

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TEVIOT
AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM held in the
LESSER HALL, HAWICK on 19 November
2013 at 6.30 p.m.

- Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull, (Chairman), A. Cranston, Z. Elliot, S. Marshall, D. Paterson, R. Smith.
Community Councillors R. Knight, C. Nicol, M. Short, T. Stevenson, G. Roberts
Inspector C. Wood (Police Scotland).
- In Attendance:- Head of Corporate Governance (I. Wilkie), Legal and Licensing Services Manager (A. Isles), Drug & Alcohol Development Officer (S. Walker), Inspector John Scott (Police Scotland) Business Consultant (Erin Murray), Forward Planning Manager (M. Hanless), Planning Officer (K. Ruthven), Neighbourhood Area Manager (A. Finnie), Passenger Transport Manager (C. Douglas) (Democratic Services Officers (J. Turnbull).

Members of the Public:- 17 in attendance.

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 the meeting held on 17 September 2013.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

PASSENGER TRANSPORT

3. Transport Manager, Colin Douglas was in attendance to lead a discussion about future provision of local bus services. Mr Douglas discussed the particular service Nos 71 and 72, between Hawick and the Borders General Hospital (BGH). A consultation exercise had begun to seek views and establish the demand for these services, the existing contracts having been extended to the end of March in the meantime. Mr Douglas showed the current bus timetables for the relevant services. Service 71, a direct service from Hawick to the BGH, was fairly new and was being operated by the Bridge Community Transport Initiative. There were currently four return journeys per day and, it appeared that demand had been established for this service. As part of the consultation it was a consideration that this service be amalgamated with Service 72 which was not well used throughout the day. Mr Douglas reported that the BGH were introducing 4 hrs maximum stay parking and he was consulting on when journeys should run and altering the timetable to enable BGH staff from Hawick to get the bus to and from work, as well as visitors to the BGH to be able to use the service. Mr Douglas concluded by saying that the draft timetable would be on the Council's website next week, responses were invited by way of a questionnaire to the service. The new services would be in place from the first week of April 2014. There was a discussion regarding the problem with parked cars and this would be discussed further at the December meeting of the Area Forum. The Chairman thanked Mr Douglas for his attendance.

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED the presentation.**

- (b) **AGREED to request a report on Traffic Orders for the next meeting of the Area Forum.**

ALCOHOL BYELAWS

4. The Head of Corporate Governance, Ian Wilkie, was in attendance to give a presentation as part of the public engagement process in connection with the proposed Prohibition of Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places. He was accompanied by his team Anne Isles (Legal and Licensing Services Manager), Erin Murray (Business Consultant), Susan Walker (Drug and Alcohol Development Officer) and Inspector John Scott (Police Scotland). In his introduction Mr Wilkie clarified that byelaws were made by Local Councils and confirmed by Scottish Government and explained that the Scottish Borders was the only local authority area in Scotland that did not have byelaws restricting the consumption of alcohol in public places. Scottish Borders Council had recently agreed to carry out a public consultation in relation to the introduction of such byelaws. Police Scotland would welcome the introduction of such byelaws as this would provide an additional tool to local officers allowing them to intervene to prevent alcohol-fuelled incidents taking place in our communities. Mr Wilkie clarified that the byelaws would not affect private gardens, homes, and licensed premises (beer gardens or areas fenced off for weddings and functions) and the Café Culture. Following an analysis of responses to the engagement process, draft byelaws would be submitted to the Scottish Government and a further report presented to Council in the Spring of 2014. Should Council approve a decision to apply for byelaws there would be a statutory advert, to which objections could be made. The final step in the process would be for the Council to make the byelaws and pass these to Scottish Ministers for confirmation. The presentation went on to cover relevant health issues, designated settlements, exemptions and places where byelaws would not apply.
5. The Chairman invited questions to the team. The team were asked their views on minimum pricing, the Drug & Alcohol Development Officer responded that minimum pricing was only one part of the solution of reducing availability to reduce harm. There was a question asking whether whole settlements would be covered by the legislation e.g. the whole of Hawick, and that all areas should be covered by the byelaws. Mr Wilkie clarified that it would be up to councillors, informed by comments from the public, which areas would be included. Byelaws could be revoked for a particular area but this would be subject to a similar process as was being carried out at present and would include the public consultation exercise. Inspector Scott was asked if he could give evidence that showed the byelaws would reduce criminality, he responded that as there was presently no law against drinking in public places this was one area that Police Scotland had no data for. However, the application of the byelaws would be used by Police Scotland as a preventative tool. The Chairman thanked Mr Wilkie and his team for the presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

6. In attendance to give a presentation on the proposed Local Development Plan were Forward Planning Manager Mr Martin Wanless, and Planning Officer Karen Ruthven. It was explained that, as part of changes in the Scottish planning system, the Council was required to produce a Local Plan which would replace the existing Consolidated Local Plan 2011. The Local Development Plan (LDP) would implement requirements of the strategic development plan SESplan 2013, which provided the high level strategic policy for the South East of Scotland. The key outcomes for the LDP were to consider generous housing land supply and affordable housing; protect and improve employment land; protect and enhance town centres; improve connectivity; identify infrastructure needs; protect and enhance environment; and promote sustainable development. The Main Issues Report (MIR) had been agreed by the Council and a consultation period which resulted in 278 representations covering 1000 issues had been reported to the Council in September 2013. There was now a period running until February 2014 to give an opportunity for representations on the proposed plan.
7. Presentations to Area Forums formed part of the neighbourhood engagement about the plan. The presentation went on to look at the structure of the LDP which was made up of Strategy/Spatial Strategy; Policies restructured; and Settlement Statements. Maps were

shown to illustrate the principal elements of the Spatial Strategy in the central, eastern and western areas of the Scottish Borders.

8. Mr Wanless gave more detailed information on the content of the LDP relating to policies under the headings of Place Making and Design; Economic Development; Housing; Environmental Promotion and Protection; and Infrastructure and Standards. There were further slides which showed inherent land capacity for windfarms and showed Economic Development (EC) for upgrading/restructuring e.g. Commercial Road, Stonefield, Hawick and Wilton Park. Infrastructure and Standards (IS) slides showed maximising impact of the Borders Railway from Galashiels to Carlisle and the extension and promoting trunk and strategic road improvements.
9. Mr Wanless concluded his presentation and discussed that the representation period was from 6 December to 3 March, with a report back to Council in the late Spring 2014, then submission to Scottish Government. In response to a question about windfarms Mr Wanless advised that there were landscape constraints to take into consideration and areas of white land were protected from wind turbines. The Chairman thanked Mr Wanless for the presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2014 – TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE

10. There had been circulated copies of the proposed local public holidays for 2014 in Teviot and Liddesdale.

DECISION

AGREED to determine the Public Holidays for Teviot and Liddesdale with the amendment of 'Spring' Holiday to 'Easter' Holiday as set out in Appendix (i) to this Minute.

SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES AND CAPITAL & REVENUE WORKS

11. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure which sought approval for the proposed new SB local small schemes from the Area Forum and approval for agreeing and monitoring pay and display parking income and expenditure in future. The Neighbourhood Area Manager reported that the upgrading of the play equipment at Green Terrace had been started, the installation of a footpath at Wilton Primary School would be completed next week; the white lining of parking areas at Lanton Place and Eildon Road and the upgrading of the access road at Denholm Cemetery had all been completed.

DECISION

(a) AGREED

(i) Upgrade footpath at Main Street, Denholm £13,031

(ii) Install dropped kerbs at Beaconsfield Terrace, Hawick £ 1,475

(b) NOTED

The upgrade on previously approved SB Local Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

(c) The process for reporting of pay and display parking revenue spending as follows:-

(i) Ward Members would agree, with Officers, the Schemes to be taken forward

(ii) These proposals would be included in the Small Schemes report for Teviot and Liddesdale, including monitoring their deliver.

(d) To request an update on the following five schemes for the December meeting:-

(i) Refurbishment of existing benches on Home Hill Necastleton (5 No.)

- (ii) **Pruning of trees in Teviot Crescent;**
- (iii) **Installation of public notice board at Moat Park;**
- (iv) **Replacement of two benches at the Sandbed; and**
- (v) **Removing redundant bus shelter at Bourtree Terrace and relocating at Newmill.**

POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND

12. There had been circulated a report from Police Scotland which updated the Forum on the performance, activities and issues up to 31 October 2013. Inspector Wood reported that Police Scotland's focus at the moment was on winter driving and their festive campaign. Crime rates during the period had reduced by 11% from the same period last year. The local Multi Member Ward plans were now available to download from their website. The plans were set as a result of public consultation and would be reviewed annually ensuring they police were tackling the issues that matter most to local communities. A six month update on the progress of these plans would be published in the near future.

DECISION

NOTED the report

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

13. Mrs Short from Hawick reported that she had taken delivery of the resilience planning leaflets. There would be a Christmas Parade on 30 November 2013 at 4.00 pm; marshalls would be required from 3.00 pm to 4.30 pm.
14. Mr Stevenson from Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water conveyed his thanks to the Resilience Community team who had visited the Community Council last week. They also had appreciated the upgrade from Police Scotland and reminded members to report any suspicious people or vehicles in the area. The new bus shelter at New Mill was much appreciated. Martin's Bridge had already been damaged.
15. Denholm Community Council reported on the wind farm development and the impact on the village. There had been a first meeting with Jedburgh regarding a Walking Festival. The defibrillator training was now completed.
16. Mr Knight from Burnfoot reported that there had been issues with street lighting and car parking. The Christmas light switch on would be on 4 December 2013 at 3.30 pm approximately. There was hoped to be a decision on the Burnfoot Big Lottery funding for the next meeting.

DECISION

NOTED the reports.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17. Agreed that the next meeting be held on 17 December 2013 at 6.30 p.m. in the Lesser Hall, Hawick.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm.