

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TEVIOT
AND LIDDESDALE AREA COMMITTEE held
in the TOWER MILL, HEART OF HAWICK on
18 September 2012 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors A. Cranston, Z. Elliot, S. Marshall, D. Paterson, R. Smith, G. Turnbull.
Community Councillors I. Robson, M. Short.

In Attendance:- SB Local Area Manager (Eildon), Inspector Carol Wood (Lothian and Borders
Police), Committee and Elections Officer (Fiona Walling).

Members of the Public:- 12

MINUTE

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of 19 June 2012.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

2. With regard to paragraph 4 (d) of the Minute relating to the appointment to Roxburgh Sports Council the Committee Officer advised that just one representative Member was required for this outside body rather than two, Cheviot Area Committee also having provided a representative. Councillor Paterson intimated that he was happy for Councillor Turnbull take the appointment.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Turnbull be the representative from Teviot and Liddesdale Area Committee on Roxburgh Sports Council.

3. With regard to paragraph 8 (c) of the Minute relating to the SB Local small schemes report, formal approval was given for the provision of four dropped kerbs in Drumlanrig Square.

DECISION

NOTED

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS POLICE – SPOTLIGHT

4. Inspector Carol Wood, South Community Policing Area Commander, was welcomed to the meeting to present her report which covered the months of June, July and August 2012. She explained about 'Operation Goal' which was a divisional operation launched with the purpose of targeting street-level drug dealers. The enforcement for this initiative took place in July following months of intelligence gathering and engagement with local communities. There were a number of targets identified within the Hawick area, whose addresses were searched and arrests made. In the weeks following the initial days of action, there had continued to be individuals arrested and their properties searched. It was hoped that the positive outcome of this operation would lead to increased confidence in our community to report suspicious activity in relation to drugs supply. On other matters there had unfortunately been three rapes reported during this period. Only one of these was a 'stranger' report and despite exhaustive enquiries, as yet this had not been detected. Inspector Wood added that this type of incident was always concerning although our communities should be re-assured that this type of crime was rare in the Borders.
5. There continued to be an increase in the number of reported 'scams' taking place. These took various guises and anyone could be targeted. The police were constantly circulating

media messages regarding these, alerting the public to the various cons going on. 'Party on the Pitch' took place a few weeks ago. Although the main event passed with little incident, officers were overwhelmed with the number of young people found in possession of alcohol or under the influence. Inspector Wood advised that she would hold a de-brief with the committee and Licensing Officer to discuss this year's issues, so that the problems of this year could be averted as much as possible next year. In line with preventative policing strategy an operation had taken place at licensed premises in the town in July where officers utilised a metal detector device, checking people as they entered nightclubs for possession of offensive weapons. This was received positively by the public and it was extremely reassuring that there were no positive searches of individuals. Recorded crime figures were 54, 79 and 60 for June, July and August respectively with respective detection rates of 55.6%, 60.8% and 81.7%. The increase in recorded crime in July was as a result of Operation Goal. The report went on to cover activities relating to road policing and parking offences. In response to a question Inspector Wood gave further information about how the parking problem in The Terraces was being tackled. With regard to community issues and ongoing complaints in relation to boy racers there had been some proactive work undertaken in partnership with Roads Policing officers with further education and enforcement planned over the next few weeks. There were also some high tariff anti-social behaviour cases currently being dealt with. Inspector Wood and her community beat officers were working closely with the Anti Social Behaviour Unit to seek resolutions to these cases. Members of the committee expressed thanks to the police, through Inspector Wood, for the work being carried out and for the help given to the youngsters in the community. The good feedback from Operation Goal was also noted with Members expressing the hope that the police could maintain the momentum started by this initiative. The chairman thanked Inspector Wood for her attendance.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

SB LOCAL AND SB WARDENS REPORT

6. The SB Local Area Manager (Eildon) Craig Blackie was in attendance to update the Committee although, as there had been no small schemes put forward since the last meeting a report had not been prepared. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 19 June 2012, Mr Blackie reported that the schemes relating to the steps at Miller's Knowe, the dropped kerbs in Drumlanrig Square and the railings in Main Street, Denholm had been completed. Work relating to the handrail on the footpath between Ivanhowe Terrace and Hillend Drive, Hawick was with the contractor and the installation of multi-play equipment in the play area at Stirches would begin in October. With regard to the repair of the retaining wall at Weensland Road Mr Blackie advised that, following enquiries he had made, it was apparent that there would be no funding available for this work from other areas within the Council budget. There was approximately £25k in the Small Schemes budget and £5,600 in the Pay and Display budget. Members were reminded that there was no longer a Members Priority budget.
7. With regard to sourcing funding for small schemes within the area Councillor Marshall raised the issue of the Market Cross and immediate surrounds, at the museum, which the 1514 Club wished to improve. The Club proposed to landscape the area and erect a seat. Although funding was required for the project the Club would carry out the work. The chairman advised that the most appropriate way forward was for the 1514 Club to write to the Council with details of the project and funding requirements. However the majority of Councillors supported a motion by Councillor Marshall, and seconded by Councillor Elliot, that a sum of £1000 be ring-fenced for the project. It was pointed out that once the details were submitted by the 1514 Club it may be deemed more appropriate for this to be funded from the Community Grant Scheme rather than the Small Schemes budget, in which case the Club would be asked to submit the relevant application form.

8. Mr Blackie went on to highlight the main points of the SB Wardens report, covering the months of July and August 2012, prepared by Senior SB Warden Keith Taylor. The report had been circulated to Members. Over that period Wardens had dealt with 5 incidents of flytipping, 9 of anti-social behaviour, 8 of dumping rubbish and 13 complaints about dog fouling. There were also 2 incidents relating to drugs paraphernalia finds. With regard to the dog fouling campaign over the months of June and July 2012 the SB Wardens had witnessed 182 people picking up and had issued 3 Fixed Penalty Notices on the back of complaints and witnessing individuals not picking up after their dogs. Also highlighted in the report were the targeted days, which in Hawick were 15th and 16th August 2012, when a team of 8 wardens covered the town from 6am until 9pm on both days. Over the two days 56 members of the public were witnessed picking up after their dogs and no tickets were issued. The Wardens had met up with Councillors on both days to walk around areas that may be of concern with regard to dog fouling, litter, anti-social behaviour and fly tipping. Members commented that the two targeted days had been very beneficial and that the Wardens' local knowledge and common-sense attitude towards the public was appreciated. Hawick Community Council chairman Mrs Short also commended the work carried out by the Wardens and pointed out that the public were not aware of the considerable area they had to cover. Councillor Elliot drew attention to the fact that bins that had been requested for Commercial Road had not yet been provided. She also referred to the area of ground in Eastfield Road, near to the old tenement building that needed tidying. When this issue was previously raised it was pointed out that the owner of the land needed to be identified as this was not Council property.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the Senior SB Warden's report and the update by the SB Local Area Manager on the Small Schemes budget; and

(b) AGREED:-

(i) in principle to ring-fence £1000 from the SB Local small schemes budget as a contribution towards work being carried out by the 1514 Club to the Market Cross, on the understanding that, once details were known, this may be more appropriately funded from the Community Grants Scheme; and

(ii) that legal services be requested to carry out a search to ascertain the owner of the area of land on Eastfield Road that has been identified as being in need of attention.

FAIR TRADE SCOTLAND

9. The chairman welcomed to the meeting Helen Rothwell, Fair Trade Towns Development Officer, from the Scottish Fair Trade Forum, and members of the Hawick Fair Trade Steering Group led by chairman and Hawick resident Norman Chipakupaku. The secretary of the steering group and two members from Hawick High School were among those present. Ms Rothwell explained the background to the charity Fair Trade and that the campaign to make Scotland a Fair Trade Scotland began about five years ago in Edinburgh. In 2008 Wales achieved Fair Trade Status and Scotland was on track to achieve this by November or December this year. She referred to the FAIRTRADE mark, launched in 1994, which indicated a Fair Price; a social premium within the price; protection of the rights of producers and farmers; safer working conditions; protection of the environment; and longer contracts in place for security and to enable better planning for producers. The FAIRTRADE mark was heavily audited with random spot checks being carried out on products. It had been noted in Scotland that, due to the recession, Fair Trade was an ethical business model that appeared to be attractive to the public by appealing to their sense of fairness and the fight against poverty. By achieving Fair Trade status a nation could be proud, set an example, raise the profile of Fair Trade and apply leverage to the Government to make practical steps; for example in Scotland with respect to procurement relating to the Commonwealth Games 2014. The chosen method for Scotland to work towards becoming a Fair Trade nation was

to encourage towns, villages and zones to achieve that status. Currently 55% of large towns in Scotland either had or were close to Fair Trade status. In the Scottish Borders the first to achieve this were Peebles and the Tweeddale area about five years ago. Selkirk was also a Fair Trade town, Hawick had started to work towards this a few months ago and Kelso had also taken first steps. However Ms Rothwell added that the bid, started recently, was for the whole of the Borders to become a Fair Trade zone. This would be based on the Scottish Borders Council area and would require a strategic move to include schools and public sector agencies.

10. The campaign to make Hawick a Fair Trade town was outlined by Mr Chipakupaku, who also explained how he was working with Edinburgh University to make Edinburgh the first university to achieve Fair Trade status. Having been a farmer himself Mr Chipakupaku had personal knowledge of the challenges facing producers and also in his employment capacity with the Co-op had particular knowledge of production in Ghana, Malawi and Mexico. The campaign in Hawick had been joined by businesses such as Sainsburys, Morrisons and Lidl as well as the Co-op; by six congregations; and by all the Hawick Primary Schools and Hawick High School. Councillor Turnbull explained that he and Councillor Davidson had attended the inaugural meeting of the Borders Fair Trade movement. There had been good cross representation at the meeting and action points had been given to attendees who had a genuine commitment to take forward the campaign. It was noted that Councillor Paterson had been involved in a previous motion to Council as part of a campaign to make Scottish Borders Council Fair Trade but it was agreed that a refreshed motion may be required to re-energise the movement.
11. In response to a question Ms Rothwell outlined the criteria to become a Fair Trade town. These were listed as five goals in the Scotland Fair Trade Guide 2012, copies of which were available at the meeting. The Fair Trade Foundation, which was a UK body, would make the decision as to when Fair Trade status was achieved. Members expressed their unanimous support for the local campaign and discussed what further encouragement could be given towards the campaign within Scottish Borders Council. One measure that was agreed was to secure the support of the Economic Development team. It was also hoped that there could be a co-ordinated Fair Trade fortnight across the Borders sometime in 2013. Also in the discussion it was stressed that Fair Trade did not just apply to imported goods and that local farmers and businesses also deserved support. An example was the support that the Fair Trade organisation were giving to farmers for a fair price for milk as their current position was unsustainable. In conclusion the chairman drew attention to the Fair Trade tea, coffee and biscuits that had been kindly provided by the Hawick group for sampling at the meeting. The chairman thanked Ms Rothwell and the members of the Hawick Fair Trade steering group for their attendance and assured them of their local Councillors' support.

**DECISION
AGREED:-**

- (a) **that the Teviot and Liddesdale Councillors unanimously support the campaign to make Hawick a Fair Trade Town; and**
- (b) **to support the Fair Trade movement within Scottish Borders Council and to look for ways in which the Council could be proactive in the campaign to make the Scottish Borders a Fair Trade zone.**

SCOTTISH BORDERS COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

12. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Chief Executive on an application to the Scottish Borders Council Community Grant Scheme from Cogsmill Hall Committee. The application was for a project grant to contribute towards the cost of refurbishment works to the kitchen and exterior of Cogsmill Hall situated in the Slitrig Valley. The grant request was for £2,230. The group had requested match funding from the Community Grant Scheme to enable the project to proceed. The remainder of the grant funding would be met by Awards for All. Members voiced their unanimous support for the grant application.

DECISION

AGREED that a grant to the value of £2,230 be awarded to Cogsmill Hall Committee for refurbishing works to Cogsmill Hall.

TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

13. The chairman drew attention to the Council's new Scheme of Administration which had been approved by Council on 30 August 2012 and which would come into effect on 15 October 2012. Within the new Scheme the Area Committees were being replaced by Area Forums, with strong links to the Community Planning process. These Forums would comprise Scottish Borders Councillors; the Chairman or a representative from each of the Community Councils in the relevant area; a representative from each of NHS Borders and the Police; and a representative from any other local body as agreed by the Scottish Borders Councillors on the Area Forum. It was proposed that Area Forums should take place 4 times per annum but should not consist solely of a formal meeting. Meetings may be held more frequently, should there be local need and provided there was sufficient business. Meetings would be scheduled for 6.30 pm and would include public debate and input on agenda items. As well as these meetings, from 4.00 to 6.00 pm in the same venue as the meeting was to be held, it was intended that the Council and any of its partner organisations could provide information on current initiatives or services in a "market stall" setting which would allow people to drop in and pick up details at their convenience, meeting with staff and local Councillors and raising any issues they may have, rather than waiting for the formal meeting. The chairman added that Teviot and Liddesdale had been one of the more active area committees and he suggested that the Area Forum would need to meet more frequently than suggested.

DECISION

NOTED

OPEN QUESTIONS

14. Question
Members were asked why, in the Council's new Scheme of Administration, the title of the Common Good Fund Working Groups were being changed to Common Good Fund Sub Committees.

Answer

The chairman explained that this was to correct the name which previously had been technically incorrect. It did not signify a change in the function or nature of the Common Good Fund administering body. As had always been the case all 34 Council Members were the Administrators for all the funds. Therefore the individual Common Good Funds were managed by Sub Committees of the Council, rather than being termed working groups which usually had a finite existence.

DECISION

NOTED

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

15. Mr Robson, from Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water, reported that since the last meeting the Community Council had disbanded and been re-elected. It was proving difficult to recruit members and there remained 3 to 4 vacancies. South of Scotland Timber Transport Officer, Mr James England, had attended a meeting to discuss finding an alternative route for moving timber rather than using the road past Cogsmill, out of Hawick. There had also been a public meeting at Robertson regarding the proposed closure of Martins Bridge for 18 weeks in Spring 2013. Around 54 people were in attendance to meet a bridge engineer and hear a presentation by SSE Renewables about the programme. There was huge concern at the considerable upheaval to the residents and the fact that the valley would be basically shut to heavy transport. Mr Robson also referred to a meeting with farmers regarding Natural Flood Management measures where there was some concern expressed about the effect on existing hay fields.

16. Mrs Short explained that Hawick Community Council was attempting to secure funding for a new set of Christmas lights for the town. She was being advised by the Council's Grants Co-ordinator and would be submitting an application to the Community Grant Scheme. The Community Council were also submitting an application to "Keep Scotland Beautiful" for a grant to address fly-tipping. It was proposed that this would be a joint venture with Burnfoot Community Council. Mrs Short advised that at the next meeting on 8 October Ian Wilkie, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, was scheduled to speak to the Community Council about the Common Good Fund.

DECISION

NOTED the reports.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

17. There had been circulated copies of the proposed public Holidays for 2013 for the Teviot and Liddesdale Area.

DECISION

NOTED the proposed dates.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18. Members agreed to hold a meeting in October and also requested the date of the scheduled November meeting to be changed to the third Tuesday of the month.

DECISION

AGREED that the next meeting be held on 16 October 2012 and the following on 20 November 2012.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.