

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TEVIOT
AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM held in the
LESSER HALL, TOWN HALL, HAWICK on 19
August 2014 at 6.30 p.m.

- Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull, (Chairman), A. Cranston, W. McAteer, S. Marshall,
D. Paterson.
Community Councillors C. Knox, G. Roberts, Mr T. Stevenson.
- Apologies:- Councillor R. Smith, Station Commander R. Bell (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service).
Mr C. Griffiths (Hobkirk Community Council) Mrs M. Short (Hawick Community
Council)
- In Attendance:- Inspector C. Wood (Police Scotland), Neighbourhood Area Manager (A. Finnie)
Democratic Services Officers (J. Turnbull).

Members of the Public:- 7 in attendance.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

1. The Chairman reported that a Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum Satisfaction Survey would be available at the conclusion of the meeting for anyone attending to complete.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

2. 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

3. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 17 June 2014.

DECISION

AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

4. Councillor Marshall reported that the one way system at Langlands Road would be trialled for six months and would then be considered at the Area Forum for a final decision. The Chairman would discuss the road condition at Greenhead Terrace with the Asset Manager.

DECISION

NOTED.

HAWICK TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

5. There had been circulated a report by Service Director Commercial Services which proposed to amend the (Various Streets, Hawick) (Regulation of Traffic) Order 1988. Since the last Traffic Regulation Order review in 2012, Scottish Borders Council (SBC) had received various comments regarding the parking and movements of vehicles in Hawick and proposed to amend the Traffic Regulation Order. The Assistant Engineer was in attendance and advised that following the consultation process, four comments had been received from three parties, all of which referred to the parking restrictions at Fenwick Park; the Traffic Regulation Order would accommodate these changes. He advised that the enforcement of parking restrictions was a Police matter. Deregulation of disabled parking bays was carried out by SBC and relied on residents advising of bays no longer required.

DECISION

To approve the amendments to The Scottish Borders Council (The Borders Regional Council) (Various Streets, Hawick) (Regulation of Traffic) Order 1988, as amended, detailed in the plans and the relevant extract from the Draft Traffic Regulation Order in Appendix A to the report.

PRESENTATIONS:-

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

6. The Chairman welcomed Mr Bryan McGrath and Councillor Bell, who were present to give a presentation to the Area Forum on economic development. Mr McGrath advised that there were external influences and challenges affecting the Scottish Borders, such as CAP reform and welfare reform, which impacted on households and individuals. However, the economy had started to improve, unemployment was falling, (there were still issues around youth unemployment) and the textile industry was leading the way in exporting opportunities. Scottish Borders Council's Economic Strategy 2023 set out the vision for the next 10 years, with four strategic aims: creating the conditions for businesses to compete; building on assets; developing the workforce of the future and providing leadership. Mr McGrath explained that there were initiatives to assist business start-up and growth such as Business Gateway, which had supported 31 businesses in Hawick and the Scottish Borders Business Fund which had provided 20 grants and two loans to companies in Hawick. Improvements to infrastructure with the Borders Railway, superfast broadband, flood prevention scheme and marketing of the Burnfoot South Industrial Site would encourage business growth. Modern apprenticeships, work experience and the Borders College would provide training for the workforce of the future. Tourism and events including the Hawick 500, Alchemy International Film Festival and Commonwealth Games Baton Relay had raised the town's profile, bringing people into the town. Scottish Borders Council's focus for 2014/15 would be in business support and engagement, youth employment and strongly marketing employment sites. In response to questions, Mr McGrath advised that four businesses had expressed an interest in the Burnfoot development, none of which had come to fruition. At Wilton Lodge Park there was the potential for caravan site investment. Councillor Bell advised that a report on Heart of Hawick would be given to the Executive Committee in the near future. The Chairman thanked Mr McGrath and Councillor Bell for their informative presentation and asked if there could be more direct Council involvement in clearing disused sites; he also advised that the new finger post signs were not of the standard design.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

BORDERS RAILWAY

7. Scottish Borders Council's Borders Railway Community Liaison Manager, Mr Jonathan Hepton, gave a presentation to the Area Forum on the Borders Railway. In September 2015, Scottish Borders would have the first passenger railway for 45 years, a significant achievement. There would be three stations – Stow, Galashiels and Tweedbank. The Tweedbank Station, was the nearest station to Hawick and would have 225 free car parking spaces and 24 hour monitored CCTV. The Galashiels Transport Interchange would have a direct bus service to Hawick. There would be a train to Edinburgh every 30 minutes from 0530 hrs (Monday to Saturday) with an hourly service in the evenings and Sunday, the last train, from Edinburgh, would be at 2330 hrs or later. Journey time would be approximately 55 minutes. The trains would be air conditioned, have wi-fi, and there would be a wheelchair ramp on each train. The fare would be approximately £13.10 off-peak return and £15.70 peak time return. In response to questions, Mr Hepton advised that Transport Scotland would be unable to raise the fares more than RPI plus 1% and they were therefore limited to what they could charge. There would be signed approaches to the railway. Presently SBC were focusing on the current project but they would be supportive of extending the railway to Hawick. There was no intention to revise the subsidies provided to bus services.

DECISION:

NOTED the presentation.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEME WORKS

8. There had been circulated copies of a report by Service Director Neighbourhood Services seeking approval for proposed new neighbourhood schemes from the Area Forum and updating the Forum on previously approved small schemes. The following schemes had been requested for consideration by Teviot and Liddesdale Members:-
9. Repaint railings at Green Terrace, Hawick; £2,960.00
Install notice board at Burnfoot; £ 550.00
Contribution towards providing power point at Burnfoot. £ 800.00

DECISION

(a) AGREED:-

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|--|------------------|
| (i) Repaint railings at Green Terrace, Hawick | £2,960.00 |
| (ii) Install notice board at Burnfoot, Hawick | £ 550.00 |
| (iii) Contribution towards providing power point at Burnfoot. | £ 800.00 |

(b) NOTED the update on previously approved Neighbourhood Small Schemes as listed in Appendix A to the report.

EQUALITY FORUM

10. The last presentation of the evening was by Mr Higgs on the Borders Equality Forum. Mr Higgs advised that the Forum had started 10 years ago and their mission statement was "One Borders Many Cultures". Objectives of the Forum were to support members of the international community in the Scottish Borders and to provide information about public and voluntary services, to promote harmonious community relations, promote and support activities to celebrate diverse cultures and to encourage community integration. The Forum worked in partnership with organisations such as SBC, NHS, Police, Victim Support, Borders Disability Forum and Gypsy/Travellers Forum. The Forum was involved in many cultural events such as the Scottish Borders Astronomy Club, Thai Cooking, Salsa Dancing, Muslim Festival, Polish Culture evening. The Forum was also the first in Scotland to print, in four languages, a welcome to Scottish Borders for migrant workers. The Forum was run by volunteers and was an independent organisation with its own constitution. The Chairman thanked Mr Higgs for the informative presentation.

DECISION:

NOTED the presentation.

POLICE SCOTLAND

11. There had been circulated a report from Police Scotland which updated the Forum on the performance, activities and issues up to 31 July 2014. Inspector Wood reported that Teviot and Liddesdale Ward had recorded a 14% reduction in reported crime compared to the same period last year with a 9.09% decrease in solvency over the same timescale. Inspector Wood reported that she would like to have seen a more positive solvency rate but there had been 33 fewer crimes recorded, which indicated that there were fewer victims of crime. July 2014 had been a challenging month for Police Scotland with a number of officers abstracted from their areas to provide security and policing arrangements for the Commonwealth Games. The report highlighted that there had been four anti-social behaviour fixed penalty tickets issues, two fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling. There had been five seizures of alcohol from underage drinkers; nine items of drugs were recovered. Inspector Wood reported that due to the quick action of a member of the public, the male responsible for the assault and robbery of an elderly resident at Hawick, had been quickly identified, detained, charged and kept for court. A substantial cannabis farm had been located near Newcastleton, two people had been charged with supply of class B drugs. A pro-active multi-agency intervention had been carried out in Burnfoot where some residents had been subjected to anti-social behaviour. This type of intervention had been employed on a number of occasions and gave the community confidence to report matters and explained how the process worked.

NOTED the report.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

12. Station Manager Russell Bell, had circulated a report on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity for the month of June and July 2014. There had been four house fire occurrences, six open fire occurrences, three special service occurrences and 17 unwanted fire signals. Unwanted fire signals were being addressed by phased intervention which identified premises which were producing false alarms providing guidance on how to reduce reoccurrence and also evoked legislation if occurrences failed to reduce in number.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

OPEN QUESTIONS

13. The three new signposts in Hawick were not of the standard design as specified in the Regeneration Plan. The Chairman reported that the inventory of Hawick Common Good properties was being compiled and would be available in the public domain when completed.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

14. Mr Stevenson from Upper Teviot and Borthwick Water Community Council, reported that the new 50 mph signage was having no effect and there had been a few near misses, it would be useful to have a police presence for action.
15. Mr Roberts from Denholm Community Council reported that the public conveniences required upgrading. There had been changes to the schedule for turbine delivery, any changes needed to be communicated. The Borders Walking Festival would take place from 31 August to 6 September 2014.
16. Mr Knox, representing Hawick Community Council, reported that they had opposed the Birneyknowe application, a decision was awaited. The Christmas parade event was scheduled to take place on Saturday, 29 November 2014. The results for Hawick in Bloom would be announced in September.
17. Mr Knight from Burnfoot Community Council expressed thanks for the grass cutting. Fly tipping was a problem, partnership working would identify issues. There was a problem with speeding in Burnfoot Road; there would be an update at the next meeting.

DECISION

NOTED the reports.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18. Agreed that the next meeting be held on Tuesday, 21 October 2014 at 6.30 pm in the Lesser Hall, Hawick

The meeting concluded at 8.55 pm.