

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 21
October 2014 at 6.30 p.m.

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

Members of the Public:- 7 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.

WELCOME

2. The Chairman welcomed Mr Michael Grieve to the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum. Mr Grieve had been appointed as the new Chairman of Burnfoot Community Council.

MINUTE

3. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 19 August 2014.

DECISION

AGREED and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE

4. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute, the Chairman referred to an email he had received from Mr Richardson, Asset Manager, Mr Richardson confirmed that it was still the intention to resurface Greenheads Terrace, as part of the Capital Surface Treatment Programme for 2014/15. However, due to changes made to the Capital and Revenue Planned Works Programme for 2014/15, a number of projects from 2014/15 have been deferred into 2015/16 and Greenheads Terrace was one such project. Members would be updated on the revised programme of works as soon as possible. With reference to paragraph 13, the clerk was asked to research if the signage could be changed as it was not the standard design, as specified in the Regeneration Plan. With reference to paragraph 17, Councillor McAteer reported that a speeding check, over a two week period, had been carried out at Burnfoot. The resulting data needed to be interpreted with officers before being released.

DECISION

NOTED.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEME WORKS

5. 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:- refurbish railing at

Weensland Road., Hawick; replumb fence adjacent to Riverside Walk, Hawick; upgrade footpath at Waverley Walk, Hawick; replace existing planters at Station Bridge, Hawick; refresh existing road markings within Wilton Park area, Hawick and contribution towards repainting public toilets within Denholm Village. The Neighbourhood Area Manager, Mr Finnie, was in attendance and advised that the extension to the Wellogate Cemetery would be completed before the Winter. Mr Finnie advised that he would email Ward Members with proposed timescale for the refreshing of the road markings within Wilton Park. The notice Board for Burnfoot had been ordered and it was noted that it would be installed before the Christmas lights switch on.

DECISION

(a) AGREED:-

(i)	Refurbish railings at Weensland Road, Hawick	£ 148.00
(ii)	Replumb fence adjacent to riverside walk, Hawick	£ 138.00
(iii)	Upgrade footpath along Waverley Walk, Hawick	£ 1,596.00
(iv)	Replace existing planters at Station Bridge, Hawick	£ 120.00
(v)	Refresh existing road markings within Wilton Park area,	£ 1,000.00
(vi)	Contribution towards repainting public toilets, Denholm Village	£ 575.00

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

QUALITY OF LIFE FUNDING

6. Mr Finnie gave details on the Quality of Life funding. Each Area Forum had received £20,000 to spend on quality of life projects, which included environmental projects, road and footpath repairs, supporting community groups or initiatives and Christmas lights. The Forum had agreed to split the funding equally between the two Wards (£10,000 for each Ward), and the funding was to be spent by the end of March 2015, however he would ask for clarification if funding could be ring-fenced and carried forward to the 2015/16. Mr Finnie advised that it would be preferable if any community projects could be referred to Members in the first instance and then he would bring a report to the Area Forum meeting for consideration. The Chairman advised that Members had been to a demonstration of a Billy Goat street cleaning machine and Mr Finnie confirmed that the purchase of the machine would quality under the funding requirements. Mr Finnie advised that maximum benefit from the machine would be in picking up small items of litter within the heavily trafficked areas such as High Street, North Bridge Street etc., but that it could be used for specific occasions in other areas as resources permitted. Members requested that the cleaning machine be housed in the town centre and Mr Finnie advised that Mr Scott was investigating whether it would be possible to store the machine in the toilet block at the Common Haugh. The cost of the machine was £2,520.00. The Chairman clarified that the pay and display money had been earmarked for upgrading the CCTV in the town.

DECISION

AGREED to purchase the Billy Goat machine at a price of £2,250.00, the cost of the machine to be funded from the Quality of Life Funding (£1,125.00) from each Ward.

POLICE SCOTLAND

7. There had been circulated a report from Police Scotland which updated the Forum on the performance, activities and issues up to 30 September 2014. Inspector Wood reported that Teviot and Liddesdale Ward had recorded a 11% reduction in reported crime in August and 6% in September. Unfortunately there had been a reduction in the solvency rate over the same period with 8.59% in August and 9.65% in September. The report highlighted that there had been 18 Anti Social Behaviour fixed penalty tickets issued, one fixed penalty notice issued for dog fouling. There had been five seizures of alcohol from underage drinkers; five separate searches were positive in finding prohibitive substances. There were 25 road checks carried out, seven conditional offers were issued to motorists for speeding offences, three were issued for driving whilst using a mobile phone and two for failing to wear a seatbelt. One warning was administered for the anti-social use of a vehicle. Inspector Wood advised that local officers continued to focus on this issue. Member of the public were

encouraged to phone in to report any incidents they witnessed and note down registration numbers when possible, which would assist with follow-up police enquiries. Inspector Wood continued, that in August a male was stabbed in the neck in Burnfoot. A local man was arrested and charged with the offence. Inspector Wood advised that she was aware of the parking issues and a number of parking tickets had been issued. However, this was not the only task officers had and they could not give their undivided attention to the issue. During the next few weeks a number of dedicated patrols would be carried out to deal with youth calls, as this time of the year could see an increase in youth anti-social behaviour with Halloween and Bonfire Nights.

8. Councillors McAteer and Marshall reported that the Police non-emergency number 101 was not effective, and they had received a number of complaints from constituents about the time to answer calls to 101 and the operators' lack of knowledge of the local area. Inspector Wood advised that there was a working party looking at issues and asked that any complaints should be directed to the Police, Fire & Rescue Safer Communities Board who met monthly at Scottish Borders Headquarters.
9. Mrs Short reported that plants from the planters in the High Street had been removed; Inspector Wood understood the frustration this caused, but advised that unless the action had been witnessed or the perpetrator was caught in the act they could not investigate further.

NOTED the report.

OPEN QUESTIONS

10. Mr Scott, Hermitage Hall Committee, had circulated to Members of the Forum a submission regarding the proposed closure of Hermitage Hall as a polling station. Mr Scott stated that Hermitage Hall played a central role in bringing residents together within a large rural area, that the cost savings of closing the polling place were minimal and that the Hall Committee would even offer the hall for no charge, if it continued to be used as a polling place. Mr Scott concluded by requesting that the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum adopt a motion requesting that Scottish Borders Council reject the proposed closure of Hermitage Hall as a polling place within the Scottish Borders. The Forum discussed the submission in detail and noted Mr Scott's concerns; however, Members felt that they would make a decision when the report on the review of polling places was discussed at the November meeting of Council.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

11. Mrs Roberts from Denholm Community Council reported the Denholm was now on the preferred route for Infinis, there were concerns about road safety and disruption as this could mean that 21,000 vehicles would be travelling through the village, often through the night. Infinis had given a presentation on their proposal to erect a wind farm at Windy Edge. The proposal was now for nine turbines (reduced from 17). The Jedburgh and Denholm Walking Festival had been successful and it was hoped to have a mini festival next year. Four people had come forward to be co-opted to the Community Council.
12. Mrs Short, representing Hawick Community Council, reported on the Willestruther project. A site meeting had taken place with SBC Estates Officer, the main contractor and the farmer – who had been very supportive. It was hoped that the works would commence soon.
13. Mr Grieve from Burnfoot Community Council, reported that they were trying to increase the membership of the community council and they still required a secretary. They were hoping to reinstate the Remembrance Garden; the Festival next year was scheduled to take place on 4 July 2015. Councillor McAteer added that the contract for the Hub in Burnfoot would be awarded shortly.

**DECISION
NOTED the reports.**

SATISFACTION SURVEY

14. Councillor Turnbull reported on the results from the Satisfaction Survey, questionnaires had been available to complete at the end of the last meeting. Feedback received was that Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum meetings were deemed very good, although it was requested that a hearing loop should be available for future meetings.

DECISION NOTED.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

15. Agreed that the next meeting be held on Tuesday, 18 November 2014 at 6.30 pm in the Borders Textile Towerhouse, Hawick.

FUTURE MEETINGS

16. Presentations were requested on the Flood Protection Scheme and from Amey on issues relating to the A7.

The meeting concluded at 8.00 pm.