised by Community Councils that this was the thin edge of the wedge, what the government might use the information for and that it may soon become enshrined in legislation. Mr Robeson explained that Scottish Borders Council and The Tweed Forum had undertaken the LUS Pilot on the basis that the LUS would be non-statutory and non-regulatory. However, there was no way of telling what the Scottish Government would do with the mapped data/information. It was hoped that it would be used in a voluntary capacity as an Education and awareness raising tool. Elected Members raised why farmers were being asked to block drains to hold water on the land, when land had been drained for generations for food production. Mr Robeson advised that drainage on production land was a good thing and was necessary for arable/livestock production. However, on hill tops where deep peat and heather deposits occur and food production was minimal, there was a lot of scope to block hill drains to help slow the flow of water from the land and reduce food levels, there were also a whole raft of other multiple benefits which accrue from undertaking such measures. Some were of the opinion that what the Scottish Government would do with the data should not be of concern and that the information collected be used in a sensible way for the greater good. In terms of the public having the opportunity to comment on the land strategy and its findings, it was explained that engagement with the wider public had been ongoing for 18 months, and presentations would be held in the case study areas to present the map based information. There had been significant input from the wider public, not just farmers and land owners and many of the comments made were contained within the supporting documents. There was an opportunity for everyone to look on the SBC Website and to make comment on the LUS objectives.

DECISION NOTED.

POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND – UPDATE FOR ‘J’ DIVISION

4. Inspector Carol Wood and Acting Inspector Keith Dougal were present at the meeting to update the Cheviot Area Forum on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31 January 2015. 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 there had been an increase in recorded crimes in the Kelso & District ward (by 38 crimes) compared to last year with a slight increase in solvency over the same timescale. In terms of the Jedburgh Ward there was a decline in the detection rate for the Jedburgh & District Ward and a substantial decrease in recorded crime of almost 22% which equated to 39 fewer crimes and a significant amount of fewer victims, which was very positive. It was 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, 23 tickets were issued for various offences including no insurance, no MOT, speeding and mobile phone offences, 8 of the tickets were issued for vehicle defects, the majority being to young drivers. Regular road checks were carried out during the reporting period, as a direct result of the festive initiative and a roads Policing initiative targeting drunk drivers and educating motorists on the new legislation. As the majority of road works had been completed in Kelso town centre, which had included the re-instatement of line markings,

the local Community Beat Officer carried out additional patrols, dealing with any parking infringements as necessary. During this reporting period the local CBO PC Howgego had carried out 24 parking patrols in Kelso town centre, warned 13 motorists and issued one parking ticket. In relation to antisocial behaviour 30 street searches were carried out during the reporting period, these were in relation to drugs, alcohol and stolen property searches. Six fixed Penalty Tickets were issued, one Breach of the Peace, one for vandalism and four for urinating in public. A number of antisocial behaviour incidents primarily related to the nightclub dispersal within the town centre included offences of Breach of the Peace and urinating. 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. Members of the public were encouraged to inform the Police of any information they may have in relation to drugs misuse. The local Community Beat Officer was working within the community to set up a Nominated Neighbour Scheme within the ward area, which would help prevent vulnerable people falling victim to bogus callers and also encourage legitimate callers to maintain best practice. Other significant crimes in Kelso and surrounding area in the last few months included a local supermarket being targeted on 1st November, when two suspects made off with a considerable quantity of goods, enquires were ongoing to identify suspects. On 12th November a premises was searched in Kelso and a substantial quantity of cannabis was recovered, a male had been reported for possession and supplying cannabis, a further house was searched in Kelso where further drugs were recovered and a female reported for drugs offences. Premises in Bowmont St, Kelso was forcibly entered and a quantity of electrical items removed on 30th November 2014 and Police were following positive lines of enquiry. Following a slip in theft at premises in Forestfield, Kelso on 7th December, a male was detained, subsequently locked up for court and the property partially recovered. On 10th December, following proactive work by Officers 2 shoplifters were challenged in a local supermarket, when searched one suspect was found to be concealing 9 bottles of alcohol, he was subsequently detained and charged with theft.

5. In terms of Jedburgh and District, it was reported that 31 road checks had been carried out in Jedburgh and the surrounding area during the last quarter (Nov-Jan) up to 31 January 2015. A number of advisory warnings were given to motorists but there were no fixed penalty tickets issued. Rural theft continued to be a problem and advice to farmers and residents in rural areas continued to be circulated advising to take as many safety measures as they could to secure their property. Should anyone require 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. In terms of Youth anti-social behaviour there were 26 street searches carried out in the ward area, which resulted in six seizures of alcohol and five recoveries of illegal substances and two fixed Penalty Tickets were issued during December 2014 for anti-social behaviour. Other significant crimes in the Jedburgh and surrounding area in the last few months included a slip in theft overnight on 10th -11th December at the Pheasant pub, Jedburgh when a CD player, alcohol and a quantity of cutlery were stolen. An unregistered quad bike was stolen from the rear of a property in Ladylands Drive, Jedburgh between 28-30th December 2014, which was later recovered and enquiries were continuing. On 6th January 2015 two males were observed within the Spar, Lothian Road, Jedburgh in possession of a black bin liner wrapped around what appeared to be a BB gun. The males were traced and taken to Hawick Police station. Both were charged with firearms offences, one appeared from custody and the other was released to appear at court at a later date. Overnight on 17th-18th January 2015 a theft was reported at Queens House, Queens Street, Jedburgh, which was under renovation. Equipment and tools were stolen and enquiries were ongoing. During the early hours of 21st January 2015, a fire was reported at Longnewtown Farm, St Boswells. A steel framed barn containing a large number of bales, a trailer and some inert fertiliser were destroyed, total losses

estimated at £110,000. Enquiries so far had proved inconclusive as to whether this fire was suspicious or not. During early/late morning of 6th December 2014, a slip in theft occurred at a house in St Boswells, where entry was gained via an insecure patio door. The house was entered and cash and store cards were stolen, a number of valued items were not disturbed or taken and enquiries were continuing. During the late afternoon on 20th December 2014, a property in Main Street, St Boswells was broken into and cash stolen and enquiries were ongoing.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE – ENGAGEMENT WITH NHS BORDERS

6. Mrs Carol Gillie, Director of Finance, NHS Borders was present at the meeting and advised that there would be a representative from NHS Borders attending the Cheviot Area Forum on a regular basis to give information where appropriate and to provide experts as required. In response to a question in terms of the amount of green land which was to be used for car parking at Borders General Hospital, Mrs Gillie advised that there were 38 more parking spaces being created and this was the final phase of the plans at present. A multi-story car park had been considered but as this was not viable there had been car share initiatives introduced and additional shuttle buses for staff to try and alleviate the parking problems being experienced. In relation to the waiting times within A&E, where 95% of people would be seen within 4 hrs, this target had been met overall between October and December, although there had been issues in December and the target had not been met in December 2014. Councillor Brown raised concerns that the Local Hospital within Hawick was not admitting patients from Jedburgh. Mrs Gillie reported that GP's within Hawick had expressed concerns about treating patients not on their lists and it had been agreed that for a temporary period patients from Jedburgh would be seen in Jedburgh or Kelso. This position would be reviewed. It was requested that NHS representatives present themed talks at the Cheviot area Forum i.e. Budget, Older people services, Health Issues within the Cheviot Area, specific recourse required, Social Care Integration Partnership Strategic Plan.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

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 since the last meeting on 26th November 2014. The report detailed that during the period of the report there had been 3 House Fires (2 Domestic House Fires and 1 Farm Fire), 1 Occurrence of Fire – Open, 4 occurrences of Special Services resulting in 2 casualties and 16 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. 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 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all local stations providing Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. The visits 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 being 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 evoke legislation if occurrences failed to reduce in number. Legislation and enforcement Policy and Procedure for Unwanted Fire Alarm Signals went live on 1st December 2014. The SFRS Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Protection of Children and Adults at Risk of Harm was implemented in April 2014 to link into adult and child protection. The introduction of the policy had created closer ties with Social Services within Scottish Borders and ensured those people and families which fire crews identified as at risk were brought to the attention of Social Services. This had resulted in joint visits to homes to reduce risk to those occupiers and as a result in eight adults had been referred during the reporting period. The Community Action Team took part in the multi-agency Violence against Women Conference at Tweed Horizons in December 2014, which, together with strong partnership with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), put the Fire Service at the forefront of delivering the agenda of outcome six of the Local Fire Plan. The LALO and Scottish Borders Station Manager for Prevention and Protection were fully involved in all local MARAC processes, attending the monthly conferences and all steering group meetings and would be involved the inaugural twelve-month CAADA (Co-ordinated Action against Domestic Abuse) assessment. The work had provided the additional advantage of strengthening our partnership with external stakeholders, in particular Police Scotland, Adult and Child protection services and local housing providers.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

THE SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL (VARIOUS STREETS, KELSO) (TRAFFIC (REGULATION) ORDER 2006

9. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Commercial Services which proposed to amend the Scottish Borders Council (Various Streets, Kelso) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2006. The report explained that recent amendments to the Kelso Traffic Regulation Order had been in relation to the Town Centre works. The amendments shown in Appendix A to the report and described in Appendix B had been collected from recommendations by members of the public, SBC Officers and local Members. These were proposed to aid the movement of vehicles in areas not affected by the recent Town Centre works. As with all Traffic Regulation Orders, a two stage consultation process had been undertaken, firstly there was a statutory consultation with bodies who had a direct interest such as emergency services, freight and public transport representatives and Community Councils. Following that process, the proposal required to be advertised locally to allow others the opportunity to comment or object. Mr Gary Haldane, Assistant Engineer was present at the meeting to answer Members questions.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the proposed amendments to The Scottish Borders Council (Various Streets, Kelso) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2006.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES UPDATE

10. With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of 26 November 2014, there were circulated at the meeting updates on the Quality of Life Scheme and Neighbourhood Small 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 report detailed those schemes which had been approved, completed and due for completing prior to 31 March 2015. The remaining budget of £7,361 was available for Neighbourhood Small 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 £8,820 for Kelso and District and £6,790 for Jedburgh and District.

DECISION

(a) NOTED:-

- (i) the update on previously approved Neighbourhood Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A;**
- (ii) the updates on previously approved Quality of Life Schemes as detailed in Appendix B; and**
- (iii) that authority had been delegated 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.**

- (b) AGREED that clarification be sought from the Chief Financial Officer as to whether remaining budget in the Neighbourhood Small Schemes and Quality of Life Scheme could be carried forward to 2015/16 financial year and report back to a future meeting.**

OPEN QUESTIONS

11. There were no questions from the public.

DECISION

NOTED.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

12. **Oxnam Road Wall, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Minute of 26 November 2014, Area Neighbourhood Manager reported that the repair works to the wall within the property known as Airenlea, were completed just before the start of the festive holiday period. As part of the works the public footway over the length of the Airenlea property was re-shaped and re-laid after the road kerb had been reset. The street lighting column was re-erected at the same time as the footway works, but due to a shortage of electrician resource at that time, the column was only re-connected to the power supply on 12th January 2015. Some minor accommodation works within the property were outstanding, however, these had been completed during week commencing Monday 19th January 2015. During the festive period the owners of Airenlea erected a new timber fence along the length of their property, this work was not part of the wall repair works and the owners arranged for this work themselves.
13. After consultation with local ward members, officers of the Council's Asset Management section had been reviewing the current carriageway arrangements on the section of Oxnam Road between Blair Avenue and The Boundaries. After a meeting with ward councillors towards the end of November a more detailed assessment was being carried out which involved the production of more detailed

designs and projected estimates. Until this work had been completed the temporary widening of Oxnam Road between Blair Avenue and The Boundaries would remain in position.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

14. **Skiprunning Burn, Jedburgh** – With reference to paragraph 14 of the Minute of 26 November 2014, the Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that following the previous update, it could be confirmed that there were no objections to the published scheme during the objection period, which expired 10th December 2014. A report was due before Council on the 19th February to confirm the scheme under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. As at 29 January 2015, the scheme was still on programme with works due to commence summer 2015. The work to replace the existing fence at the Fire station was completed in December and the remaining Phase 1A works (drainage channel improvements on the Canongate and extensions to planters) were being undertaken in February and March 2015.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

15. **Parkside Primary School** – With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute of 26 November 2014, the Community Councillor requested an update. It was reported that a site visit had been held at Parkside Primary School with Elected Ward Members. The Community Councillor requested information regarding where on the priority list Parkside Primary School was situated, but there was no further information available at this time.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

16. The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 1 April 2015 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 8.00 p.m.