

**SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL**  
**TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM**

MINUTE of the MEETING of the  
TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM held in West  
Linton Primary School, West Linton on 3  
September 2014 at 6.30 p.m.

Present:- Councillors W. Archibald (Chairman), C. Bhatia, K. Cockburn, G. Logan.  
Community Councillors C. Carleton, R. Howard, G. Hughes, C. Lewin, W. Raine,  
J. Taylor, G. Tulloch.

Apologies:- Councillors S. Bell, G. Garvie, Community Councillor A. Stewart.

In Attendance:- Depute Chief Executive People (J. McDiarmid), SBC Neighbourhood Area  
Manager (Tweeddale) (J. Hedley), Team Leader Network (J. McQuillin),  
Democratic Services Officer (K. Mason), Inspector A. Hodges (Police Scotland)

Members of the Public:- Approximately 20.

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**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 7 May 2014.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

3. With reference to paragraph 8(c) the Democratic Services Officer advised that Council on 29 May 2014 had agreed that the recommendation be included in the Review of the Council's Scheme of Administration.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

4. With reference to paragraph 20(b) owing to an administrative error the report requested on parking charges was not an item on the agenda. The Team Leader Network would submit a report on parking charges within the Edinburgh Road Car Park, Peebles on Market Day (Thursdays) for consideration at the next meeting of the Forum.

**DECISION  
NOTED that a report on parking charges within the Edinburgh Road Car Park, Peebles on Market Day (Thursdays) would be considered at the next meeting of the Forum.**

**WEST LINTON REVIEW OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT**

5. With reference to Paragraph 15 of the Minute of 7 May 2014, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Commercial Services advising that at the Tweeddale Area Forum of 7 May 2014 a motion was agreed detailing provision of 3 parking spaces in the area of Main Street, West Linton near to the A702 and that a review of the traffic and parking issues be carried out in the remainder of Main Street. The report detailed the findings of the review and included the provision of 3 parking spaces to replace a section of double yellow line as per a previously produced plan. During the discussions which took place a member of West Linton Community Council advised that the provision of 3 parking spaces was debated at a meeting of the Community Council when the majority of members agreed that the 3 parking spaces be not provided.

*Councillor Archibald, seconded by Councillor Logan moved that the inclusion of the provision of 3 parking spaces to replace a section of double yellow line on the north-west side of Main Street be removed from the recommendations.*

*Councillor Bhatia, seconded by Councillor Cockburn, moved as an amendment to accept the recommendations within the report.*

*On a show of hands Members voted as follows*

<i>Motion</i>	-	<i>2 votes</i>
<i>Amendment</i>	-	<i>2 votes</i>

*The Chairman exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion which was accordingly carried.*

#### **DECISION**

- (a) APPROVED the proposals detailed in the plans in Appendix A to the report and extract from the Draft Traffic Regulation Order in Appendix B to the report as amended to remove the inclusion of the provision of 3 parking spaces to replace a section of double yellow line on the north-west side of Main Street.**
- (b) AGREED that, provided no objections were received through the consultation process, approved the promotion and making of the Traffic Regulation Order as amended.**

#### **DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – PEOPLE**

6. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Jeanette McDiarmid, Scottish Borders Council's Depute Chief Executive People to the meeting. Mrs McDiarmid presented information on the restructure of the Council. She advised that she had attended a meeting last Tuesday within West Linton Primary School at which 190 parents were in attendance, when the results of the HMle report on the school had been discussed. The Head Teacher had currently been removed from the post and Mrs Grace Frew had been brought in as an interim replacement. Barbara Adams OBE former Head Teacher had been brought in to support Mrs Frew. An action plan for the way forward would be introduced. In responding to questions raised Mrs McDiarmid confirmed there would be no witch hunt in relation to the Head Teacher and explained she could not advise whether the Head Teacher would return to the school, this was a sensitive matter which was being dealt with by Human Resources and could not be discussed in the public domain. Members of the Community Council asked that the Council investigate and report on the failings of its own internal inspection process to ensure a similar situation did not arise again. Mrs McDiarmid advised that members of the public could attend the Education Performance (HMle) Sub-Committee meeting when the HMle report on West Linton Primary School would be considered. A member of the Community Council asked for advance notice of when the meeting would take place.

#### **DECISION**

- (a) NOTED the position.**
- (b) AGREED that the Democratic Services Officer would advise West Linton Community Council when the HMle report on West Linton Primary School would be considered by the Education Performance (HMle) Sub-Committee.**

#### **FIRST BUS – RELOCATION OF TERMINUS TO WATERLOO PLACE, EDINBURGH**

7. With reference to paragraph 16 of the Minute of 7 May 2014, Mr Neil McNaught, Business Manager, First Scotland East Limited was present. He advised that the issue relating to the relocation of the terminus had been raised by several groups and discussed at the Royal Burgh of Peebles Community Council in July 2014. He explained the move from using the Bus Station as the Edinburgh Terminus to Waterloo Place was because of delays in the service owing to traffic congestion between the Bus Station and North Bridge. The 62 Bus

Service was now running on a 20 minute frequency and by moving to Waterloo Place congestion was avoided. In referring to services between Galashiels and the Borders General Hospital, Members expressed concern about the 62 Bus Service terminating at Galashiels and the need for passengers travelling to the Borders General Hospital to take another bus. Mr McNaught advised that there had not been a consultation process but members of the public had asked for improvements to be made to the service. Community Councillor C. Carlton advised that Edinburgh Council was supportive of the bus terminus being reinstated at the Edinburgh Bus Station. He expressed concern at the loss of shelter, seating and access to toilets at Waterloo Place. The Chairman suggested that passengers should keep applying pressure to First Bus to relocate to the Bus Station. Mr McNaught advised he was happy to have open discussions with Councillors.

#### **DECISION**

**NOTED the position.**

#### **OPEN QUESTIONS**

8. (a) Mr Bruce Young, West Linton resident referred to the realignment of junction on A72 and pedestrian safety improvements and of the building of a one metre wide pavement, this had been discussed with Mr McQuillin who felt this could be accommodated. Councillor Bhatia advised that she would investigate the current position.

#### **DECISION**

**AGREED that Councillor Bhatia would investigate the current position relating to improvements to the junction on the A72.**

- (b) Mrs Sheila Black, West Linton resident raised questions about the old Primary School being up for sale on the open market. She put forward a suggestion that the area could be used as parking for villagers and visitors. She requested that a suitably placed notices be placed on the A702 and in the village advising of the location of the public toilets. In responding about the sale of the old School, Councillor Bhatia advised of the Council's requirement to raise assets to pay for the new school, and referred to the legal responsibility of the Council to dispose of its assets in an appropriate manner. Information on bids for the old School could not be disclosed because this was of a confidential nature.

#### **DECISION**

**NOTED.**

- (c) Mr John Montgomery, Manager of Peebles Citizens' Advice Bureau expressed concern in relation to car parking in Peebles, referring to cars being parked at double yellow lines and the use of disabled bays by motorists who did not have blue badges displayed. He also referred to confusion about parking charges on a Saturday. Councillor Logan advised that the parking charges would be re-examined at a future meeting of the Working Group of the Area Forum.

#### **DECISION**

**NOTED.**

#### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

9. (a) Community Councillor C. Lewin quoted statistical information on wind farm targets and asked if this had caused Scottish Borders Council to add greater weight to the environment rather than on energy when planning applications were being considered. Cllr Bhatia advised that more details on the Council's wind farm policy would be made available when the Local Development Plan was published in September 2014. Community Councillors expressed concern at the lack of information relating to wind farm applications from the Energy Consents Unit in Glasgow and a letter of complaint had been sent to Fergus Ewing MSP about this.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the position with concern.**

- (b) Community Councillor Hughes referred to a recent report in the Peeblesshire News highlighting the large numbers of accidents on the B712. Discussions about this accident spot took place at each Community Council meeting. The road was unsuitable for heavy traffic and did we have to wait until someone was killed before anything was done about the situation? During the discussions which took place it was noted that similar problems were in all other areas of the Scottish Borders, lorries had a legal right to be on the road and they couldn't be stopped. Community Councillor Hughes asked for improvements to be made to the roads; sign posts could also be put in place and he requested an action plan for this. Councillor Bhatia advised that the B712 was used as a through route for timber lorries, lorries carrying timber used other roads as short cuts and this should not be allowed, lobbying was ongoing to stop short cuts being used. Community Councillor Lewin asked for a timed action plan to be drawn up.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the request for a timed action plan to be drawn up for improvements to the B712.**

- (c) Community Councillor J. Taylor referred to MSP Christine Grahame's encouragement in respect of twinning with a town in Poland in support of the map of Scotland located at the Barony Castle Hotel. As much of Tweeddale had Polish connections it was considered fellow Community Councillors should be approached to see if they would like become involved.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

**POLICE SCOTLAND**

10. Inspector Hodges thanked Community Councillors for their patience during the period of the Commonwealth Games when there had been a lack of attendance by Police Officers at Community Council meetings. If a Police Officer was unable to attend a Community Council meeting a written report, giving a breakdown relative to each Community Council area would always be submitted for consideration by the Community Council. In referring to rural crime he advised of theft of sheep and quad bikes and house break-ins. He explained that parking issues in Peebles were generated by local people and local businesses parking dangerously. Police Officers would give people advice and move them on, issuing of tickets was not always the best practice. Police Scotland encouraged members of the public to advise them if there were any issues of concern. Crime detection rates in the Borders were comparable with other police areas in Scotland. Inspector Hodges advised that there were no armed Police in Tweeddale, if there was a specific need for armed Police there was an armed response vehicle in the east of Scotland which could be actioned.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

**SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

11. The Chairman, in the absence of Jeff Douce of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), read out details from a report prepared by Mr Douce in relation to the operational activity undertaken by the SFRS within the Tweeddale Area during the period from 1 June to 31 August 2014. The summary presented information relating to dwelling fires; fire casualties; road traffic collisions, secondary fires and various incidents of interest.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

## **PRESENTATION**

12. Mr John Montgomery, Manager, Peebles Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) gave a presentation on the work of the Citizen's Advice Bureau. He advised that the Annual General Meeting would take place at 7.00 p.m. on 22 September 2014 in the Eastgate Theatre Studio. He presented information on funding for the CAB and on members of staff working in the Peebles Office. Mr Montgomery would send a copy of the CAB's report entitled "Advice in the Scottish Borders 2013/2014" to the Democratic Services Officer for forwarding to Community Councils in Tweeddale. He referred to the impact of welfare reform and of the advice given to clients on benefit issues. It was noted that Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants were required to meet a number of conditions in order to show that they were actively seeking employment. Failure to meet these conditions might result in the claimant's JSA payments being sanctioned for a fixed period.

## **DECISION**

- (a) **NOTED the presentation.**  
(b) **AGREED that the Democratic Services Officer would forward a copy of the CAB's report entitled "Advice in the Scottish Borders 2013/2014" to Community Councils in Tweeddale.**

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEME WORKS - QUALITY OF LIFE/PAY PARKING**

13. There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director – Neighbourhood Services seeking approval to deliver projects throughout the Tweeddale Area using Neighbourhood Small Schemes and Quality of Life budgets. The following Neighbourhood schemes had been requested for consideration of the Tweeddale members from Small Schemes budget:- Creation of ramped access to tennis club rooms and courts, Victoria Park Innerleithen; Footway surface improvements at Young Street, Peebles; Creation of several pedestrian dropped accesses at locations within Peebles; Removal of old play equipment bases and tree stumps at Innerleithen Primary School.
14. The following Quality of Life Schemes seeking funding support:- Installation of pedestrian bus shelter on the A72 west bound carriageway, Peebles Road, Innerleithen; Installation of a pedestrian bus shelter on the A72 east bound carriageway, Walkerburn; Grant support Innerleithen Community Trust to empower them to undertake grass maintenance within the post code area.
15. Detailed discussions took place in relation to the recommendations for use of Quality of Life funding for the installation of pedestrian bus shelter on the A72 west bound carriageway, Peebles Road, Innerleithen - £6,900, and the installation of a pedestrian bus shelter on the A72 east bound carriageway, Walkerburn - £7,010. Members unanimously agreed that these be not approved owing to the sums involved and because buses were now running at 20 minute intervals.
16. Councillor Bhatia advised that in response to concerns raised by Tweeddale Access Panel the lights at the crossing on Peebles High Street would be readjusted to allow the elderly more time to cross the road safely.

## **DECISION**

- (a) **APPROVED the following new Neighbourhood Small Schemes for funding support and implementation:-**
- (i) **Creation of one ramped access to Tennis Club rooms and courts, Victoria Park Innerleithen** £1,607.15
- (ii) **Footway resurfacing and kerbing work, Young Street, Peebles** £2,306.00

- (iii) Creation of seven pedestrian dropped accesses at Glensax Road/Whitehaugh Avenue, Cademuir Drive, Glen Road, Crookston Court, Peebles £3,150.00**
- (iv) Removal of old concrete base of profile slide and nearby tree stump within the grounds of Innerleithen Primary School £1,500**
- (i) APPROVED the use of Quality of Life funding to grant a payment to Innerleithen Community Trust, empowering them to undertake local grass maintenance in the post code area, as a pilot to the Neighbourhood Operations Review £200**

*The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.*