

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TEVIOT
AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM held in the
LESSER HALL, HIGH STREET, HAWICK on
21 May 2013 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull (Chairman), D. Paterson, S. Marshall (from para 4),
R.Smith
Community Councillors C. Levell, I. Robson, M. Short.
Inspector C. Wood (Lothian and Borders Police)

Apologies:- Councillor A. Cranston, Z. Elliot.

In Attendance:- Neighbourhood Area Manager (A. Finnie), Democratic Services Officers (F.
Walling and J. Turnbull).

Members of the Public:- 4 in attendance.

1. **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

In his welcome and introduction, the Chairman advised that as no Member from the Hawick and Denholm Ward was present the meeting was not yet quorate. He therefore 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.

2. **SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY IN SCOTTISH BORDERS 2013 - 15**

The NHS Borders Joint Head of Health Improvement, Allyson McCollam, was in attendance and gave a presentation on Suicide Prevention in the Scottish Borders. The Strategy and any feedback would link to the National Consultation on Suicide Prevention. The presentation summarised the objectives of the Strategy, which included early identification of risk, coordinated planning and activity, training and workforce development, supporting those affected by suicide and reducing the availability of methods. Services and partnerships were already in place which worked well together. Although below the Scottish average, in each year, in the Scottish Borders, 17 – 19 people took their own lives; risks identified were financial worries, social isolation and lack of opportunities. There was also a difference in the risk factors for men and women; in general there were more suicides amongst older men coming to the end of their working lives.

3. Following the presentation Ms McCollam proceeded to answer questions and asked for the views of those present in respect of further possible prevention measures and priority actions. She explained that if a person had a significant mental health problem then the route for assistance was clear, however it was more complicated if the person did not have a clinical, mental health problem and there was a need to respond to this group. There were links with Job Centre Plus, Mental Health and Addiction Services to offer a coordinated response. The Forum discussed implications of the welfare benefits reform and Ms McCollam reported that they were trying to link up with Job Centre Plus and the Welfare Benefits team to try to support people affected by the changes. Initiatives such as Suicide Prevention Week and training within the NHS, community groups and social care increased awareness. For relatives and friend who had lost someone through suicide, there was a self help support group - 'Survivors of People Bereaved by Suicide'. Discussions were also taking place with Human Resources and the Unions to appoint a Champion for Mental Health. The Chairman thanked Ms McCollam for her attendance and for the informative presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation

MEMBER

4. Councillor Marshall joined the meeting during the discussion of the above presentation, resulting in a quorum of Members present.

“FACT OR FANTASY – YOUR HEALTH IN 2020”

5. Dr Eric Baijal, Joint Director of Public Health, for both NHS Borders and the Council, was in attendance and gave a presentation on his third Annual Report (2011-2012). In the Borders, people live longer than the Scottish average, although not always in good health. The number of pensioners and children was increasing faster than the working age population. There were inequalities and pockets of deprivation and one of Dr Baijal's roles was to promote equality. Dr Baijal discussed the work of the Healthy Living Network using Walkerburn as a case study. Residents had been encouraged to use allotments to grow vegetables, cooking skills had been taught and people were encouraged to be physically active. The project had been successful and residents no longer felt disadvantaged. In the Scottish Borders there were already established interventions to encourage healthy living. For babies and children initiatives such as increasing breastfeeding and immunisation were encouraged. In middle age, promoting responsible drinking, discouraging smoking and early detection of cancer were important. In older people improving diet, preventing loneliness and coping with dementia were among the interventions. The presentation concluded with three examples which highlighted the importance of early interventions at different stages of life.
6. Following the presentation Dr Bajali proceeded to answer questions. He advised that the immunisation rate in the Scottish Borders was 95%, which was good. The region had a strong sporting tradition and the Council were also encouraging children to be active, for example, providing all weather pitches and supporting sport and leisure trusts. An easy read summary of Dr Baijal's Annual Report was available at the meeting and he invited participation in the survey which was available on the Council's website. The Chairman thanked Dr Baijal for his attendance and his enlightening presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

MINUTE

7. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 16 April 2013.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

8. With regard to paragraph 6 of the Minute of 16 April 2013, relating to the introduction of one-way operation of an arm of the D14-3 at Hornshole, the Chairman advised that he would obtain clarification about when the Traffic Order would be implemented.

DECISION

NOTED.

9. With regard to paragraph 7 of the Minute, it was confirmed that the additional money referred to, equating to 20k for the Area, would be available for use in the next financial year (2014/15) to coincide with the end of the Warden Service.

DECISION

NOTED

10. With regard to paragraph 8 of the Minute, it was requested that further investigation be carried out with officers into the siting of the proposed monument to avoid moving the advertising Board. Members welcomed Mr Hope's offer to give an update at a future meeting on the activities planned for the Battle of Hornshole 500th Anniversary

**DECISION
NOTED.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

11. The Neighbourhood Operations Lead Officer joined the Neighbourhood Area Manager to give a presentation on the changes to the department structure and new service arrangements. The service was now more localities based with multi-skilled, flexible operatives. Neighbourhood Services had responsibility for all environmental services, planned and reactive roads maintenance and delivery of winter services. The Service also offered apprenticeships and training opportunities. The changes had allowed Neighbourhood Services to have more impact on the rural community and to utilise staff from different sections when there was high demand within individual services. For 2013/14 in the Teviot and Liddesdale area, Neighbourhood Operations would deliver a Recycling on the Go trial in selected communities, carriageway patching, footpath up-grading, £470,000 bridge and retaining wall improvements as well as delivery of the small scheme projects and continued support for community events.
12. The team highlighted the Resilient Communities Plan programme, which signed up volunteers to respond to local issues such as snow clearing, sandbag provision to prevent flooding and checking on neighbours in severe winter weather. Thirteen communities had signed up for the plan with over 500 volunteers. Eyemouth High School was to pilot the Resilient Schools Plan. The presentation moved on to look at the Apprenticeship Scheme being offered by Neighbourhood Operations. It was proposed that the programme, which was aimed at 16 to 25 year olds and those requiring supported employment, would support 6 apprentices per annum. The aim would be to give apprentices experience and training in all aspects of the service. The Team invited questions and informed the Forum that although there would be flexibility, generally operatives would stay in their respective trades.

**DECISION
NOTED the presentation.**

MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S ROAD ASSET – TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE AREA

13. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure seeking approval for the proposed allocation of additional Capital funding identified to carry out resurfacing works in the Teviot and Liddesdale Area. The Asset Manager, David Richardson, explained that the Council had agreed, on 28 March 2013, to consult with Area Forums over the allocation of an additional £1.14m of Capital funding for road surfacing works. Officers required the Forum to decide on which schemes were to be included within the sum allocated to Teviot & Liddesdale Area of £140,000.00. The following additional capital works were proposed for consideration, as listed in Annex A to the report:-

- B6357 Greena Quarry, carriageway surfacing
- DH110/3 Lower Mansfield Road, Hawick, carriageway surfacing
- DH24/3 Braid Road, Hawick, carriageway surfacing

Reserve

- B6357 Cleuch Head, carriageway surfacing
- DH40/3 Church Lane, Hawick, carriageway surfacing
- DH209/3 Wester Braid Road, Hawick, carriageway surfacing.

Members discussed and agreed the programme of Additional Capital Works as listed.

DECISION

AGREED the list of additional Capital works as detailed in Annex A to the report.

SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES and CAPITAL & REVENUE WORKS

14. There had been circulated a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure seeking approval for the Council's local small schemes and giving an update on roads, Capital and Revenue works. The following schemes had been requested for consideration by members:- Install seat near Linden Crescent; install new footpath at Wilton Primary School; upgrade the seating area at Bonchester Bridge War Memorial; white lining of parking areas in Lanton Place, Hawick; upgrading access road to Denholm Cemetery; and grass cutting at The Mote, Hawick. Members discussed and agreed the schemes but asked officers provide the Forum with an external quotation for the upgrading of the access road to Denholm Cemetery to ensure best value.

DECISION

AGREED:-

(a) to approve the following new SB Local Small schemes:-

(i)	Install seating area adjacent to Linden Crescent, Hawick	£ 290.00
(ii)	Install footpath at Wilton Primary School, Hawick	£ 580.00
(iii)	Upgrade seating area at the War Memorial, Bonchester	£ 440.00
(iv)	White lining of parking areas in Lanton Place, Hawick	£ 800.00
(v)	Grass cutting, The Mote, Hawick.	£ 400.00

(b) to approve the upgrading of the access road to Denholm Cemetery subject to an external quotation for the work also be obtained.

OPEN QUESTIONS

15. (a) A question was asked regarding the availability of regeneration monies and whether the Forum was investigating and deciding on a list of priorities? The Chairman gave assurance that Members were already looking at this and also advised that Councillor Stuart Bell, Executive Member for Economic Development, would be attending with officers at the next meeting to give a presentation which would detail future plans.

DECISION

NOTED.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

16. Mr Levell, from Hobkirk Community Council, asked that in respect of the proposed wind farm turbines where there any plans for opening up roads, removing trees, etc? Mr Richardson advised that the developer would prepare a trace analysis from which they would identify sections of the road network for alteration of improvement. Consultation would then take place with the Roads Planning Section as part of the planning process. Mr Levell also advised that permission had been granted to plant a Christmas tree.
17. Mr Robson from Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water reported that SSE would attend their next Community Council meeting with a traffic management scheme. He had attended the meeting regarding broadband. As each wind farm would have fibre optic cables running through it, the Community Council had asked if they would be able to benefit and they had been informed that they would look at this when the time came. In relation to the Roads Revenue Budget Mr Robson reported that he had spoken to Mr Richardson about the condition of roads in his area. The Community Council had signed up to the Community Resilience Scheme and hoped to launch this at the same time as Hawick and Burnfoot.

ITEM NO. 4

18. Mrs Short from Hawick Community Council reported that Hawick and Burnfoot Community Councils would be signing up as one for the Community Resilience Plan. Mrs Short thanked Neighbourhood Services for their support with the clean-up on 19 May which had been a success. The turnout had been higher than expected and they had therefore been able to cover a wider area. The first meeting of the Town Twinning Committee had taken place and other meetings had been scheduled. Local artists would display paintings in a shop frontage in the High Street to brighten up the area for the Common Riding.

DECISION

NOTED the reports.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 19 Agreed that the next meeting be held on Tuesday 18 June 2013 at 6.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.