

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the TWEEDDALE
AREA FORUM held in the Council Chamber,
Rosetta Road, Peebles on 3 December 2014 at
6.30 p.m.

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

Apologies:- Councillor G. Garvie, Community Councillor A. Campbell

In Attendance:- SBC Neighbourhood Area Manager (Tweeddale) (J. Hedley), Democratic
Services Officer (K. Mason), Inspector A. Hodges (Police Scotland), Mr J. Douce
(Scottish Fire and Rescue).

Members of the Public:- 2.

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 3 September 2014.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

3. With reference to paragraph 8(a) of the Minute, Councillor Bhatia advised that the wall could be removed which would improve the junction on the A702.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

4. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute, Community Councillor Lewin intimated that he expected to see a report at the next meeting of the Area Forum relating to the parking charges within the Edinburgh Road Car Park, Peebles on Market Day (Thursdays). The Chairman advised that the Tweeddale Area Forum Parking Sub-Committee would be reconvened shortly to discuss matters following the one year operational trial period as discussed at the meeting of the Tweeddale Area Forum of 27 November 2013.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

PRESENTATION – BORDERS RAILWAY

5. Borders Railway Community Liaison Officer, Jonathon Hepton, was in attendance to give a presentation and update on the Borders Railway project. He began his presentation with a brief history of the line, referring to the station at Stow which had first opened in 1848. It was closed in 1969 and would now be re-opened with the railway line in 2015. A draft timetable for the new service had been published and Mr Hepton gave a summary of the service to and from Stow. The journey from Stow to Edinburgh Waverley would take 45 minutes. On Monday to Saturday there would be 6 trains before 9 am, the earliest being at 5.30 am. There would be 4 trains from Stow to Galashiels before 9 am and the journey would take 9 minutes. There would be an hourly service at off-peak times and all day on Sundays. The presentation went on to look at the type of trains to be used on the line as well as details of the seating, disabled access, cycle storage and facilities such as toilets and free wi-fi. There would be detailed information at the station displayed on clear electronic signs. Rail fares from Stow to Edinburgh were estimated to be £7.70 single, £12-£13 peak return and £11-£12 return off-peak. Fares would be less with a railcard or season ticket; if the journey was part of a longer trip; and for children up to 15 years of age. Children under 5 travelled free. Mr Hepton ended his presentation with maps of the rail network and the location of stations along the Borders Railway route. A discussion followed about the railway and Mr Hepton answered questions. It was hoped that local bus services would be able to link in with the Borders Railway timetable. The Chairman thanked Mr Hepton for his presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

POLICE SCOTLAND

6. Inspector Hodges referred to rural crime and advised farmers were alerted through the National Farmers Union of the areas where thefts were taking place. In regard to the issue of drugs he was confident that Police Scotland was in a better position to react to intelligence received. In the year to date, anti social behaviour issues had been reduced as a result of support and input by safer communities, housing providers and victim support. He presented information on national, divisional and local festival initiatives much of which was targeted towards shop lifting in town centres. In response to questions asked, Inspector Hodges advised that every second police vehicle in Galashiels was fitted with winter tyres. He further advised that Officers in the Police Licensing Department ensured that proper advice was given to facilitate school parties. Community Councillor Stewart expressed concern about traffic congestion and inconsiderate parking in the Old Town, Peebles, which meant that traffic could at times be reduced to a single lane and expressed

concern that there was a possibility that heavy goods vehicles might mount the pavement, and submitted that it should be easy for police officers to issue parking tickets. Inspector Hodges said this was a matter of resources, advising that police officers in Peebles were being as proactive as they could be in relation to car parking issues and would respond when they were able and continue to do their best. In response to a question raised by Community Councillor Tulloch relating to a fake police car having stopped someone on the A702, Inspector Hodges advised that although enquiries were ongoing about the situation; he did not feel that this would be an ongoing problem. Community Councillor Lewin advised that he still awaited information from Police Scotland relating to statistics for the number of accidents on the B712 from Peebles to Broughton. Inspector Hodges advised that he would ask PC Mark Halliday to provide the statistics to Community Councillor Lewin.

DECISION

NOTED the Police update and that the statistical information on the number of accidents on the B712 from Peebles to Broughton would be provided to Community Councillor Lewin.

SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

7. Mr J. Douce reported on the operational activity of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) within the Tweeddale Area during the period from 1 September to 3 December.2014. There had been no calls to dwelling fires over the period and no fire casualties had been reported. The SFRS had responded to 7 road traffic collisions over the period. SFRS had attended 5 secondary fires which were related to a number of fires involving grass/bushes or rubbish. This was very encouraging as this report encompassed bonfire night which was one of the busiest periods for the SFRS.

DECISION

NOTED.

OPEN QUESTIONS

8. Community Councillor Lewin referred to better decision making mechanisms being in place when Council made decisions and where communities had schemes they wished to raise. Community Councillor Lewin was advised that at the last meeting of Council it had been agreed that the petitions committee would incorporate deputations and this would give an opportunity for groups to take their requests to Council.

DECISION

NOTED.

9. Community Councillor Hughes referred to the implementation of planning conditions and explained that when planning officers were notified by Community Councillors that planning

conditions were not being adhered to, although they were advised that planning officers were investigating matters, nothing happened. Although he realised enforcement was difficult, he submitted that there was not much point in having planning conditions which were then flouted. Councillor Bhatia advised that Scrutiny Committee was being re-established and suggested that this might be a matter which that Committee could take on board. It was expected that Community Councils would be asked to make recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee on issues they would like to see addressed. Community Councillors were asked to liaise with local Members and draw their attention to planning conditions which were not in place.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

10. Community Councillor Brown referred to the 62 Bus Service and expressed concern at the lack of facilities at Waterloo Place. It was noted that Mr Neil McNaught, Business Manager, First Scotland East Limited had attended the meeting of the Area Forum on 3 September 2014 to appraise members of the situation. Councillor Bell requested that First Scotland East Limited be contacted again for an update.

DECISION

AGREED that the Democratic Services Officer would contact First Scotland East Limited requesting an update on the situation.

11. Community Councillor Raine referred to the ongoing problem of speeding traffic through Carlops, although the issue had been brought to the attention of the community police officer the problem had not been resolved and a planned meeting with P C Halliday had been cancelled. Community Councillors Tulloch and Taylor discussed areas in their communities which they were concerned about and they were asked to email their local members about their concerns. Councillor Bhatia asked that an official from Amey be invited to the next meeting of the Forum to answer questions relating to the operation of the trunk road network.

DECISION

AGREED that

- (i) **Community Councillors contact local Members by email regarding their concerns about traffic problems etc; and**
 - (ii) **the Democratic Services Officer invite an official from Amey to the next meeting of the Area Forum.**
12. Community Councillor Lewin in referring to the Community Recycling Centre (CRC), Eshiels discussed the problems encountered when heavy bags had to be lifted into the recycling areas. The Chairman agreed to discuss this with members of the recycling team and advise Community Council Lewin of the outcome.

DECISION

AGREED that the Chairman would discuss problems encountered at the CRC with members of the re-cycling team and advise Community Councillor Lewin accordingly.

13. Community Councillor Stewart referred to the Tour of the Borders 2015 and advised that an open Community Council meeting would be held in the Burgh Hall, Peebles on 8 January 2015 at which organisers of the Tour would be present to give information about the arrangements for the next Tour and it was hoped that the problems experienced in the previous Tour would be addressed.

DECISION

NOTED.

14. Councillor Bhatia referred to the closure of the A701 the following Saturday evening when no local access would be available to homes in Tweedsmuir. Council officers had liaised with the agent and foreman who had explained the problems with the soft ground in the compound. It would take 3 hours to set up the crane. Although a 12 hour road closure would be in place, it was anticipated that the work would be completed in approximately 8 hours. As the compound area was soft it was not advisable to use this as a detour. As with any road closure, in an emergency, all work would cease to allow for access.

DECISION

NOTED.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEME WORKS/QUALITY OF LIFE

15. 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 the consideration of the Tweeddale members from the Small Schemes budget:- Drainage Works at Slatewullies on the A72 near the Nest; Drainage works on the D83/1 at West Bold farm near Walkerburn as requested by Councillor Logan; Drainage Works on the D83/1 near Craigmyle Park, Clovenfords as requested by the Craigmyle Park Residents Association; Installation of an external water tap at Kingsmeadows car park, Peebles; New Street nameplates in at Marmion Road/Ivanhoe Road/Waverly Way in Peebles as requested by a local resident.
16. Funding support was sought for the following Quality of Life schemes - Handrail supports for the Sheltered Housing at Rose Park in Peebles as requested by Hanover Housing; Neidpath Road footpath resurfacing works near Kingsland Primary School; Creation of a small section of footpath in front of the Swedish Houses, Dreva Road, Broughton; Traquair Road, Innerleithen Footpath Works as requested by Councillor Logan; Innerleithen/Peebles shared path contribution as requested by the Rotary Club of Innerleithen; Walkerburn Resilient Community, equipment purchase; St Ronan's Primary school, repairs to play area; Walkerburn, contribution towards Christmas displays; Newlands Primary school, contribution towards garden area; The Meldons, supply of anti-litter signage. Appendix A to the report showed progress of the small schemes previously agreed by the Tweeddale area forum.

17. Detailed discussions took place in relation to the reasons why these projects were being funded from either the Small Schemes or Quality of Life Budgets and of the need for careful planning in relation to the budgets for the next financial year. A suggestion was put forward that Councillors and Officers meet to put together guidelines on how schemes were decided and whether funding should be from Small Schemes or Quality of Life Budgets.
18. In relation to Quality of Life funding, Members agreed to defer recommendation (ii) – carry out footway resurfacing and kerbing work, Neidpath Road, adjacent to Haylodge Park, Peebles - £5,963. Members further agreed that recommendation (viii) contribution towards the annual Christmas display in Walkerburn – £250 be not approved.

DECISION

(a) **APPROVED funding of the following new Neighbourhood Small Schemes:-
LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2015**

21. There had been circulated copies of the proposed local public holiday dates for 2015 in the Tweeddale Area.

DECISION

AGREED to determine the Public Holidays for the Tweeddale Area as detailed in the report.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 p.m.