

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 16 December 2014
at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors G. Turnbull, (Chairman), W. McAteer, S. Marshall, D. Paterson, R. Smith.
Community Councillors: Mr M. Grieve (Burnfoot), Mr W. Roberts (Denholm), Mr R. Scott
(Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage), Mrs M. Short (Hawick), Mr T Stevenson. (Upper
Teviot and Borthwick Water).

Apologies:- Councillors A. Cranston, Mr C. Griffiths (Hobkirk).

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

Members of the Public:- 50 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.

URGENT BUSINESS

2. 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 paragraphs should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, in view of the need to keep Members informed/make an early decision.

HAWICK COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

3. The Chairman, Councillor Turnbull, referred to recent press coverage of the imminent review of community hospitals, one of which was Hawick Community Hospital. Councillor Turnbull advised that he has written to the Chief Executive of NHS Borders, Mr C Campbell, inviting a representative to attend the Forum and giving an opportunity to NHS Borders to explain the process of what was about to take place and the methodology. Three possible dates for the public meeting had been given, but no representative from NHS Borders had been available to attend. The Chairman advised that at the Scottish Borders Council meeting due to be held on Thursday, 18 December, there would be a presentation from Mr John Raine, Chairman of NHS Borders; the meeting would be open to the public. Members referred to the Community Hospital Strategy by the Scottish Government in which Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, stated that community hospitals "are more important than ever in providing health and social care services for local communities". The Forum advised that they would resist the closure and work together to lead and support the campaign to retain Hawick Community Hospital. Mr J Oliver, Chairman of the Friends of the Hawick Community Hospital, had written to the Forum, requesting that the local community support a vigorous campaign to keep the hospital open. Mr Grieve, Burnfoot Community Council, advised that he had started an online petition which already had 2,000 signatures; a paper petition would also be available for signatures. Members of the public then expressed their views: where do patients go if the hospital closes - there is no spare capacity at the BGH (Borders General Hospital); if there is no community hospital what would happen to palliative care; what would happen to the periphery services such as the dental

clinic and mental health team; NHS Borders attended a Forum meeting to report on the clinical strategy the main focus of which was care in the community, how did this accord with the possible closure of the local hospital? Councillor Turnbull thanked all those attending and advised that their views would be relayed to Mr Raine when he attended the Council meeting on Thursday. He would also write again to NHS Borders inviting them to attend a Forum meeting or a public meeting, invitations would also be extended to the MSP and MP.

**DECISION
AGREED**

- (a) **To request that Members relay the concerns of the public to the NHS representatives attending the Scottish Borders Council meeting on Thursday 18 December 2014; and**
- (b) **To request that the Chairman write again to the NHS Borders, inviting a representative to attend a public meeting or the next Forum meeting.**

MINUTE

- 4. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 18 November 2014 .

**DECISION
AGREED to approve the Minute.**

FLOOD PREVENTION SCHEME

- 5. Mr E Doyle, Project Executive and Miss S Mushet, Project Manager, were present to update the Forum on the Hawick Flood Prevention Scheme. Mr Doyle advised that in the last few months they had completed the ground investigation of the route, which would give information on underlying soils. A topographical survey was being undertaken at the moment which included threshold surveys, which were non-intrusive doorstep surveys. The Project Manager was progressing the procurement of a lead design consultant; once the outline design stage had been completed there would be further engagement with stakeholders and the public in 2015. Mr Doyle advised that presently Scottish Government funded 80% of the scheme, and SBC the remaining 20%. The criteria for schemes was being reviewed but it was still hoped to get funding in place and commence on site in 2020. Councillor Marshall, Chairman of the Flood Group, thanked Mr Doyle and Miss Mushet for attending the Forum and giving an update on the Flood Prevention Scheme.
- 6. Mr Bell, Station Commander, was then asked for information regarding the high volume pump which was understood to be relocating to Alloa. Members were concerned that Hawick was losing this equipment which was vital in dealing with flooding issues. Mr Bell advised that this was a specialised appliance, one of only four in Scotland, and would still be available for use by the Scottish Borders when required. Mr Bell continued that Hawick was applying for water service level two which would allow staff to be trained to provide rescue services.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEME WORKS

- 7. There had been circulated copies of a report by Service Director Neighbourhood Services seeking approval for the proposed new Neighbourhood Small Schemes from the Area Forum and updating the Forum on previously approved Neighbourhood and Quality of Life Schemes. The following Neighbourhood Small Schemes had been requested for consideration by Teviot and Liddesdale Members:- install bench at Melgund Bridge, Hawick; install 2 no. fingerpost signs at Newcastleton; install notice board within Denholm Village and remarking existing parking bays at McLagan Drive, Hawick. The Neighbourhood Area Manager, Mr Finnie, was in attendance and advised that the remaining budget for future Quality of Life Schemes was £5,235 in Hawick and Hermitage Ward and £8,740 in Hawick and Denholm Ward.

8. The Chairman referred to an email from Mr J Henderson, Technical Services, regarding a compliant footway at Silverbuthall, Mr Finnie would arrange to meet with Mr Henderson and the Ward Councillors in the New Year to discuss the proposal.

DECISION

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

(i) Install new bench at Melgund Bridge, Hawick	£150.00
(ii) Install 2 no. fingerposts signs at Newcastleton Village	£2,408.00
(iii) Install notice board within Denholm Village	£823.00
(iv) Remark existing parking bays at McLagan Drive, Hawick	£500.00

(b) **NOTED** the updates on previously approved Neighbourhood Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A to the report; and

(c) **NOTED** the updates on previously approved Neighbourhood Quality of Life Schemes as detailed in Appendix B to the report.

FINGERPOST SIGNAGE

9. The Chairman referred to the last meeting of the Forum when it was agreed to obtain prices for replacement of the three fingerpost signs in Hawick from the original supplier. A quotation had been received totalling £5,328 for the three signs (£1,776 each). The budget that was used to install the previous signs had been fully committed through the Sainsbury's development contribution and an alternative source of funding would have to be found to replace the signs. The Forum agreed that they could not support paying for replacement signs, when the existing signs were perfectly serviceable.

DECISION

NOTED.

POLICE SCOTLAND

10. There had been circulated copies of a report from Police Scotland which updated the Forum on the performance, activities and issues up to 16 December 2014. Inspector Wood was in attendance and reported that there had been a slight decrease in solvency rates and the number of crimes reported to the Police compared to the same time last year, which mirrored the trend in the Borders overall. There were currently 26 individuals at various stages of the anti-social behaviour process. Ten Anti-Social Behaviour Fixed Penalty Tickets had been issued. A number of searches had been carried out which resulted in recoveries of alcohol and drugs. There had been two thefts in the Denholm area, one related to the theft of 750 litres of fuel and the other was a theft of a sat nav from within a vehicle. There had been 11 road checks carried out in both ward areas, no tickets had been issued although a number of advisory warnings had been given to motorists regarding their speed. There had been a serious disturbance in the Burnfoot area during November. Three males were arrested and charged with a number of offences including possession of a knife and offensive weapons. They were detained in custody for appearance at court the following day. There would be an increased number of road checks in the Borders throughout December to assist with the winter road safety campaign, the festive initiative and the introduction of the new drink drive limit. Updated ward plans would be appearing in the next couple of weeks on the internet.

DECISION

NOTED.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

11. There had been circulated a report from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. Station Manager Russell Bell was in attendance and reported on activity for the month of November. There had been one house fire, four special services – two of which were assisting Scottish Ambulance Service and 11 unwanted fire signals. Mr Bell reported that there had been only one incident in the whole of the Scottish Borders on bonfire night. A new initiative was the Young Drivers S6 Programme with was aimed at educating new/potential drivers. A Powerpoint presentation in the classroom was followed by practical education with a crashed car; this was a hard hitting programme which would be rolled out to other areas. The winter season thematic period had commenced and would cover: Festive safety, safety at home, fire and alcohol and cooking safety.

DECISION NOTED.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

13. Mr Stevenson, from Upper Teviot and Bortwick Water Community Council requested an update on the New Mill bus shelter. The Chairman advised that a representative from Amey would be attending the Area Forum in the New Year and the bus shelter would be discussed.
14. Mr Grieve from Burnfoot Community Council advised that they were working on Santa's route for Christmas Eve. Santa this year would be preceded by Huskies.
15. Mr Roberts from Denholm Community Council reported that they would be holding an election next year. It was anticipated that the first meeting of the new community council would be in February.
16. The Chairman welcomed the new Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council to the Forum, Mr Scott, Vice Chairman, reported that the new community council had held their first meeting on 14 November and they had elected Mr T Tennant as Chairman and Ms S Laing as Secretary. The next meeting would be on 12 January 2015 and Infnis had been invited to attend.
17. Mrs Short from Hawick Community Council reported on the success of the Christmas parade and Christmas lights. There had been meetings regarding the proposal for a remembrance garden in Wilton Cemetery and for the provision of catering/toilets at Wilton Lodge during the renovations.

DECISION NOTED the reports.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18. Agreed that the next meeting be held on Tuesday, 20 January 2015 at 6.30 pm in the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Hawick.
19. The Chairman ended the meeting by extending Seasons greetings from the Forum to all those present.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.