

**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 27 November 2013 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors W. Archibald (Chairman), S. Bell, C. Bhatia (from para 6), K. Cockburn, G. Garvie, G. Logan.  
Community Councillors G. Brown, R. Howard, G. Hughes, C. Lewin, B. McCrow, J. Taylor, G. Tulloch.

Apologies:- Inspector M. Wynne. Community Councillor W. Raine.

In Attendance:- Mrs A. Isles (Legal and Licensing Services Manager), Inspector J. Scott, (Police Scotland), Forward Planning Manager (M. Wanless), Engineer (P. Gilhooly), Team Leader – Road Safety and Traffic Management (J. McQuillin), SB Local Area Manager (Tweeddale) (J. Hedley), Democratic Services Officer (K. Mason).

Members of the Public:- Approximately 35.

**PEEBLES COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL – PEBBLES BRANCH OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

- 1, The Lord-Lieutenant, Captain Sir David Younger KCVO presented Mr Phineas Sloan, President, Peebles Branch of the Royal British Legion with a trophy in recognition of the Peebles Chambers Institution County War Memorial winning the national category for large community with gardens for the third time in four years. Sir David expressed thanks to the Council's Parks Department for their input and the Chambers Institution Trust for having part of the complex painted. Thanks were also expressed to the Caretaker of the Chambers Institution, Mr. S Riley for his careful monitoring of the presence of school children at the War Memorial. Mr Sloan accepted the bowl with pleasure and thanked the Chairman for inviting him to the Forum and advised that the War Memorial was one of the town's best assets and of the pleasure the Peebles Branch of the Royal British Legion took in taking part in the competition.

**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 11 September 2013.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the Minute.**

**POLICE SCOTLAND REPORT**

4. In Inspector Wynne's absence, the Chairman reminded Community Councillors that over the last month Community Councils would have been emailed a consultation request in respect of what communities considered to be the priorities for policing in Tweeddale in 2014/2015. The return of the forms was due at the end of the month. The opinions would form the basis of the Multi member ward plans which the Inspector had to produce outlining what would be the local priorities for local policing in areas. Inspector Scott advised this was the first time such an opportunity had been made available to members of the local community to advise of what they saw as priority areas. Community Councillor Stewart advised that two Community Councils had already responded. He expressed concerns at the lack of Police Officers in rural areas and questioned what would happen if

the three officers based in Peeblesshire were called to areas such as Eyemouth and Hawick. Inspector Scott said this would be unlikely now because both PC Burnside and PC McNair were based within the Peeblesshire Area. Community Councillor Stewart advised the Community Council had written to Police Scotland asking that the Traffic Warden Service be retained. However, Inspector Scott advised that the decision to remove Traffic Wardens had already been made. Councillor Logan advised that there would be a report to Council relative to the withdrawal of the Traffic Warden Service.

5. Community Councillor Tulloch advised he was not impressed with the new style of police report received by West Linton Community Council because it was of a general nature and non-specific to the West Linton Area. Inspector Scott advised that any concerns specific to the West Linton area could be dealt with by contacting police officers directly.

## **DECISION NOTED.**

### **PRESENTATION – ALCOHOL BYELAWS**

6. The Legal and Licensing Services Manager, Anne Isles, was in attendance to give a presentation as part of the public engagement process in connection with the proposed Prohibition of Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Public Places Byelaws. Mr Wilkie, the Clerk to the Licensing Board had been unable to attend and she passed on his apology to the Forum. She was accompanied by her team, Erin Murray (Business Consultant), Susan Walker (Alcohol and Drugs Partnership) and Inspector John Scott (Police Scotland). In her introduction Mrs Isles clarified that Byelaws were made by Local Councils and confirmed by Scottish Ministers. It would be Scottish Borders Council's decision as to which designated settlements it would apply. In a statement by the Chief Constable of Police Scotland, it was explained that the Scottish Borders was the only local authority area in Scotland that did not have Byelaws restricting the consumption of alcohol in public places. Police Scotland would welcome the introduction of such byelaws as this would provide an additional tool to local officers allowing them to intervene to prevent alcohol-fuelled incidents. Mrs Isles referred to the timetable relating to the public engagement process and the future procedure. Following an analysis of responses to the engagement process draft Byelaws would be submitted to the Scottish Government and a further report presented to Council. Should Council approve a decision to apply for Byelaws there would be a statutory advert, to which objections could be made. The final step in the process would be for the Council to make the Byelaws and pass these to Scottish Ministers for confirmation. The presentation went on to cover relevant health issues, designated settlements, exemptions and places where Byelaws would not apply. It was stressed that there would be no blanket bans and that Byelaws were not a threat to the development of the Café Culture.

### **MEMBER**

Councillor Bhatia joined the meeting.

### **PRESENTATION – NHS BORDERS UPDATE**

7. Marion Woods, Clinical Services Manager, Primary and Community Services, NHS Borders gave a presentation on the NHS Public Dental Services within the Scottish Borders. She explained in Tweeddale that there was no issue of access to dentists with local dentists being open to NHS dentistry. There were waiting lists in the Hawick and Berwickshire areas for registration within the NHS Public Dental Services. She explained that if people failed to turn up for 2 consecutive appointments they would be deregistered and accepted for emergency treatment only. 4% - 5% of adults did not attend appointments and there were issues with some families who did not see the importance of children attending appointments. If patients were deregistered they could reapply to an independent High Street Dentist. She answered Members' questions relating to the deregistration policy.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED the presentation.**

### **PRESENTATION – PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

8. In attendance to give a presentation on the proposed Local Development Plan were Forward Planning Manager, Mr Martin Wanless, and Planning Officer, Trish Connolly. It was explained that, as part of changes in the Scottish planning system, the Council was required to produce a Local Plan. The Local Development Plan (LDP) would implement requirements of the strategic development plan SESplan 2013, which provided the high level strategic policy for the South East of Scotland. The LDP would replace the existing Consolidated Local Plan 2011. The key outcomes for the LDP were to consider generous housing land supply and affordable housing; protect and improve employment land; protect and enhance town centres; improve connectivity; identify infrastructure needs; protect and enhance environment; and promote sustainable development. Following agreement by Council of the Main Issues Report in January 2012 and a consultation period which resulted in 278 representations covering 1000 issues, the proposed plan had been presented to Council in September 2013. There was now a period running until February 2014 to give an opportunity for representations on the proposed plan. Presentations to Area Forums formed part of the neighbourhood engagement. The presentation went on to look at the structure of the LDP which was made up of Strategy/Spatial Strategy; Policies restructured; and Settlement Statements. Maps were shown to illustrate the principal elements of the Spatial Strategy in the central, eastern and western areas of the Scottish Borders. In response to a question raised the Planning Manager advised he would take forward a suggestion that the Council introduced a policy for connection plans for those seeking planning application for wind turbines.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED the presentation.**

### **OPEN AIR MARKET, EDINBURGH ROAD CAR PARK, PEEBLES**

9. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure giving an update on the Peebles open air market which was held each Thursday in the Edinburgh Road Car Park, Peebles and seeking approval to advertise and let the site for a five year period. The report explained that the previous lease holder of the market site, Mohammed Fahim, was declared bankrupt in March 2013. As a result of the bankruptcy his lease was automatically terminated and since April Scottish Borders Council has collected the rent direct from the stall holders. The Edinburgh Road Car Park site was considered the most appropriate location in Peebles for the market. A new tenant of the market site would ensure the proper running of the market and pay a regular rent to Scottish Borders Council. Discussions took place on how to improve the market and Members agreed that the Council's Estates Manager would engage with stakeholders and report back to a future meeting.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED that the Council's Estates Manager would engage with stake holders relating to improvements to the market and report back to a future meeting.**

### **RESULTS OF CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PARKING CHARGES IN PEEBLES PAY AND DISPAY CAR PARKS**

10. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of Meeting of 11 September 2013, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure on proposals to amend the charges to Peebles' Pay and Display Car Parks. The report included the results of the consultation which had been requested by the Forum prior to any decision being made. A summary of responses to the consultation were included in Appendix A to the report together with a number of comments which were included in Appendix B to the report. Mr Ian Wilson, Peebles resident referred to the problems with car parking in Dean Park, Peebles and asked if some spaces could be

designed as designated residents parking. The Team Leader – Road Safety and Traffic Management advised that he would look into this request.

**DECISION  
AGREED that**

- (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 to be met from net income from the Peebles Pay and Display Scheme
- (d) a one year operational trial period be 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;
- (g) this be kept under review to ensure that this resolved the problem of extended parking by buses;
- (h) that appropriate signage be placed in all car parks detailing other car parking options which were available; and
- (i) that the Director of Environment and Infrastructure would look into Mr Wilson's request for designated parking spaces at Dean Park, Peebles.

**MEMBER**

Councillor Cockburn left the meeting.

### **SB LOCAL SMALL SCHEMES**

11. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Environment and Infrastructure seeking approval for the proposed new SB Local small schemes for Tweeddale Area Forum and Members approval of the proposals for agreeing and monitoring of pay and display parking income and expenditure in future.

The following schemes were being proposed for consideration by the Tweeddale Members to receive funding support:-

(a) Dropped Footpath Accesses in Peebles and Clovenfords	£4,805
(b) Replacement of Street nameplates in Tweeddale	£2,000
(c) Red Lion House, West Linton	£ 650
(d) Surface repairs to seating area, Ushers Wynd, Northgate, Peebles	£1,000
(e) Repair/refurbishment to Dr Yuill Monument, West Linton	£ 450

### **DECISION AGREED**

- (a) **the process for reporting off street pay and display parking revenue spending as follows:-**
- (i) **Ward Members would agree, with officers, the schemes to be implemented; and**
  - (ii) **these proposals would be included in the Small Schemes report for Tweeddale, including monitoring their delivery.**
- (b) **the following new SB Local small schemes for implementation:-**
- (i) **the installation of drop accesses to footpaths at Witchwood Crescent, Glen Road, Dukehaugh and Kingsmuir Crescent in Peebles and Meigle Row in Clovenfords - £4,805;**
  - (ii) **the replacement of various street nameplates in Clovenfords, Eddleston, West Linton, Innerleithen, Cardrona and Walkerburn - £2,000;**
  - (iii) **repairs to the seating area at Ushers Wynd, Northgate, Peebles - £1000; and**
  - (iv) **repairs to the Dr Yuill Monument, West Linton. £450.**
- (c) **to delegate authority to the Director of Environment and Infrastructure to allocate the remaining funds for the current financial year to small schemes, subject to consultation with and approval by all six Members of the Tweeddale Area Forum through email.**

#### **LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2014**

12. There had been circulated copies of the proposed local public holiday dates for 2014 in the Tweeddale Area. It was noted that West Linton Whipman week commenced on 6 June 2014.

#### **DECISION**

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

#### **KINGSLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY CONCERS**

13. With reference to paragraph 6(b) of the Minute of 8 May 2013, Ms P Gilhooly, Engineer was present at the meeting and gave a presentation in relation to the travel plan evaluation for Kingsland Primary School. The travel plan evaluation had been carried out following an incident earlier in the year when a driver failed to stop at a red traffic light when a parent and child were crossing the road. She advised that 427 parental surveys had been sent out in September 2013, of which 329 had been returned. Ms Gilhooly explained the various engineering options available and answered Members' questions, and informed the Forum that she would feed back to the January Kingsland Parent Board meeting. Councillor Bhatia suggested that rumble strips be installed at the western approach to Kingsland Primary School at the same time as white lining to the verges was being carried out, and this was unanimously accepted. The installation of rumble strips would help to reduce traffic speed at all times.

#### **DECISION**

**AGREED that the Director of Environment and Infrastructure be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for the installation of rumble strips at the western approach to Kingsland Primary School.**

#### **A72 CONTINGENCY PLANS**

14. Ms P Gilhooly, Engineer gave a presentation in relation to the A72 Contingency Plans. In drawing up the plans consultations had taken place with Education, Police, Passenger Transport and Environment and Infrastructure. Examples were given in relation to car and HGV Diversion Routes from Peebles to Clovenfords. A simulation exercise would be carried out in the Emergency Planning Bunker at Council Headquarters. It was noted that the necessary diversion signs and frames had been manufactured.

#### **DECISION**

**NOTED the presentation.**

#### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

15. Community Councillor Stewart advised that a meeting had taken place with Community Councillors from various Community Councils regarding the Area Forum. He explained that Community Councillors would welcome the opportunity to be able to input into the content of the agendas. Community Councillor Taylor referred to community benefits and advised he would like to see community benefits spread throughout Tweeddale for the benefit of all. Community Councillor Hughes expressed concerns relating to broadband issues and of the stress on roads owing to timber lorries and the restrictions on available maintenance budgets. During the discussions it was suggested that a working group, the membership of which would be Councillors Archibald, Bhatia, Garvie and Community Councillors Howard, Hughes and Stewart would meet in due course to progress matters.

**DECISION**

**AGREED** that a working group, the membership of which would be Councillors Archibald, Bhatia, Garvie and Community Councillors Howard, Hughes and Stewart would meet in due course to progress matters.

**OPEN QUESTIONS**

16. (a) Mr Paul Graves, Tweedsmuir Bridge Advisory Group referred to the major repairs which were needed to Carlows Bridge, Tweedsmuir owing to its use for logging traffic and of the proposals for temporary access arrangements during the required closure of the bridge. During discussion it was suggested that it might be useful for the Tweedsmuir Bridge Advisory Group to have a meeting with local Councillors.

**DECISION**

**NOTED** the position.

- (b) Mr George Winter, Eddleston resident referred to speeding problems in the Eddleston Area and Members agreed to support his request that the Police be asked to increase the rate of detecting speeders.

**DECISION**

**AGREED** to support Mr Winter's request.

*The meeting concluded at 9:15 p.m.*