

**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 17 December 2013 at 6.30 p.m.

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Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull, (Chairman), A. Cranston, D. Paterson, R. Smith.  
Community Councillors T. Stevenson, G. Roberts, C. Levell.  
Apologies:- Councillors Z. Elliot, S. Marshall, Mrs M. Short (Hawick Community Council),  
Inspector C. Wood (Police Scotland).  
In Attendance:- Neighbourhood Area Manager (A. Finnie), (Democratic Services Officers (J. Turnbull).

Members of the Public:- 3 in attendance.

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**MINUTE**

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 19 November 2013. With reference to the decision in paragraph 11.(d)(i) Councillor Smith asked that Home be amended to Holm and Necastleton be changed to Newcastleton.

**DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the Minute, subject to the above amendments, for signature by the Chairman.**

**DESIGNING OUR LEARNING FUTURE (DOLF) – DISCUSSION**

2. In attendance to give a presentation on Designing Our Learning Future (DOLF) project were Ann Blackie, Locality Manager, Teviot and Liddesdale and Resources and Fiona Hume, Hawick High School. Circulated at the meeting was a copy of the Vision and Values statement which had been agreed by all partners and the Learning Community Board. In her introduction, Ms Blackie explained that the Teviot and Liddesdale Learning Community would strive to provide a culture of achievement for all children and young people from the locality. All agencies and their representatives within the area had contributed to this by ensuring that young people were encouraged to participate in regular and varied opportunities, promoted and celebrated success and achievement at all levels, encouraged a multi-generational attitude in the opportunities and experiences on offer and embedded a 'can dae' message across and throughout the community. The DOLF ethos would allow young people to flourish and access wider opportunities leading to increased achievement. Ms Blackie continued that volunteers from the full group had developed an Action Group, comprising members from primary and the secondary school, children's services, school nurse and health visitors. This Group had prepared an Action Plan to take forward to the wider community and would report back through the Learning Community Board.
3. The Chairman invited questions. Ms Blackie was asked what barriers existed to prohibit young people from achieving their potential. It was explained that there was a whole host of barriers: financial, difficult home situations, physical or learning disabilities and being fearful of trying. Ms Blackie gave an example of the Vision 2014 programme where young people had received a sporting achievement card which was stamped whenever they tried a new sport e.g. archery, basketball etc. The programme had been very inclusive and had been a gateway into sport for many young people. Ms Blackie was asked for a breakdown of the number of young people who were not in education, employment or training in the area? Ms Blackie would investigate and report back to the Forum. In answer to a question, Ms Blackie clarified that the main focus of the Action Plan was to initiate a culture shift which would result

in a positive influence on future generations. The Chairman thanked Ms Blackie and Ms Hume for the informative presentation.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the presentation.**

**SCOTTISH EMPTY HOMES CONFERENCE**

4. The Chairman, Councillor Turnbull, reported on his recent attendance at the Scottish Empty Homes Conference. He highlighted Redcar's Coast Country Housing Limited project, which had restored empty properties back into use for sale or rent. The project utilised the skills of tradesmen who were long term unemployed and had also taken on apprentices, who were trained on site as they redeveloped the buildings. The project had been a success and officials from the company had agreed to meet with Scottish Borders Council for discussion and to view possible development opportunities in Hawick, they would also give a presentation to a meeting of the Area Forum early next year. The Chairman continued that two property owners had already approached him stating their interest in the project. In answer to a question, the Chairman explained that town centre regeneration had been discussed at the Conference the main emphasis had been to ensure that empty properties above shops were occupied. An example of Bathgate had been given whereby subsidised rental had proven to be a success in rejuvenating the town centre.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

**SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES AND CAPITAL & REVENUE WORKS**

5. 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. The Neighbourhood Area Manager reported that he was awaiting approval from BEAR for the bus shelter and would report back at the next meeting. He would also report on the price for the tree pruning at Cheviot Road. It was hoped that the Criminal Justice Team would be able to take on the project of forming a path at the rear of Fisher Avenue which would reduce costs significantly as there would not be any labour charges. He was pursuing the erection of a shelter at Wellogate Cemetery and would report back on progress at a future meeting of the Forum.

**DECISION**

**(a) AGREED:**

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|--|----------------|
| <b>(i) Refurbish five existing benches on Holm Hill, Newcastleton.</b> | <b>£1,150</b>  |
| <b>(ii) Crown reduction to trees at Teviot Crescent, Hawick</b>        | <b>£ 3,000</b> |
| <b>(iii) Install notice board at Moat Park, Hawick</b>                 | <b>£ 450</b>   |
| <b>(iv) Replace two existing benches at Sandbed, Hawick</b>            | <b>£1,210</b>  |

**(b) NOTED**

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

**POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND**

6. There had been circulated a report from Police Scotland which updated the Forum on the performance, activities and issues up to 17 December 2013. Teviot and Liddesdale ward had recorded an 8% reduction in reported crime compared to the same period last year with a 2.17% increase in solvency over the same timescales.
7. The Ward priorities were as follows:

- Tackling serious and organised crime - Visits to itinerant scrap metal dealers and planned road checks to be carried out, theft of quad bikes and an increased police presence in Newcastleton.
- Making our roads safer - Five conditional offers were issued to drivers using mobile phones during November 2013, three conditional offers were issued to motorists not wearing their seatbelt during the same period, road checks were planned to encourage safer winter driving.
- Tackling substance misuse – There had been 22 stop and searches carried out during November 2013 but no seizures of alcohol from underage drinkers. Two items of drugs had been recovered through street searches.
- Reducing Anti Social Behaviour – Groups of Youths and Anti Social Driving. There had been 10 Anti Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Tickets issued during November 2013. A number of interventions with youths had taken place and the situation would continue to be monitored. Activity targeting inappropriate driving and driving offences was planned for the area.

8. It was noted that the Multi Ward Plans were important as they were tailored to the outcomes. Police Scotland needed to be informed of what the priorities and main concerns were. Police Scotland would be asked how quickly their response would be activated when a particular concern had been raised.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

**OPEN QUESTIONS**

9. (a) A member of the public asked when the Holm Hill benches would be installed and that the positioning of the benches should be such as to provide vistas and to make an impact. The Neighbourhood Area Manager responded that the benches would be installed in the next few weeks and the comment regarding positioning was noted.

**DECISION**

**Noted.**

- (b) Councillor Smith reported that there was missing and broken block paving around the town centre; at what stage did maintenance become an emergency repair. The Neighbourhood Area Manager replied that he would bring the matter to the attention of the Assistant Manager who would arrange to have an inspection carried out. Formal inspections were carried out to specific timescales. The priority would be to make safe as quickly as possible.

**DECISION**

**Noted.**

- (c) Councillor Paterson reported that raised paving blocks next to High Street shops were unsightly. The Neighbourhood Area Manager replied that unless they were a trip hazard this would not constitute a safety defect and would be picked up during formal inspections.

**DECISION**

**Noted.**

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

10. Mr Stevenson from Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water conveyed his thanks for the good wishes he had received with regards to his wife. He also wished Forum members compliments of the season.

11. Denholm Community Council reported on the transportation of the wind farm structures through the village. The Christmas tree, provided by SBC, was less than expected being only 6' high, the Community Council had arranged to purchase and erect a larger tree. The gates at Cavers Cemetery were dilapidated and unsightly. Would SBC address the status of the white lining in the Cavers area?
12. Councillor Paterson would investigate the cemetery gates and report back to the Community Council. The Neighbourhood Services Manager would look into the status of the white lining in the Cavers area.
13. Mr Levell from Hobkirk Community Council reported that traffic management and the community development fund continued to be issues, both had been reported to Michael Moore MP. They had received only four responses to the Resilient Communities initiative which had been disappointing. Their Christmas tree was ideal. Mr Lovell thanked the Neighbourhood Services Manager for all his hard work regarding the War Memorial.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the reports.**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

14. Agreed that the next meeting be held on 21 January 2014 at 6.30 pm. The Chairman thanked all those for attending and extended his best wishes for the festive season.

*The meeting concluded at 7.33 pm.*

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## **SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES**

**Report by Director of Environment & Infrastructure**

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### **TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM**

**21 JANUARY 2014**

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#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1 **This report seeks approval for the proposed new SB Local small schemes from the Area Forum.**

1.2 The following schemes have been requested for consideration by the Teviot and Liddesdale members: Crown reduction & removal of trees behind Cheviot Road, Hawick, and repositioning bus shelter to A7 Newmill. Updated previously approved Small Schemes are listed in Appendix A.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 **I recommend that the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum:**

**(a) approves the following new SB Local Small Schemes for implementation:-**

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <b>(i) Crown reduction &amp; removal of trees behind Cheviot Road, Hawick.</b> | <b>£ 975</b>  |
| <b>(ii) Repositioning of an existing bus shelter to A7 Newmill</b>             | <b>£2,250</b> |

**(b) notes the updates on previously approved SB Local Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A to this report.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Elected Members, Community Councils and the public can request potential small schemes by contacting the Neighbourhood Area Manager direct. Neighbourhood Services is contactable via the new Scottish Borders Council telephone number 0300 100 1800, e-mail address – [enquiries@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@scotborders.gov.uk) or by writing to Environment and Infrastructure, Council HQ, Newtown St. Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA. The following schemes have been requested for consideration via these routes to enhance the Teviot & Liddesdale Area:-
- (a) Crown reduction to selected trees and removal of others at the rear of Cheviot Road, Hawick (£975). This request was received from local Hawick & Hermitage Ward Councillors.
  - (b) Removal of existing bus shelter & reinstate footway at Bourtree Place, Hawick. Reposition same to rear of footway at A7 Newmill & install dropped kerbs (£2,250). This request was received from local Hawick & Hermitage Ward Councillors.
- 3.2 Works will be scheduled to meet specific area needs, local timetables and to maximise the overall efficiency of the works programme.
- 3.3 Updates on previously approved SB Local Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A to this report.

### **4 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial**

A budget of £34,702 is available through SB Local for small schemes in the Teviot and Liddesdale area in 2013/14. It has been agreed previously that this budget will be split equally between the Hawick & Hermitage and Hawick & Denholm Wards. If the above schemes are approved, then there will be a remaining budget of £2,226 in Hawick & Hermitage Ward and no remaining funds in Hawick & Denholm Ward for future schemes.

Appendix A list up-dates on previously approved SB Local Small Schemes.

#### **4.2 Risk and Mitigations**

If the SB Local small schemes budget is not spent, the local area will not benefit from improvement works being carried out.

#### **4.3 Equalities**

The proposals within this report will not have an adverse impact on any of the equality groups - race, disability, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief.

#### **4.4 Acting Sustainably**

It is anticipated that there will be a variety of economic, social or environmental benefits arising from the proposed schemes in para 2.1.

#### 4.5 **Carbon Management**

There are no significant effects anticipated on carbon emissions to the Council by doing or not doing what is proposed.

#### 4.6 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**

There are no changes which are required to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals in this report.

### 5 **CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, Head of Corporate Governance, the Head of Audit & Risk, the Head of Strategic Policy, the HR Manager and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the report.

#### **Approved by**

**Director of Environment and Infrastructure**

**Signature .....**

#### **Author(s)**

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Alistair Finnie	Neighbourhood Area Manager (Teviot & Liddesdale) 01835 824000 Ext 6535

**Background Papers:** None

**Previous Minute Reference:** None

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Jacqueline Whitelaw, Environment and Infrastructure, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA, Tel 01835 825431, Fax 01835 825071, email [e&ittranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:e&ittranslationrequest@scotborders.gov.uk).

TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA  
SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES

ITEM NO. 6 APPENDIX A

Location	Work Description	Origin	Date of Enquiry	Status <sup>1</sup>	Price	Available Budget	Comments
<b>Total Budget available for SB Local Small Schemes</b>						<b>£34,702</b>	
<b>Hawick &amp; Hermitage</b>						<b>£17,351</b>	
Linden Cresc., Hawick	Install seating area.			Completed	£290	£17,061	
The Mote, Hawick	Grass cutting			Completed	£400	£16,661	
Jubilee Park, Newcastleton	Upgrade entrance			Ordered	£2,000	£14,661	
Wellogate Cemetery, Hawick	Install new bench			Ordered	£350	£14,311	Additional work approved by H&H Members
Green Terrace, Hawick	Upgrade play equipment			Completed	£1,350	£12,961	
Spetchman's Haugh, Hawick	Install picnic table & benches			Ordered	£225	£12,736	
Beaconsfield Terrace, Hawick	Install dropped kerbs			Completed	£1,475	£11,261	
Holm Hill, Newcastleton	Refurbish 5no. Benches			Ordered	£1,150	£10,111	
Teviot Crescent, Hawick	Crown reduction to trees			Ordered	£3,000	£7,111	
Moat Park, Hawick	Supply & install notice board			Ordered	£450	£6,661	
The Sandbed, Hawick	Replace 2no. benches			Ordered	£1,210	£5,451	
<b>Hawick &amp; Denholm</b>						<b>£17,351</b>	
Wilton Primary School, Hawick	Install footpath			Completed	£580	£16,771	
War Memorial, Bonchester	Upgrade seating area			Completed	£440	£16,331	
Lanton Place, Hawick	White lining of parking areas			Completed	£800	£15,531	
Denholm Cemetery	Upgrade access road			Completed	£2,100	£13,431	
Eildon Road, Hawick.	White lining of parking areas			Completed	£400	£13,031	
Main Street, Denholm.	Upgrade footpath			Ordered	£13,031	£0	
<b>Remaining Balance for SB Local Small Schemes</b>						<b>£5,451</b>	