

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TWEEDDALE AREA
FORUM held in the Council Chamber, Council
Offices, Rosetta Road, Peebles on 11 September
2013 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors W. Archibald, S. Bell, C. Bhatia, G. Garvie, G. Logan.
Community Councillors A. Campbell, G. Brown, R. Howard, C. Lewin, M. MacIntosh, A.
MacKenzie, W. Raine, A. Stewart, J. Taylor.

Apologies:- Community Councillors B. McCrow, G. Tulloch, Inspector M. Wynne.

In Attendance:- Sergeant S. Ross (Police Scotland), Passenger Transport Manager (C. Douglas), Team
Leader – Road Safety and Traffic Management (J. McQuillin), Assistant Engineer (R.
Yates), Principal Officer Strategic Transportation (G. Johnstone), SB Local Area
Manager (Tweeddale) (J. Hedley), Democratic Services Officer (K. Mason).

Members of the Public:- 7.

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.

POLICE SCOTLAND REPORT

2. Sergeant Ross advised that Inspector Wynne would be attending a meeting of the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District Community Council the following evening with Chief Inspector Clark to answer questions on policing in Peebles because of the rumours relating to Police Station closures. It was confirmed that a review was being undertaken in relation to traffic warden provision and front counter provision at Police Stations (basically the station assistant who covered the station front counter from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.) There was no review of Peebles Police Station itself and Officers would remain to be posted there. Inspector Wynne had been accompanied by Chief Constable Stephen House on a foot patrol around the town centre of Peebles. The Chief Constable had offered the services of specialist departments based throughout Scotland to deal with rural thefts, and accordingly a small team of officers were working on these thefts with expert assistance. In referring to Community Council reports, Sergeant Ross explained there had been a corporate approach by Police Scotland and each Community Council would receive the same formatted report. It was based upon the Multi member ward plans and the priorities set out in them. It provided ward figures but some Community Councils wished to have their own community council breakdown. Inspector Wynne intended to send his report to all Community Councils in both wards (Tweeddale East and West) at the same time and approximately one week before each Community Council meeting the Community Officer would email Community Council secretaries with anything new of interest since the report had been issued.
3. Concern was expressed during the discussions about the opening hours of the Police Station and problems experienced when staff were not there to allow members of the public admittance to the Station. Community Councillor Stewart advised that Inspector Wynne had been provided with a list of questions which would be raised at the Community Council meeting the following evening and advised he would open discussions to members of the public in attendance. Community Councillor Campbell stated that Police Reports provided to his Community Council had been improved.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

MINUTE

4. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 24 June 2013.

DECISION NOTED the Minute.

5. With reference to paragraph 3(d) of the Minute, the SB Local Area Manager explained that the ownership of the public toilet facilities at the Meldons had been handed back to Wemyss and March Estates. The Council accepted their responsibility to service the wheelie bins which they provided but they were not responsible for clearing the litter which was scattered in the area. The Chairman suggested that members of the community might like to take these issues on board and perhaps other sources of funding might be available to assist that.

DECISION NOTED.

6. With reference to paragraph 3(a) of the Minute, the Chairman advised that West Linton Community Council had received an amended bill in the sum of £100 from Scottish Power in respect of the Christmas Lights.

DECISION NOTED.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

7. The following Parking Sub-Committee Minutes had been circulated:- (a) 12 June 2013; (b) 24 July 2013 and (c) 8 August 2013.

DECISION NOTED the Minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF PARKING SUB-COMMITTEE – AMENDMENT TO PARKING CHARGES IN PEEBLES PAY AND DISPLAY CAR PARKS

8. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure proposing to amend the charges to Peebles Off-Street Traffic Regulations Order (TRO) to introduce an initial “free period” in all Peebles’ Pay and Display Car Parks. The report explained that on 6 March 2013 the Area Forum had considered a report on parking management in Peebles and decided to (i) continue investigation by undertaking a parking survey; and (ii) to form a sub group of the Tweeddale Area Forum and, in light of the findings of a parking survey, discuss the various options of and recommend a preferred option at a later meeting of the Tweeddale Area Forum. The Team Leader – Road Safety and Traffic Management explained that the sub-group had met on five occasions. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Councillor Bell, explained the remit of the Sub-Committee and advised that study, which had taken place, was not for the purpose of increased revenue but to ensure there was sufficient turnover in car parks to allow for visitor parking. The recommendations in the report were based on evidence. The Committee considered the recommendations as follows:

- (a) Greenside Car Park and Swimming Pool Car Park should have 4 hours free parking then charge on Monday to Saturday. The following charges are recommended based on the existing charges and removal of charges for first 4 hours:-
- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| up to 4 hours | Free |
| up to 5 hours | £1.60 |
| up to 6 hours | £1.80 |
| up to 7 hours | £2.20 |
| up to 8 hours | £2.40 |

over 8 hours £2.80

- (b) Edinburgh Road Car Park should have 2 hours free parking then charge on Saturday only. The following charges are recommended based on the existing charges and removal of charges for first 2 hours:-

up to 2 hours	Free
up to 3 hours	£0.90
up to 4 hours	£1.20
up to 5 hours	£1.60
up to 6 hours	£1.80
up to 7 hours	£2.20
up to 8 hours	£2.40
over 8 hours	£2.80

- (c) costs of £1100+VAT to facilitate the changes are met from net income from the Peebles Pay and Display Scheme
- (d) a one year operational trial period is undertaken to be combined with a consultation survey undertaken by the Environment & Infrastructure, Network Section; and
- (e) that the penalty charges should be amended to £40 or £20 for early payment.
- (f) with regard to buses using the Edinburgh Road Car Park 0-3 hours would be free with a penalty of £40 for any buses that exceeded the existing 3 hour limit; and
- (g) this is kept under review to ensure that this resolved the problem of extended parking by buses and that appropriate changes be made to the signage in the car parks.

9. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee recommended that the following additional recommendation be added:- (h) that appropriate signage be placed in all car parks detailing other car parking options which were available.
10. Mr Murdoch MacDonald, a member of the Sub-Committee advised he had discussed the recommendations with retailers and hoteliers in the town and had ascertained they were mainly supportive of them. There then followed detailed discussions relating to the recommendations, and whilst mainly supportive of the proposals, Members agreed that there be a period of public consultation following which the report would be brought back to the Tweeddale Area Forum at the next meeting.

DECISION

AGREED that the proposals together with the additional recommendation referred to in para 9 above be subject to public consultation to be undertaken by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure, and, the matter in light of that consultation, be further considered at the next meeting of the Area Forum on 27 November 2013.

INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER FOR SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR ZIGZAG SIGNS

11. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure proposing to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to enable enforcement of existing school keep clear zigzag road markings throughout the area covered by the Tweeddale Area Forum. The report explained that on 25 November 2010, Scottish Borders Council unanimously approved Councillor Lackenby's motion:- *"That Scottish Borders Council move forward with a programme to include all school 'zigzag' markings in a Traffic Regulation Order thereby making clear to all road*

users when parking is restricted outside our Border schools.” There were a total of 5 lengths of road where school keep clear zigzag markings existed in the Tweeddale area and these were recommended to be subject to a Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting parking on Monday to Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm. These lengths of road were adjacent to schools at:- Walkerburn Primary School, St Ronan’s Primary School, Halyrude Primary School (2 lengths) and Broughton Primary School.

DECISION

APPROVED the Scottish Borders Council (School Keep Clear) (Traffic Regulation Order) 2013 to introduce prohibition of parking on Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm on existing school keep clear markings in relation to:-

- (i) Caberston Road in Walkerburn;
- (ii) Craig Terrace in Innerleithen;
- (iii) Rosetta Road and Kingsland Square in Peebles; and
- (iv) adjacent to primary school in Peebles.

all as detailed in the plans attached in Appendix A to the report and the extracts from the relevant Draft Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) as detailed in Appendix B to the report.

PROVISION OF LOADING AND WAITING RESTRICTION, PEEBLES ROAD, WALKERBURN

12. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure presenting a proposal to amend the Scottish Borders (The County Council Of The County Of Peebles (Walkerburn) (Prohibition Of Waiting) Order 1975). The report explained that Scottish Borders Council had been made aware of continuing difficulties for residents and visitors egressing the private road servicing the three properties on the north side of Peebles Road, Walkerburn. The proposals sought to alleviate this by the introduction of a length of prohibition of loading/unloading and waiting opposite the affected access. A number of objections had been received opposing the proposed amendments.

DECISION

APPROVED the proposal to amend the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to provide a new section of prohibition of loading/unloading and waiting as per Option 3 included in Appendix A to the report.

OPEN QUESTIONS

13. (a) Ms Liz Johnstone, Peebles resident, referred to Police Scotland budget cuts and asked if Members were aware of closures and what could be done about this. Members were aware that there was to be a review of Police Station counter opening hours and they would do their utmost to defend any proposals to close Peebles Police Station. Councillor Garvie advised that the Chief Constable was being invited to attend a meeting of the full Council at which these questions would be posed to him.

DECISION NOTED.

- (b) Mr Ian Wilson, Peebles resident, explained that the residents of Dean Park, Peebles had problems parking their cars because some cars were parked in the area for days on end, despite there being parking spaces available within the Edinburgh Road Car Park, Peebles. Mr Wilson asked if consideration could be given to designating the Dean Park area as a residents’ parking zone.

DECISION

AGREED that the two local members, Councillors Archibald and Bhatia, and the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District Community Council investigate this request and report to a future meeting of the Area Forum.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

14. (a) Community Councillor Lewin referred to a short hill in Broughton which had been put into the Council's second gritting phase. He expressed concern because when it was dark drivers were unable to assess the road conditions in winter and he asked if other Community Councillors had similar issues with side roads adjoining main roads. There was no response.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

- (b) Community Councillor MacKenzie sought clarification on cut backs in the West Linton area in relation to grass cutting and planting of flower beds. The SB Local Area Manager advised that maintenance of open spaces would be dealt with as at present until the Council decided otherwise. There were no proposals at the moment although it was likely that changes would have to be identified, in the next round of budget meetings, for savings to be made. He referred to the voluntary work carried out by members of "Bonnie Peebles" in planting and upkeeping some flower beds in Peebles which the Council no longer maintained. Community Councils would be consulted regarding proposed changes.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

- (c) Community Councillor Stewart expressed concern at the poor attendance of the public at the Area Forum. It was generally agreed that unless there was an item of business which would pull in the crowds to these meetings, it would not matter how much publicity was given. Community Councillors were aware of their responsibility to make details of the meetings known.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

- (d) Community Councillor Brown queried whether any progress had been made in drawing up a management system to operate the B7062 Peebles – Cardrona – Traquair – Innerleithen road when the A72 Peebles – Innerleithen road had to be closed owing to landslips, accidents etc. The Principal Officer Strategic Transportation advised that a management plan was in place. Members asked that the Principal Officer Strategic Transportation attend the next meeting of the Forum to present an update on that management plan.

**DECISION
AGREED that the Principal Officer Strategy Transportation would attend the next meeting of the Area Forum to present an update on the management plan for use of the B7062 Peebles- Cardrona – Traquair - Innerleithen Road when the A72 was closed owing to landslips, accidents etc.**

PRESENTATION – PASSENGER TRANSPORT MANAGER

15. The Passenger Transport Manager advised that the Council was liaising with representatives from First Bus about the bus services provided in Peebles. He explained that it was difficult to set up a bus network because certain housing developments could not be linked. It was noted during the discussions that the right balance needed to be found. A request was made that provision of bus service be looked at for the Glen Crescent area. In regard to the Kittlegairy housing development it was noted that the road required to be adopted before it could be used as a bus route.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

SUPERFAST BROADBAND

16. The Chairman advised that the details of the new Broadband roll-out would only become clear after BT had carried out their detailed technical surveys. These would only start to be completed early next year (2014). There would be a rolling programme of surveys across Scotland and across multiple phases of delivery. Accordingly different parts of local authority areas would move forward in different phases. The Council would work with BT to get that information out to localities when it became available. Area Forums would be one of the vehicles which the Council would use to help get information out to communities.

DECISION

NOTED the position.

DALATHO CRESCENT, PEEBLES – FLOODING

17. The Assistant Neighbourhood Area Manager referred to concerns raised by local residents of Dalatho Crescent, Peebles regarding localised flooding on the road in the Crescent during periods of wet weather and advised that Scottish Borders Council had successfully repaired two roadside drainage gullies in the area. The repairs appeared to have been effective with no significant local flooding recurring since the repairs.

DECISION

NOTED.

PRESENTATION – TWEED WHEELS

18. Graham Lumb, Area Manager, The Bridge gave a presentation on Community Transport provided by that organisation. He explained their mission was to encourage and support the growth of Scottish Borders community activity through the development of a high quality, dynamic and effective voluntary and community sector which focussed on improving the quality of life for all Scottish Borders citizens. There were three accessible community transport services in the borders, namely – Tweed Wheels – Tweeddale; Teviot Wheels – Cheviot and Teviot and Liddesdale; and Gala Wheels – Central Borders. Tweed Wheels had two accessible vehicles, namely a community 15 seater minibus and a community car. The service helped individuals with mobility needs and community groups. The costs per mile for the community car and community minibus were 55p and 85p respectfully. There was a social car scheme subsidy for eligible individual clients and eligible journeys and a subsidy of 25p per mile provided by Scottish Borders Council and administered by The Bridge, reduced the cost to 30p per mile for the first 60 miles of each journey. Volunteer drivers had worked for 1,064 hours from April – July 2013. The Borders Community Transport Network brought all the local community transport providers together for integrated support and joint action. It was further noted that there had been an increase in demand of 26% when comparing figures over the past 3 years for April – July. Concerns were expressed in relation to the cap on annual Social Car Scheme subsidy allocation, the non use of the concessionary bus pass, increasing fuel costs, increasing demands, and the need for more vehicles and volunteer drivers.

DECISION

NOTED and THANKED Mr Lumb for his interesting and informative presentation.

PROPOSED SECOND BRIDGE FOR PEEBLES

19. The Principal Officer Strategic Transportation referred to the proposals for a second bridge over the River Tweed in Peebles and advised a consultation would take place in two stages with a workshop being held in early October 2013. Selected groups invited to the consultation exercise would include local members, community councillors etc. and Presentations would be given by Scottish Borders Council and consultants taking into account potential structures and key issues. This would be followed by groups taking part in round the table discussions concluding with a feedback session. The session was scheduled to take place between 5.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. Thereafter an

electronic questionnaire on the proposals would be available on the Council's website for the public to download and return to the Council. Questionnaires would also be made available at Contact Centres and Libraries. A suggestion was made that information relating to the Questionnaire be published in "Peebles Life".

20. Councillor Bhatia referred to traffic counters in place and asked for information on the reasons for this and where they were located. The Principal Officer Strategic Transportation advised that because planning were carrying out an ongoing survey on the existing use of Tweed Bridge there was no need for counters to be placed there. He would liaise with the Traffic Section to ascertain the purpose and locations of the counters and report back to the next meeting of the Forum

DECISION

- (a) **NOTED the position.**
(b) **AGREED that the Principal Officer Strategic Transportation would liaise with the Traffic Section and report back to the next meeting on the purpose and locations of the counters.**

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21. The next meeting was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 27 November 2013.

DECISION

NOTED that the next meeting of the Tweeddale Area Forum would be held on Wednesday 27 November 2013 – venue to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 8.40 p.m.