

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TEVIOT
AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM held in the
TOWER MILL, HAWICK on 4 March 2014 at
6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull, (Chairman), A. Cranston, D. Paterson, R. Smith.
Community Councillors G. Roberts, Mrs M. Short, Mr T. Stevenson.
Inspector C. Wood (Police Scotland)

Apologies:- Councillor S. Marshall, Mr R. Knight.

In Attendance:- Democratic Services Officers (J. Turnbull).

Members of the Public:- 22 in attendance.

COUNCILLOR ZANDRA ELLIOT

1. The Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Zandra Elliot who had sadly died on 22 February. The Forum stood in silent tribute.

MINUTE

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 21 January 2014.

DECISION

AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

CHANGES TO WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION

3. Mr Ross Sharp-Dent, Waste Manager and Ms Julie Rankine, Waste Strategy Manager, were present at the meeting to deliver a presentation on the Integrated Waste Management Strategy. It was explained that the drivers for change were the EU Directives - Landfill Directive - Waste Framework Directive; The Scottish Governments Zero Waste Plan; The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 and Financial pressures – the Scottish Borders Council required to save £28 million by 2017/18 and Waste Services £800k by 2017/18. The Council, at its meeting in December 2013 had agreed the Integrated Waste Management Strategy; the removal of the kerbside garden waste collection service with effect from 31 March 2014; the New Community Recycling Centre (CRC) to be developed in Kelso; to review CRC access by traders and to review CRC locations, opening times and layout.
4. The first three high priority services from the Strategy were: CRC provision, food waste and garden waste. The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 required that by 1 January 2016 certain areas were required to have a separate collection service for food waste – Galashiels, Hawick, Peebles, Selkirk and Jedburgh. Households would be supplied with a kitchen caddy (5-10 litres) and kerbside caddy (20-25 litres) to collect the waste.
5. The garden waste collection service would be removed on 31 March 2014. The service was not mandatory and only 65% of households in the Scottish Borders had access to the service. Removal of the service would deliver £450k of savings. To ensure that all households were aware of the changes a comprehensive communications plan was in place which included leaflets to all urban householders, garden waste wheeled bin stickers, roadshows and press adverts. Householders would be encouraged to compost at home and could obtain a free home composter upon request. There would be a schedule of collections for unwanted bins which would be advertised. Alternatively, householders could retain their bin if they had use for it.

6. The Hawick Waste Transfer Station would be refurbished. Access to the site was currently being monitored with traffic counters at the site to determine current usage and operating times would be reviewed. The regulations also specified that any business producing between 5 kg and 50 kg a week of food waste would require a separate collection.
7. In answers to questions, the Waste Manager and Waste Strategy Manager responded that the weekly food waste collection locations had been determined by Scottish Government and were based on postcode. The food waste bins were lockable to deter vermin and weekly collections would alleviate any health concerns. Leaflets would be issued to householders to communicate what determined food waste. Private gardening contractors would be encouraged to offer a green waste collection service and SBC were working with interested contractors. The Chairman thanked Ms Rankine and Mr Sharp-Dent for their informative presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

SCOTTISH BORDERS LAND USE STRATEGY PILOT PRESENTATION

8. In attendance to give a presentation on the Land use Strategy (LUS) was Andy Tharme, Ecology Officer from Scottish Borders Council. Mr Tharme explained that the project was in partnership with the Tweed Forum and was an integrated approach to land management in recognition of the increasing number of pressures placed upon the countryside. The Strategy was published on 17 March 2011 and was a statutory requirement of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. He explained that LUS objectives were to create a regional land use framework to help guide decisions about future land management; to recognise the benefits that nature provided society and to integrate that with local business requirements and cultural values and to help ensure the land provided a range of benefits to society e.g integrated catchment management, providing food, timber, biodiversity, flood protection, access and recreation. LUS would link existing policy to see where actions could deliver ecosystem services and might inform decision making.
9. Mr Tharme advised that, following Baseline Mapping, which had involved data gathering through strategies, policies and map based information, the timetable now included Stakeholder Engagement and the identification of constraints and opportunities. They were now in stage 2 of the process which involved opportunities mapping before development of the draft framework.
10. In answers to questions Mr Tharme explained that he was in discussion with the Tweed Foundation regarding fishing management. It was noted that the Strategy should include management of roads in the countryside.
11. The Chairman thanked Mr Tharme for the informative presentation and confirmed that he would be invited to a Forum meeting in the autumn to give a further update.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HAWICK ACORN PROJECT INITIATIVE SCIO (HAPI)

12. Chris Knights, Development Worker for HAPI and John Spiteri, Local Area Coordinator for Learning Disabilities in Hawick were in attendance to give a presentation on the Hawick Acorn Project Initiative (HAPI). HAPI originated because there were concerns about the lack of suitable activities for people with Learning Disabilities in Hawick. The project offered therapeutic gardening and healthy cooking and eating sessions. HAPI were hoping to use land at the Katherine Elliot Centre for the initial garden allotment. It was hoped to raise enough from grants to employ a part-time Project Coordinator and to cover all their costs. Volunteers would support people both in the garden and in the kitchens. There was increasing evidence that many people with learning disabilities had poor health, HAPI would offer activities that were safe and enjoyable to improve their physical health, their well-being and their happiness. Mr Knights ended the presentation by advising that if anyone was

interested in being involved as a service user or as a volunteer to contact him. The Chairman thanked Mr Knights and Mr Spiteri for the introduction to this worthwhile project.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation

SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES

13. The Chairman gave a verbal update on the SB local small schemes:- Installation of a new bench at Wellogate Cemetery had been approved; there would be a site visit on the 5 March to Spetchman's Haugh to consider the installation of picnic tables and benches; the refurbishment of benches at Holm Hill, Newcastleton would be completed by the end of the financial year; work would commence on the formation of a footpath at Fisher Avenue. A small scheme for upgrading the parking area at Hermitage Hall had been agreed and would be carried out by the end of March. Unfortunately, the bus shelter at Newmill had been positioned incorrectly, but this would be rectified.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

HEART OF HAWICK DESTINATION SIGN

14. The Chairman gave a verbal report on the Heart of Hawick destination sign. Following discussion with officials it had become clear that Heart of Hawick marketing and rebranding would be taking place and there was a need to retain the destination sign in the existing location. However, following a site visit, consideration would be given to removal of the lamppost, flower boxes and bench. They were now awaiting costings from Scottish Power for removal of the lamppost. An update would be provided at the next meeting of the Area Forum.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

POLICE SCOTLAND

15. There had been circulated a report from Police Scotland which updated the Forum on the performance, activities and issues up to 4 March 2014. Inspector Wood reported that Teviot and Liddesdale Ward had recorded a 12% reduction in reported crime compared to the same period last year with a 3.76% increase in solvency over the same timescale. Police Scotland had published local Multi Member Ward plans for both Hawick & Denholm and Hawick & Hermitage Districts and these were available to download from the Police Scotland website. Twenty one road checks had been carried out during February, one conditional offer was issued to a driver using a mobile phone, one for a seatbelt offence and two were issued for speeding. No underage drinkers had been found and there had been three items of drugs recovered through street searches. Eight Anti Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Tickets had been issued. Two further Community Officers were now in place in Hawick. Inspector Wood confirmed that there was no longer a Traffic Warden in Hawick.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

OPEN QUESTIONS

16. With reference to paragraph 6 of the minute of 21 January, Councillor Smith reported that there had been no adverse comments to the suggestion at the meeting, that the Melgund Place Bridge remained closed to traffic on a permanent basis.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

17. Mr Stevenson from Upper Teviot and Borthwick Water Community Council, reported that residents appreciated the new bus shelter at Newmill and noted that the error regarding positioning would be rectified. There had been a presentation from Banks Renewables at

the last Community Council meeting, the presenters had been ill prepared and the presentation disappointing. They had received four applications for funding, all would be considered privately. The tree bark and soil deposits had been removed from the lay-by at Newmill.

18. Mr Roberts from Denholm Community Council reported that there was disquiet in the community regarding the removal of the green waste service. Bank Renewables had also attended their meeting and the presentation had been informative; they were also holding open sessions at Bell Bridge and Denholm Village Hall on Thursday.
19. Mrs Short from Hawick Community Council reported that they had commenced distributing the resilience leaflets and had received a positive response. She had been asked to attend Jedburgh Rotary Club's meeting to report on the successful Christmas Parade and Christmas lights. They had received two donations, one for £100.00 from the Hawick Walking Festival and one for £1,000.00 towards watering of the High Street flowering baskets and requested that the Community Council's thanks to the donators be recorded.

DECISION

NOTED the reports.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

20. Agreed that the next meeting be held on 18 March 2014 at 6.30 pm in Room 305, Lesser Hall, Hawick.

The meeting concluded at 8.35 pm.