

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TWEEDDALE AREA
FORUM held in Clovenfords Primary School,
Clovenfords on 5 March 2014 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors W. Archibald (Chairman), S. Bell, C. Bhatia, K. Cockburn, G. Logan.
Community Councillors P. Faris, R. Howard, A. Stewart, J. Taylor.
Apologies:- Councillor G. Garvie. Community Councillor C. Lewin.
In Attendance:- SB Local Area Manager (Tweeddale) (J. Hedley), Democratic Services Officer (K. Mason).

Members of the Public:- 5.

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.

MINUTE

2. There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 27 November 2013.

DECISION
NOTED the Minute.

3. With reference to paragraph 10 (i) of the Minute, Councillor Bhatia asked for further information in relation to the request regarding the design of designated residents parking at Dean Park, Peebles and the Chairman undertook to liaise with the Team Leader – Road Safety and Traffic Management (Mr J. McQuillin) regarding this and report back to the next meeting.

DECISION
AGREED that the Chairman liaise with the Team Leader – Road Safety and Traffic Management about the design of designated residents parking at Dean Park, Peebles and report back to the next meeting.

4. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute, Councillor Logan requested that a breakdown of SB Local Small Schemes expenditure in relation to (a) Tweeddale East and (b) Tweeddale West should be available at the next meeting.

DECISION
AGREED that a breakdown of SB Local expenditure of (a) Tweeddale East and (b) Tweeddale West would be reported at the next meeting.

MEMBER

Community Councillor R. Howard joined the meeting during discussion of the following item.

MINUTE

5. With reference to paragraph 15 of the Minute, there had been circulated copies of the Minute of Meeting of the Tweeddale Area Sub Committee held on 14 February 2014. Councillor Bhatia suggested an additional recommendation in that an invitation be sent to the NHS asking them to nominate a representative to attend the Tweeddale Area Forum and this was unanimously accepted.

DECISION

AGREED that

- (a) future pre-agenda planning meetings of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman of the TAF and the Chairman of the TAF Sub-Group be held 2/3 weeks before the agenda for the Forum was issued, to determine the relevance of presentations suggested by Council Officials and other items of business;**
- (b) Community Councillors to be asked for a show of hands before Members voted (to be recorded in the minute of the meeting), although it was noted that this would only be relevant to certain items of business;**
- (c) in relation to presentations by Council officials and by officials from other public bodies that specific information be made available on the Council's website (or the relevant other public bodies websites) and/or appropriate literature might be made available or displayed prior to the commencement of the meeting;**
- (d) of the four normal Forum meetings per annum, two of these be held in Peebles one elsewhere in Tweeddale East and the remaining meeting elsewhere in Tweeddale West. Also, the Court Room in the Rosetta Road premises, Peebles should normally be no longer used for Forum meetings;**
- (e) open questions should be an item early on agendas;**
- (f) special meetings could be held as and when required;**
- (g) there be a time limit for the business and meetings should have a duration period of approximately two hours;**
- (h) Community Councils should be invited to have slots on a rolling basis at Forum meetings to present matters of relevance within individual Community Council Areas;**
- (i) Dr K Forman, Parent Council Representative Member of the Council's Education Committee be invited to become a representative on the Forum; and (b) that the Head Teacher of Peebles High School be contacted regarding the Forum with a suggestion that a senior pupil interested in local government be nominated by the School to be a representative on the Forum;**
- (j) NHS Borders should be asked to nominate a representative to attend the Forum; and**

(k) future meetings of the Sub-Committee be held as and when required.

MEMBER

Community Councillor J. Taylor joined the meeting during discussion of the following item.

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT – PRESENTATION

6. Ross Sharp-Dent and Julie Rankine, from the Council's Waste Services team, were in attendance to give a presentation on the Integrated Waste Management Strategy (IWMS). The presentation began by outlining the drivers for change which were identified as legislation and finances. Waste Services needed to save £800k by 2017/18 as its share of the £28 million of savings which Scottish Borders Council needed to achieve by 2017/18. The recommendations approved by Council in December 2013 included the removal of the kerbside garden waste collection service on 31 March 2014; a new Community Recycling Centre (CRC) to be developed in Kelso; a review of CRC access by traders; and a review of CRC locations, opening hours and layout. The IWMS would provide clear strategic direction for municipal waste management in the Borders through to 2025. The first three high priority action areas were CRC provision, food waste and garden waste. In accordance with the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 the Council would be required, by 1 January 2016, to collect food waste from Galashiels (including Tweedbank), Hawick, Peebles, Selkirk and Jedburgh. Food waste collections would therefore be rolled out in the Borders during Spring /Summer 2015. The teams advised they would be happy to attend a future meeting of the Forum to discuss food waste.
7. With regard to the garden waste collection service it was pointed out that local authorities did not have a statutory duty to provide this. After looking at a range of options the decision to remove the service, which would deliver £450k of savings, was made by Council. A comprehensive communications plan had been put in place around the change which included press and radio adverts, Members' briefing notes and a leaflet to all urban households. Alternative garden waste disposal routes were being promoted with help being provided by the Council's partners, Ask Organic, in relation to gardening and home composting. Householders were advised that they could keep their garden waste bins if they wished or alternatively unwanted bins would be collected in a schedule of pick ups later in the summer. The presentation went on to look at future requirements for businesses under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012. From 1 January 2014 businesses were required to present separately for collection dry recyclables and food, if producing more than 50kg per week. From 1 January 2016 those producing between 5kg and 50kg of food per week would require this to be separately collected. The Council was providing support for businesses through the website and in the form of letters and flyers, seminars and roadshows.
8. Ross Sharp-Dent presented up-to-date information in relation to the Community Recycling Centre at Eshiels. He advised that Officers were looking at longer summer and shorter winter opening hours. Aims were in place to try to improve the layout of the site and rectify problems. There would be a limited service for trade waste. He had recently met with Tweeddale Councillors to discuss areas of concern relating to the site at Eshiels and he would be in touch with Community Councillors to invite them to visit the site at an appropriate time when the site was closed. He explained that there were problems with the site because of contamination issues. Community Councillor P. Faris expressed concern at the lack of consultation relating to the site at Eshiels and the Chairman responded by advising that local Councillors had met with Ross Sharp-Dent and had advised him of their priorities and the concerns of their constituents.

9. The ensuing discussion and questions focused in particular on the legislation relating to designated areas, carbon saving targets, roadshow dates, the assistance offered by staff at Community Recycling Centres, removal of the garden waste collection service and the role of commercial trade waste collectors. The Officers were thanked for the presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

OPEN QUESTIONS

10. (a) With reference to paragraph 16(b) of the Minute of 27 November 2013, Mr George Winter, Eddleston advised that he was pleased to report that there would be a site visit to the Eddleston area by the SBC Safety Camera Partnership. He asked if there had to be a history of collisions before permanent cameras were in situ in the Eddleston area. Councillor Bhatia advised that Police Officers had been trained in the use of radar guns and this included PC Mark Halliday, Tweeddale West. Mr Winter specifically asked for permanent speed cameras to be sited in the Eddleston Area and Community Councillor Taylor referred to the local development plan and how the increased number of cars would be managed through Eddleston.

DECISION

NOTED.

- (b) Captain Sir David Younger KCVO advised he had corresponded with Councillors requesting that the words "you are now entering Tweeddale" or "Welcome to Tweeddale" be added to the signs on the main routes into Tweeddale. Councillor Bell expressed his frustration relating to the issue stating there had been a consultation on refreshing signs and he had hoped that a decision would have been made last autumn on symbolic information relating to attractions in the area. He further advised that Transport Scotland were subject to an ongoing policy review and after their conclusions had been reached the matter would be referred to a Council Committee. Community Councillor P. Faris said it would be a good idea to liaise with all Community Councils regarding the wording on signage but Community Councillor Howard disagreed with him.

DECISION

NOTED the position.

- (c) Mr James McFarlane, Clovenfords advised that the Tweed Valley Walking Festival would be held from 31 May to 1 June 2014 and more information would be available on this in early course.

DECISION

NOTED.

QUALITY OF LIFE

11. Members requested that a report on Quality of Life Fund with details of the spend of the fund between Tweeddale East and Tweeddale West being made available at the next meeting.

DECISION

AGREED that information relating to the spend of the Quality of Life Fund between Tweeddale East and Tweeddale West be made available at the next meeting of the Forum.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

12. (a) Community Councillor A. Stewart referred to the possible establishment of an A72 Action Group. Councillor Bhatia asked that Officers report back to the next meeting of the Forum on accident statistics and road conditions along the A72 from Clovenfords to Skirling together with any planned maintenance schedule, to establish whether there was a basis for the establishment for an A72 Action Group.

DECISION

AGREED that Officers report back to the next meeting of the Forum with accident statistics and road conditions along the A72 from Clovenfords to Skirling together with any planned maintenance schedule, to establish whether there was a basis for the establishment of an A72 Action Group.

- (b) Community Councillor R. Howard referred to a change of weight limit on Bowland Road, Clovenfords and advised that because of the weight restriction being removed timber lorries were now driving through. Councillor Bhatia suggested that clarification from the Timber Transport Group should be sought in respect of this.

DECISION

NOTED.

POLICE REPORT

13. Inspector Wynne was not present at the meeting, but the Chairman referred to the updated information on community policing which he had received from Inspector Wynne and which would have been circulated to all Councillors and Community Councils.

DECISION

NOTED.

SCOTTISH BORDERS LAND USE STRATEGY PILOT - PRESENTATION

14. In attendance to give a presentation on the Land Use Strategy (LUS) was Derek Robeson from Tweed Forum. He explained that the LUS sought a more integrated approach to land management in recognition of the increasing numbers of pressures and demands placed upon the countryside, by way of enhanced recreational opportunities, food security, forest cover, more carbon storage, renewable energy projects and increases in biodiversity. It was recognised that we must optimise the ways in which we use land and face up to the difficult choices that this involved, if we and future generations are to continue to benefit from it. The Scottish Government were keen that the LUS

engagement process was led by local authorities. Scottish Borders Council had recognised that this needed to be done in conjunction with land managers and other relevant stakeholders.

15. In this pilot initiative the Council would be working closely with Tweed Forum; a partnership body dedicated to integrated land and water management. The objective was to produce a common flexible framework which would guide different 'users' to make informed decisions, achieve their objectives more effectively and facilitate debate on conflicting demands. It was noted that the framework would be non-statutory and non-regulatory. Mr Robeson advised that, following Baseline Mapping which had involved data gathering through strategies, policies and map based information, the timetable now included Stakeholder Engagement and the identification of constraints and opportunities. The draft Framework would be produced between Spring and Autumn 2014 and be subject to public consultation in Winter 2014. The ensuing discussion and questions focused in particular in relation to the use of water courses, removal of gravel from river beds and financial incentives. Mr Robeson was thanked for the presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN FOR SCOTTISH BORDERS 2014-17 - PRESENTATION

16. Welcomed to the meeting was John Mallin, of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Services (SFRS), to speak to the Area Forum about the SFRS local delivery plan for the Scottish Borders. Copies of the draft plan, issued for consultation, were circulated at the meeting. Mr Mallin advised that, although the consultation period had recently ended, further comment and input in relation to the plan would be welcome. The local plan provided information on SFRS priorities in relation to the Scottish Borders and how their contribution to community safety would be measured. He explained how the direction of the plan was supported by national strategic objectives and that the overarching strategic aims were to: improve safety of our communities and staff; more equitable access to fire and rescue services; improved outcomes through partnership; and to develop a culture of continuous improvement. The key priority areas in the Scottish Borders that were considered in the Local Assessment and those that action plans would be developed for were: reduction of dwelling fires; reduction in fire fatalities and casualties; reduction of deliberate fire setting; reduction in road traffic collisions; and reduction of unwanted fire alarm signals. Within each of the priorities were a number of performance indicators that would be used to report and track performance against the objectives. Mr Mallin drew attention to a table within the document which gave data of actual incidents and events over the past four years in relation to the performance indicators used. Driving down risk and focusing on the areas where the level of incidents was not reducing was a key aspect of the decision in selection of priorities. The plan went on to give more detail on the actions and outcomes relating to the five priorities in the Scottish Borders, and how achieving local outcomes linked into community planning and political direction. Members discussed the plan and received answers to their questions about some of the data and trends indicated. The Chairman thanked Mr Mallin and agreed to his proposal that a representative of the SFRS attend all meetings of the Area Forum to give updates as required.

DECISION

(a) **NOTED the presentation.**

(b) **AGREED that a representative of the SFRS attend all meetings of the Area Forum to give updates as required.**

SB LOCAL UPDATES

17. The SB Local Area Manager (Tweeddale) advised that in regard to the roads capital plan the carriageway patching at the A701 Leadburn to Lamancha and the B7059 A72 Junction to Romano Bridge had not been deferred but were active. A Cemetery Open day would be held on 23 May 2014 at Caddonfoot between 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m., tea and coffee would be available.
18. Councillor Bhatia referred to the B712 and asked that consultation take place with the community before the matter was referred back to the Area Forum. She advised that the local community was happy to deal with signs as part of community resilience. The SB Local Area Manager advised that this might not be achievable before the next meeting of the Area Forum.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.