

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TWEEDDALE AREA
FORUM held in Kingsland Primary School, Neidpath
Road, Peebles on 26 November 2012 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors W. Archibald, S. Bell, C. Bhatia, N. Buckingham, G. Garvie, G. Logan.
Community Councillors B. McCrow, S. Horsburgh, R. Howard, C. Lewin, E. Small, A.
Stewart.

PC C. Burnside (Lothian and Borders Police)

In Attendance:- Clerk to the Council, Committee and Elections Officer (K. Mason).

Members of the Public:- 10.

WELCOME

1. Mrs Jacqueline Wilson, Head Teacher, welcomed everyone to the school and hoped that the meeting would be successful.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

2. This being the first meeting of Tweeddale Area Forum, set up under the Council's new Scheme of Administration, the Committee considered the appointment of a Chairman. Councillor Logan, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that Councillor Archibald be appointed as Chairman.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Archibald be appointed as Chairman of the Tweeddale Area Forum.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

3. The Committee considered the appointment of a Vice Chairman. Councillor Garvie, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that Councillor Bhatia be appointed as Vice Chairman.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Bhatia be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Tweeddale Area Forum.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

4. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by Councillors, representatives of Community Councils, and Officers.

THE REMIT OF THE AREA FORUM

5. There had been circulated copies of an extract from the Council's new Scheme of Administration which had been approved on 30 August 2012. The Tweeddale Area Forum comprised 6 Elected Scottish Borders Councillors representing the Wards of Tweeddale East and Tweeddale West, together with a representative from each of the Community Councils in the Tweeddale Area, and representatives from NHS Borders and the Police. The Forum could also agree to include a representative from any other local body as appropriate. All Forum Members and members of the public were encouraged to submit items for future meeting agendas. The Chairman advised that the Area Forum should be relevant to the people of the Area. There would be four meetings each year and owing to legislation only Scottish Borders Councillors had the right to vote. Councillor Bhatia suggested that two meetings per year should be held outwith Peebles. Members were advised that

the Memorial Hall, Innerleithen was available for the meeting to be held on 6 March 2012. Disappointment was expressed that no members of the Press were present at the meeting.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND AREA FORUMS

6. Senior Consultant, Douglas Scott, was in attendance at the meeting to give a presentation on the role of Community Planning and how Area Forums fitted into that process. Mr Scott explained that there was a new emphasis on Community Planning from the Scottish Government and COSLA, the published "Statement of Ambition" having clear expectations for Community Planning Partnerships. In order to address the challenges, every local authority was exploring ways to work and Scottish Borders Council were preparing clear principles for moving forward, including emphasis on cross-cutting themes with elected Member involvement. The presentation summarised the background to the evidence based approach and set out the external context, the results of the most recent Household Survey, a strategic assessment and the findings of the Christie Commission which proposed that public service organisations should work to extend and deepen a local partnership approach. This had culminated in a suggested strategic objective for the Borders "to work in partnership with other key public, voluntary and private bodies together with communities and businesses, to maintain and improve the quality of life and meet the needs of Borders residents and their communities through the delivery of high quality public services, projects, advocacy and other actions".
7. The strategic objective had been divided into four themes, namely: Early Intervention and Prevention; Place and Communities; Economy and Infrastructure; and future Model of Public Service Delivery for the Scottish Borders. Within the theme of Place and Communities the priorities were Whole Town Programmes; Community Safety; Community Resilience; Engagement and Development; and Cultural Services. The presentation also provided details relating to the demographics of the Tweeddale Area and the particular challenges faced within the area, illustrated by comparisons with average figures from the Scottish Borders and Scotland. There followed a discussion on the presentation and Mr Scott answered questions and provided clarification in respect of some of the matters raised.

**DECISION
NOTED the presentation.**

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES 2013-2018

8. The Chief Financial Officer, David Robertson, was in attendance to give a presentation on the Financial Challenges which the Council had to face over the next 5 years. He outlined where the Council's funding came from, how it was apportioned between the various departments and highlighted that the majority was currently spent on the provision of education and social work services. There were a number of challenges facing the Council, mainly as a result of the economic situation but also the changing demographics of the area. These included the need to modernise the school estate, deal with more frequent and extreme weather events, protect the region from flooding and meet new government targets for recycling. It was also important to continue to maintain the road infrastructure, keep pace with developments in technology and provide services for people, both young and old, all with the aim of making the Borders an attractive place to live and work. In terms of future funding a gap of £28.7m had been identified over the next 5 years and the Council were developing a 5 year finance plan and solutions to bridge this in ways which would have the least impact on services. The status quo was not an option and difficult choices would need to be made which might affect the Council's ability to deliver some services. The public were being encouraged to submit their views and the ways in which this could be done were provided. The Chief Financial Officer answered questions relating to the implications of Welfare Reform, the level of Council Tax, interest, and the use of reserves.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

PROPOSALS FOR A COURT STRUCTURE FOR THE FUTURE

9. There had been circulated copies of a briefing by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Head of Community Justice and Housing on the Scottish Court Service (SCS) proposals for court reform. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Mr Ian Wilkie, was in attendance at the meeting and he advised that the SCS proposal for Peebles was to close the Sheriff and Justice Courts and transfer the business to Edinburgh. The paper was driven by cost but to close the Court at Peebles would only save £10k per annum. The Council's Chief Executive had requested an early meeting with the Chief Executive of SCS to discuss possible alternatives. A copy of the Council's response to the Consultation Paper was issued to members of the public in attendance at the meeting and attention was drawn to pages 46 and 47 of the document which highlighted travelling difficulties to Edinburgh. Councillor Bell submitted that there should be a full status sheriff within the Borders because a summary sheriff could not deal with all court business. It was also noted during the discussions that those residing in the Tweeddale area would lose their historic privilege of sitting on a jury in their own area if the business was transferred to Edinburgh. During the discussions which took place importance was placed on the need for Community Councils and individuals to respond to the consultation document. The closing date for responses was 21 December 2012 and details were available on the SCS website.

DECISION

NOTED.

PROMOTING HEALTHY WEIGHT

10. The Joint Head of Health Improvement, Allyson McCollam, was in attendance and gave a presentation on Healthy Weight. She advised that current statistics showed that 67% of those aged 16 years and over were overweight and of these 26% were obese. The rate was rising for both men and women and 1 in 5 of Primary 1 children in Scottish Borders were overweight or obese. This was an issue as obesity led to ill health and resulted in these people having a poorer quality of life as well as premature mortality. This in turn meant a higher dependency on services provided by health and social care and the resultant increase on the costs of having to provide those services. There were a number of different factors which influenced weight including food production and marketing, lifestyle and income. Encouraging healthy weight could only be tackled by partnership working both locally and nationally. Ms McCollam outlined the place of the Area Forum in the Early Intervention Project being carried out on in the Borders. The aim of the project was to help people make healthier choices, to create environments that promoted health and to strengthen delivery of programmes and interventions. She also highlighted examples of the types of action which were being used to meet the aims of the project. Ms McCollam answered questions on breastfeeding rates, allotments and school meals.

DECISION

NOTED.

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME

11. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of Scottish Borders Council of 25 October 2012, it was reported that a Working Group was to be set up to review the current Community Council Scheme and each Area Forum had been asked to nominate an Elected Member and a Community Councillor to be members of this Working Group. Councillor Bhatia, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that Councillor Archibald be appointed as the Elected Member representative and this was unanimously accepted.

12. Councillor Archibald, seconded by Councillor Bell, moved that Mr B. McCrow be appointed as the Community Council representative, with the substitute representative being Mr A. Stewart, if Mr McCrow was unavailable, and this was unanimously accepted.

DECISION

AGREED that:-

- (a) Councillor Archibald be appointed as the Elected Member representative; and
- (b) Mr B McCrow be appointed as the Community Council representative, and if he was unavailable, Mr A Stewart would be the substitute representative.

LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

13. There had been circulated copies of the proposed local public holiday dates for 2013 in the Tweeddale Area.

AGREED to determine the Public Holidays for the Tweeddale Area as detailed in the Appendix to this Minute.

OPEN QUESTIONS

14. No questions were submitted.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

15. Mr B McCrow referred to the development of AIMUp and how this would be good for tourism, along with other ventures such as Go Ape and the Borders Walking Festival in September 2012. He would like to see the shared pathway from Peebles to Innerleithen being extended to Clovenfords and to Edinburgh and considered that all parties should work together to achieve this.

DECISION

AGREED that a representative from AIMUp and Graeme Johnstone be invited to the next meeting to discuss the proposals.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

16. Items for inclusion on future agendas were discussed and it was agreed that there be presentations on the scope for improvements to bus services in Upper Tweed; work under the Leader Project relating to the next generation broadband; and the views of 6th year pupils on the education service and outreach in the community. The Police should have a regular slot, and in addition, PC Burnside undertook to liaise with Inspector Wynne regarding a presentation on the oversight of future policing in the area.

DECISION

AGREED to include the items detailed above on future agendas for the Tweeddale Area Forum.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 6 March 2013 in the Memorial Hall, Leithen Road, Innerleithen.

DECISION

AGREED that the next meeting of the Tweeddale Area Forum would be held on Wednesday 6 March 2013 in the Memorial Hall, Leithen Road, Innerleithen.

The meeting concluded at 8.40 pm.

TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM – 26 NOVEMBER 2012

APPENDIX

**TWEEDDALE AREA
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2013**

	<u>PEEBLES AREA</u>	<u>INNERLEITHEN AND WALKERBURN</u>
NEW YEAR 2013	TUESDAY 1 JANUARY WEDNESDAY 2 JANUARY	TUESDAY 1 JANUARY WEDNESDAY 2 JANUARY
SPRING HOLIDAY	MONDAY 1 APRIL	MONDAY 1 APRIL
MAY DAY	MONDAY 6 MAY (EXCEPT FOR SHOPS WHICH WILL TAKE 13 MAY TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH THE EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW HOLIDAYS)	MONDAY 6 MAY (EXCEPT FOR SHOPS WHICH WILL TAKE 13 MAY TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH THE EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW HOLIDAYS)
VICTORIA DAY	MONDAY 3 JUNE	MONDAY 3 JUNE
BELTANE	SATURDAY 22 JUNE	
ST RONAN'S DAY		SATURDAY 20 JULY
TRADES' HOLIDAY	SATURDAY 27 JULY TO SATURDAY 10 AUGUST	SATURDAY 27 JULY TO SATURDAY 10 AUGUST
SHOP HOLIDAY	MONDAY 29 JULY	MONDAY 29 JULY
ST ANDREW'S DAY	MONDAY 2 DECEMBER	MONDAY 2 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS	WEDNESDAY 25 AND THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER	WEDNESDAY 25 AND THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER