

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 22 April 2014 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull, (Chairman), A. Cranston, D. Paterson, R. Smith.
Community Councillors Mr R. Knight (Burnfoot Community Council), Mr W.Roberts
(Denholm Community Council), Mr T. Stevenson (Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick
Water).

Apologies:- Councillor S. Marshall, Mrs M. Short.

In Attendance:- Station Commander Russell Bell (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Inspector C Wood
(Police Scotland), Neighbourhood Area Manager (A. Finnie), (Democratic Services
Officer (J. Turnbull).

Members of the Public:- 10 in attendance.

MINUTE

1. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 18 March 2014.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute relating to the Heart of Hawick destination sign, the Chairman had received a communication from the Street Lighting Team Leader, informing that the estimated cost to carry out the necessary works to move the existing lighting column complete with existing lantern to the rear of the footway, adjacent to the archway would be £7,979. This was a large sum of money and was due to the fact that nothing could be attached to the Drumandrig Tower due to its Grade B listed status. As the column had a live direct supply, Scottish Power would have had to disconnect the supply at its existing location and provide a new one at the new location, the uplighters for the information sign were fed from the lighting column and therefore a duct would have been required to run under the existing footway to keep them illuminated. In addition, an allowance had been made to purchase and attach a spot/flood light to the column that would light the new statue. Councillor Smith added, that to remove the Heart of Hawick signage would be a further £5,000, making the cost in the region of £12,000 to move both the lighting column and the sign.

DECISION

NO further action to be taken.

3. With reference to paragraph 10, the Chairman advised that the B6399 was now open and a traffic light system was in place.

DECISION

NOTED.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

4. The Forum were asked to consider the appointment of a representative to the Community Council Review Group following the death of Councillor Elliot.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Paterson be appointed as the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum representative to the Community Council Review Group.

NHS BORDERS CLINICAL STRATEGY

5. The NHS Borders Board Executive were in attendance. Dr Cliff Sharp, Consultant Psychiatrist, gave a presentation on the NHS Borders Clinical Strategy. Dr Sharp explained that the Strategy's vision was that by 2020 everyone would be able to live longer, healthier lives at home, or in a homely setting. The NHS were working with Scottish Borders Council (SBC) colleagues to provide integrated health and social care. The focus was on prevention, anticipation and supported self management. Where hospital was necessary, the focus would be on getting people back into their home as soon as appropriate with minimal risk of readmission.
6. NHS Borders faced three big challenges over the next 10 years – demographic, health and economic pressures. To accommodate the increasing demand across all of NHS Borders services required a radical and innovative approach to ensure future provision was sustainable. There would be an increase in population in the Scottish Borders by 5% in the next five years, however the proportion of the population who would be elderly would triple in the next ten years. Dr Sharp explained that only 10% of the population would reach 85 years of age without any health problems and many might have accumulated a number of conditions by that age. He clarified that in 1901 very few people lived into their 60s, 70s and 80s and there was a larger, younger population supporting the elderly. In 2030 the majority of the population would be middle aged and older with a smaller, younger population supporting. In the NHS for example, 10% of staff would be retiring and it was increasingly difficult to recruit to fill vacancies. Inflation (drug costs and volumes, energy prices and salaries) would require the NHS to make at least 3% efficiency savings each year which was not sustainable. The Clinical Strategy outlined the key principles for redesigning the NHS to ensure high quality healthcare: Services would be safe, effective and high quality; person centred and seamless; health improvement and prevention would be as important as treatment of illness; services would be delivered as close to home as possible; admission to hospital would only happen when necessary and be delivered efficiently within available means.
7. In answer to questions, Dr Sharp stated that there would be an increase in the population with the new Borders Railway and hopefully the influx of people would make it easier to fill vacancies within NHS Borders; children were being educated about their health choices through 'Social and Personal Development' in schools. He discussed that changes to the way in which mental health services were delivered showed that people could be looked after at home. In response to a question regarding waiting time to see a GP, Dr Sharp replied that the GP was not the only person who could give the necessary treatment – specialist nurses were often able to give advice.
8. Dr Sharp concluded the presentation by advising that the consultation on the Clinical Strategy would run between 10 March and 6 June 2014 and feedback would be appreciated, responses could be sent electronically or on the response sheet attached to the document. The Chairman thanked Dr Sharp and the NHS Board Executive members for their attendance and for the informative presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

REQUEST FOR THE MAKING OF THE STOPPING-UP ORDER FOR PART OF PUBLIC ROAD AT STONEFIELD PLACE, HAWICK (DH213/3)

9. There had been circulated copies of a report from the Service Director Regulatory Services seeking approval for the making of the Stopping-Up Order for part of the DH213/3 public road at Stonefield Place, Hawick. Parts of the roads and footways known as Stonefield Place, Hawick (DH213/3) would become superfluous when the redevelopment, recently approved by the Council, was completed due to being incorporated within the proposal. The report sought to gain approval to make the Stopping-up Order previously advertised. If the report was approved, the solum of roads included within the Order would transfer to the ownership of the developer and the area would be incorporated within the new development. All new roads within the development would be constructed to the relevant standard so as to enable them to be adopted by the Council as public roads upon their completion.

DECISION

AGREED to the making of the Stopping-Up Order for that section of the DH213/3 public road at Stonefield Place, Hawick as previously advertised.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEME WORKS

10. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director for Neighbourhood Services seeking approval for new neighbourhood small schemes from the Area Forum. The following schemes had been requested for consideration by the Teviot and Liddesdale Members:- install dropped kerbs at Maxton Court, Hawick; install kerbing to edge carriageway at Hornshole; refurbish railings at Trinity Gardens, Hawick; refurbish railings at Drumlanrig Square, Hawick; repairs to masonry wall and repaint railings at Wilton Path, Hawick. Item (ii) below, required a road closure and this scheme along with items (iii) (iv) and (iv) below, were requested to be completed prior to the Common Riding.
11. The Chairman suggested that the Quality of Life funding could be used for the purchase of a specialist street cleaning machine. The Neighbourhood Area Manager advised that he would discuss with the Fleet Manager and report back with options to the next meeting of the Forum. The Chairman clarified that the funding would be split equally between the two Wards.
12. Councillor Smith requested that the cost of providing a wooden shelter for the Wellogate Cemetery could also be included in the small schemes.

DECISION

(a) AGREED the following new Neighbourhood Small Schemes for implementation:-

(i) Install dropped kerbs on Maxton Court, Hawick	£2,100
(ii) Install kerbing to edge of carriageway at Hornshole	£3,600
(iii) Refurbish railings etc, at Trinity Gardens, Hawick	£1,945
(iv) Refurbish railings etc, at Drumlanrig Square, Hawick	£3,785
(v) Repaint railings and masonry wall repairs at Wilton Path, Hawick	£4,165

(b) TO REQUEST the Neighbourhood Area Manager report back to the next meeting of the Forum on:-

- (i) The guidelines for the Quality of Life funding and information on the street cleaning machine; and**

(ii) Inclusion in the small schemes for consideration, the provision of a shelter at the Wellogate Cemetery.

POLICE SCOTLAND

13. Inspector Wood tabled a report at the meeting on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31 March 2014. The report highlighted that there had been a 13% reduction in reported crime compared to the same period last year with a 3.48% increase in solvency over the same timescale. Three Anti Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Tickets were issued during March 2014, targeted patrols continued in areas where youth issues and dog fouling had been identified. Twenty six stop and searches had been carried out during March 2014 with no underage drinkers being found, five items of drugs had been recovered through street searches during the same period. Community Officers had been engaged with Operation Monarda which was a national initiative tackling doorstep crime. This had involved visiting previous victims of crime and offering crime prevention advice. Thirteen road checks had been carried out; five conditional offers were issued to drivers using mobile phones, one motorist had been issued with an ASBO warning. Planning was already taking place for the Common Riding, 500 Year Event and Queen's Baton Relay. Councillor Paterson reported that he had organised a meeting with constituents and the Police regarding dog fouling, the consensus being that they would take a proactive role.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

14. The Chairman welcomed Russell Bell, the Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Mr Bell would now be attending Forum meetings. Mr Bell reported on the responses and resilience activity in the Teviot and Liddesdale Area. There had been two non-deliberate house fires, with four casualties suffering from smoke inhalation. There had been six open fire occurrences, three controlled burning and three deliberate, one person had fallen, one flooding incident and one domestic pet in distress. There had also been nine unwanted fire signals. Staff in all local stations provided home fire safety visits. These visits focused on identifying and reducing the risks of fire in the home. Smoke detectors with a 10 year battery life were provided as part of this free service.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

OPEN QUESTIONS

15. (a) Mr Weir, a member of the public, informed the Forum that the materials and work for the Viv Sharp monument and seating area had been agreed and would be provided free of charge. In order to progress to the installation of the memorial, he required permission from the Hawick Common Good Sub-Committee to erect the memorial on Common Good land, at St Leonards. The Chairman suggested that Mr Weir write to the Committee Clerk with details and that if required a special meeting could be arranged to discuss the request.
- (b) Mr Farquhar, a member of the public, raised concerns at the amount that Scottish Borders Council (SBC) had spent on severance package and requested that SBC provide evidence of the savings made.
- (c) Mr Farquhar also questioned the cost of providing SBConnect - £60K; the latest edition had contained information on new staff members, but the public required information on increases in charges for school meals and charges to services for vulnerable people.
- (d) Finally, Mr Farquhar requested that an audit take place on the use of the corporate credit card and whether rules on use had been breached. The Chairman responded that if he could obtain the information to the matters raised, he would report back at the next meeting.

- (e) Mr Paterson, a member of the public, asked for information regarding the possibility of an abattoir being located at Burnfoot. He had been informed that if there was to be an abattoir then it would be located at Galashiels and felt that Councillors should support the abattoir being located in Hawick. Councillor Cranston replied that there would be a comprehensive report to the next Burnfoot Community Council meeting on the feasibility of an abattoir.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

16. Mr Stevenson, Upper Teviotdale and Borthwick Water Community Council, reported that they had received 10 applications for community grants, nine had been successful and the other one would be considered again when further information was provided. A total of £30,000. had been granted, the new application process would commence in May. He reported that the grass verges at the lay-by near New Mill had been damaged and not repaired as yet and asked for an update on the New Mill bus shelter. The Chairman read out a response provided by the Neighbourhood Area Manager that following a site visit with representatives from BEAR Scotland, Councillors and officers investigate other alternatives, and in particular turning the shelter around with the panel nearest the kerb edge, it had been decided that this would restrict visibility for drivers exiting from the adjacent entrance and this proposal would therefore not be supported. Positioning the shelter at the locus, across from the junction, had been considered but this would incur significant additional cost and there did not appear to be any positive response to pursue this as an option. The Chairman confirmed that the Ward Councillors would discuss this further and would report back.
17. The 50mph signs had been erected but were still covered, when would these be enforced? The Chairman advised that the Community Council should contact BEAR Scotland for clarification.
18. Mr Roberts, Denholm & District Community Council, reported on a planning application to erect a large greenhouse at Standhill Farm, although no objections had been received, local residents expressed their concerns with regard to the adequacy of the local borehole water supply to support the proposed facility. The Community Council had agreed they would respond to Planning with “no objections”, but with a request that an assessment be conducted into the impact of the proposal on the water supply and for another independent water supply to be provided.
19. The trial run of an outsized load, escorted by Police, had been scheduled for May. Inspector Wood clarified that the purpose of the trial was to determine if there would be any issues.
20. Banks Renewables were holding a meeting regarding Birneyknowe, two representatives had been asked to attend but the Community Council felt that the meeting should have been open to all community councillors.
21. Dumfries & Galloway Council had announced a moratorium on any further windfarms, were SBC considering a moratorium? The Chairman responded that SBC were not considering a moratorium.
22. The Borders Walking Festival was going ahead. Broadband provision in the area was poor.
23. Mr Knight, Burnfoot Community Council, expressed thanks for the repairs to potholes in the Burnfoot area. Dog fouling was getting worse, especially around the school.

**DECISION
NOTED the reports.**

URGENT BUSINESS

24. Under Section 50B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Chairman was of the opinion that the item dealt with in the following paragraph should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, in view of the need to keep Members informed/make an early decision.
25. The Chairman advised that the Property Officer had reported that the metal rail at Lothian Street next to the O'Connell Street Car Park had been damaged by a vehicle and needed repaired and repainted. Further the copes at the wall forming the flower bed at the top of O'Connell were loose and required rebbeded and repointed. The Property Officer had obtained estimates and asked if the works would qualify as a small scheme. The Chairman queried if the works could be carried out through SBC's insurance. The Neighbourhood Area Manager would discuss with the Property Officer and report back to the next meeting of the Forum.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26. Agreed that the next meeting be held on 17 June 2014 at 6.30 pm in the Lesser Hall, Hawick.

The meeting concluded at 8.35 pm.