

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 Romanno 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.

Scottish Borders Council

BRIEFING TO TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM ON PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER COMMUNITY SERVICES TO A TRUST

Introduction

On 27th February Scottish Borders Council approved a recommendation that its preferred course of action for Community Services was to transfer from direct Council provision to delivery via a charitable Trust. Officers were charged with developing the business case, an implementation model for the Trust and undertaking further consultation on the proposal before returning to the Council in Autumn for a final decision.

The Services currently in scope for transfer to a Culture Trust are

- Libraries and Information Services
- Museums and Galleries Service
- Archives and Local History Services
- Arts Development
- Heart of Hawick
- Public Halls
- Community Centres
- The Administrative team that provides support for all these services

Cultural Services' overall budget is £4.8m and we employ c. 210 people, many on part-time contracts. The way we work just now is local delivery from local sites. That means the Services have a presence in each of the Scottish Borders towns and contribute to the local economy and local community and cultural life.

Why are we proposing to transfer these services to a Culture Trust?

The Council has been looking at options for delivery of Cultural Services and associated budget savings of over £400,000 while, at the same time, protecting front line, local delivery and put the services on a positive footing for the future.

Officers investigated two high level options for the Services; keep them within the Council or transferring the Services out of the Council to a new Culture Trust. The Culture Trust option came out as the preferred option due to:

1. Transferring Services to a Trust means we can secure the vast majority of the savings target from rates remission. If we keep the Services within the Council the savings will have to be found from reducing what we do just now, closing facilities and streamlining management and backroom support.
2. In a Trust we can be more demand led, more responsive to what our customers and users want from the Services. A Trust can be more flexible and quicker at making decisions. A new Board can bring new ideas, skills and experience to our work. In addition, by making the most of opportunities from fundraising and income generation we will be better positioned to preserve the quality and reach of service in the face of any future budget cuts.

What might a Trust look like?

A Culture Trust would typically be registered as a charity with OSCR (the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator). To get charitable status, the Trust must be clear with OSCR about its social, educational and cultural objectives and as a result public service values can be safeguarded in this

new setup. The Trust will also be a Company Limited by Guarantee with a trading arm and managed by a Board of Trustees, normally about 12 trustees of whom no more than 25% can be SBC Councillors. Any profits made by the trading arm must be recycled back into the charitable aims of the company, giving the Trust a permanent incentive to do better from income generating activity.

This is not the first Culture Trust in Scotland. Another nine local authorities have already transferred their Cultural Services to a Trust. Amongst them are Highland, Fife, Falkirk and Glasgow. We have learned a lot from the way these Councils have set up their new Trusts and, as we move towards the creation of a Culture Trust in the Scottish Borders, we will try to take all the best aspects of the Culture Trusts in other parts of Scotland into our new Trust.

If we get the green light in the autumn, we expect that the new Trust will be operating by no later than October 2015.

Views, questions, comments on the proposal to transfer services to a trust should be sent to CulturalServicesRe@scotborders.gov.uk

Ian Brown
Cultural Services Manager

Works Programme

Asset Programme of Revenue and Capital Works - Tweeddale Area 2014/15

Programme of Capital Works - Roads

Location	Description	Estimate	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
B7062 Kingsmeadow Road, Peebles	Carriageway Surfacing	£45,000												
D68/1 Rosetta Road, Peebles	Carriageway Surfacing	£55,000												
DI33/1 Wells Brae, Innerleithen	Carriageway Surfacing	£20,000												
A72 Caddonlee - The nest	Surface Dressing	£36,200												
A72 The Nest - East	Surface Dressing	£10,600												
A72 Mount Bog	Surface Dressing	£23,100												
A707 Nest Roundabout Junction	Surface Dressing	£6,600												
C1 Eddleston - Wormiston	Surface Dressing	£26,800												
D48/1 Holmsmill - Glenhighton	Surface Dressing	£45,800												
A72 Peebles to Lynesmill	Carriageway Patching	£13,000												
A701 Skirling Junct - Broughton	Carriageway Patching	£13,000												
B7062 Peebles - Innerleithen	Carriageway Patching	£13,000												
A72 Eshiels - Peebles	Carriageway Patching	£6,000												
A701 Cloverhill	Embankment	£8,500												
Tweed Bridge, Peebles	Footway Works	£15,000												

TOTAL **£337,600**

Programme of Revenue Works - Roads

Location	Description	Estimate	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
D17/1 Shiplaw Road	Carriageway Patching	£26,000												
B709 Innerleithen - Pipers Grave	Carriageway Patching	£27,000												
C4 Bogsbank Rd	Carriageway Patching	£13,000												
A72 Wester Happend	Embankment	£20,000												
D48/1 Glenhighton	Embankment	£5,000												
A701 Goatsmeadow Cottage, Rachan	Drainage Works	£2,000												
Springhill Road, Peebles	Footway works	£15,000												
Various Locations Rural	Jetpatching													
Various Locations Urban	Rhino Patching													

TOTAL **£108,000**

OPEN AIR MARKET, EDINBURGH ROAD CAR PARK, PEEBLES

Report by Service Director – Commercial Services

TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM

7 May 2014

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report gives an update on the Peebles Open Air Market which is held each Thursday in the Edinburgh Road Car Park, Peebles and seeks approval to advertise and let the site for a five year period.**
- 1.2 The previous lease holder of the market site was declared bankrupt in March 2013. As a result of the bankruptcy, his lease was automatically terminated and since April 2013, Scottish Borders Council has collected the rent direct from the stall holders.
- 1.3 Following consultation with interested parties, the Edinburgh Road Car Park site is considered the most appropriate location in Peebles for the market.
- 1.4 A new tenant of the market site will ensure the proper running of the market and pay a regular rent to Scottish Borders Council.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Tweeddale Area Forum gives approval for Scottish Borders Council Estates Manager to advertise and agree a five year let of the market site at the Edinburgh Road Car Park, Peebles on terms to be agreed by the Estates Manager.**

3 BACKGROUND & PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The Edinburgh Road Car Park has been used as a site for an open air market for at least 25 years and although much smaller than previously, the market is still active each Thursday with around 10 regular stall holders.
- 3.2 The lease of the market site was last advertised in 2008 for a three year lease.
- 3.3 The lease holder is responsible for ensuring the site is kept clean and tidy, arranging a market trader's licence, arranging insurance and paying a rent to the Council.
- 3.4 In March 2013 the tenant was declared bankrupt and his lease was therefore automatically terminated. Since April 2013, the Council have taken on the role of market operator including the collection of rent direct from the stallholders. However, it is appreciated that this is not a long term solution as there is no-one on site each week to be responsible for the running and promotion of the market.
- 3.5 Consultation with interested parties i.e. the stall holders and Community Council, has taken place. Ten questionnaires were handed out to the stall holders and four replied. The replies were unanimous in saying that the market should stay in its current location on Thursdays and should be better advertised and promoted. Their main concern is cars parked in the market area which restrict them setting up. They suggest more prominent lines to show the market area and discourage cars parking in the market area. The advantages of the current location is that there is good access for the traders' lorries, good potential footfall being in the main Peebles car park and next to the bus stop and it is close to the supermarket.
- 3.6 Following their meeting in February, the Community Council's view was that the market should stay in its current location. Peebles does not have a Chamber of Trade for consultation.
- 3.7 Some of the stall holders have expressed an interest in taking a lease and running the market at Edinburgh Road Car Park.
- 3.8 The proposed area for lease is the same as is currently used each Thursday (see attached plan with the area outlined and hatched in red).

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

- (a) The previous tenant was often in arrears with rental payments and the Council are still seeking repayment from him although it may become a bad debt if it is unrecoverable. Since April 2013, the rent collected by the Council has averaged £325 per week; however, the current arrangements for the collection of this rent are not cost effective in terms of staff time and resources.
- (b) A new tenant will be required to pay a regular rent under standard Council terms e.g. direct debit in advance, without the costs involved in Council staff collected direct from the stall holders. References and credit checks will be carried out on any potential new tenant.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

There is a risk that not finding a new operator of the market and a new tenant of the site will result in the demise of the Peebles market due to a lack of management and promoting. The uncertainty of the future running of the market has led to speculation of its demise.

4.3 Equalities

There are no adverse equality implications.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no effects on sustainability.

4.5 Carbon Management

There are no effects on carbon.

4.6 Rural Proofing

None as there is no change of policy or strategy.

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, Service Director Strategy and Policy, Chief Officer Audit and Risk, Chief Officer HR, Clerk to the Council and Traffic Manager have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the report. The market site was also discussed at the Peebles Parking Sub-group on 8 August 2013.

Approved by

Service Director Commercial Services

Signature

Author

Name	Designation and Contact Number
James Morison	Estates Surveyor, Property & Facilities 01835 824000

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: 27th November 2013

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. James Morison can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies. Contact us at James Morison, Estate Management, Scottish Borders Council. 01835 824000 Ext 5295.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEME WORKS/QUALITY OF LIFE/ PAY PARKING

Report by Service Director Neighbourhood Services

TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM

7 MAY 2014

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report seeks approval of the Tweeddale Area Forum for proposals to deliver projects throughout the Tweeddale area using Neighbourhood Small Schemes, Quality of Life and Pay Parking budgets.**
- 1.2 The following Neighbourhood schemes have been requested for consideration by the Tweeddale members from Small Schemes budget:-
Improve the car park at Victoria park, Innerleithen; Installation of a road gully at Manor; Resurfacing to footway surface at Bridgegate, Peebles; Creation of new gully system at the primary school drop off point, Broughton; Resurfacing to footway at Wemyss Place, Peebles; Refurbishment to Whitestone Park and Haylodge Park Gates; Contribution to floral improvements, Clovenfords; Creation of hard standing area at Victoria Park, Walkerburn.
- 1.3 The following Quality of Life scheme seeking funding support:-
Installation of pedestrian bus shelter on the west bound carriageway, Peebles Road, Innerleithen.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **I recommend that the Tweeddale Area Forum:-**

(a) approves the following new Neighbourhood Small Schemes for implementation:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| i) Car parking improvements at Victoria Park, Innerleithen- | £18,000; |
| ii) Road gully installation, Manor - | £500; |
| iii) Footway resurfacing, Bridgegate, Peebles - | £4442.50; |
| iv) Road gully Installation, Broughton primary school - | £1,100; |
| v) Footway Resurfacing, Wemyss Place, Peebles - | £2320.30; |

- vi) **Refurbishment to Whitestone park and Haylodge park gates - £2968.50 (joint funded scheme with Property Maintenance);**
 - vii) **Contribution to floral improvements, Clovenfords – £100;**
 - viii) **Creation of hard standing area at Victoria Park, Walkerburn - £2,500;**
- (b) **approves the use of Quality of Life funding to create a new pedestrian bus shelter at Peebles Road, Innerleithen – £12,000.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Elected Members, Community Councils and the public can request potential Small Schemes funding support, Quality of Life funding support or Pay Parking funding support, or work to be undertaken by the Neighbourhood squads by contacting the Neighbourhood Area Manager direct. Neighbourhood Operations is contactable via the new Scottish Borders Council telephone number 0300 100 1800, e-mail address – enquiries@scotborders.gov.uk or by writing to Neighbourhood Services, Council Headquarters, Newtown St. Boswells, Melrose TD6 0SA.

4 Neighbourhood Small Schemes

- 4.1 The following schemes have been requested for consideration utilising Small Schemes support to enhance the Tweeddale Area:-
- 4.2 Car parking improvements at Victoria Park, Innerleithen- £18,000 (Tweeddale East). This scheme has been put forward by the Innerleithen Community Council and would involve resurfacing (approx 650m²) of the Victoria Park Car parking area and re-lining all the parking bays, approximately 10no., including lining of the new area of Grass Crete that was carried out last year.
- 4.3 Road gully installation, Manor - £500 (Tweeddale West). These works were put forward by Councillor Bhatia in conjunction with a local resident of Kirkton Manor and would involve the installation of one road gully and connection in to an existing drainage pipe within the road network, outside the property know as The Manse in Kirkton Manor. This would alleviate water ponding on the carriageway.
- 4.4 Footway resurfacing, Bridgegate, Peebles - £4,442.50 (Tweeddale West). These works were requested by a Member of the Public and involves the re-surfacing of approximately 60m² of footpath from Provost Walker Court to the Sunflower restaurant. On inspection it was noted that this section of footpath has become uneven and whilst it would not be considered for resurfacing within the current footpath rating system criteria, elderly residents from Cuddyside and Provost Walker Court find it difficult to negotiate with walking aids and as there is no footpath on the opposite side of the road, they are forced to walk on the road.
- 4.5 Road Gulley Installation, Broughton - £1,100 (Tweeddale West). These works were brought to our attention by a local mother who sends her disabled child to the school. For years there has been a problem with water ponding at the School Gates, therefore we propose to install one small gully at the School Gates and 5m of drainage pipe to connect the gully in to the existing drainage system.
- 4.6 Footway Resurfacing, Wemyss Place, Peebles - £2,320.30 (Tweeddale West). A local resident contacted Councillor Cockburn who in turn contacted the Council regarding the issue of her garden fence being damaged by large vehicles mounting the footpath outside her property when trying to make the tight turn from Wemyss Place in to Gladstone Place. On inspection, it was noted that the existing kerb line was very low. Therefore we propose to raise 8m of kerb line to a 110mm up stand and resurface the area so as to discourage drivers from mounting the kerb.

- 4.7 Refurbishment to Whitestone park and Haylodge park (Tweeddale West) gates - £2,968.50 (joint funded scheme, with Property Maintenance).
- 4.8 Contribution to floral improvements, Clovenfords - £100 (Tweeddale East).
- 4.9 Creation of a hard standing area at Victoria Park, Walkerburn - £2,500 (Tweeddale East). These works will involve the creating a 500m² hard standing area for cars to park on using an unbound material such as recycled road plantings.

5 Quality Of Life

- 5.1 The following scheme is requested for consideration utilising Quality of Life funding support to enhance the Tweeddale Area:-
- 5.2 The creation of a new pedestrian bus shelter at Peebles Road, Innerleithen - £12,000 (Tweeddale East). These works have been requested by the Innerleithen Community Council and will involve the erection of an open sided 3 bay cantilever shelter complete with seats. There will also be some patching works carried out in association with the bus shelter works so as to eradicate the issue of water pending at the bus stop location. 'Bus Stop' lining works will also be carried out as part of the works.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

- (a) A budget of £34,200 is available for small schemes in the Tweeddale Area in 2014/15. Should the proposals be agreed the remaining balance will be £2,268.70
- (b) In addition, a budget of £20,000 is available for Quality of Life schemes in the Tweeddale Area in 2014/15. Should the proposals be agreed the remaining balance will be £8,000?
- (c) Pay Parking surplus currently stands at £8,278.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

If the budgets are not spent, the local area will not benefit from improvement works being carried out.

6.3 Equalities

The proposals within this report will not have an adverse impact on any of the equality groups - race, disability, age, sexual orientation or religion/belief.

6.4 Acting Sustainably

It is anticipated that there will be a variety of economic, social or environmental benefits arising from the proposed schemes in Para 2.1.

6.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects anticipated on carbon emissions to the Council by doing or not doing what is proposed.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Service Director Strategy and Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR, the Interim Service Director Capital Projects and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received will be incorporated in the final report.

Approved by

Service Director of Neighbourhood Services

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

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A72 RUMBLE DEVICES

Report by Service Director Commercial Services

TWEEDDALE AREA FORUM

7 May 2014

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report proposes the investigation of possible mitigation measures that may alleviate noise and vibration concerns raised following the recent installation of rumble strips on the A72 at Kingsland Primary School.**
- 1.2 As a result of an evaluation of Kingsland Primary School's Travel Plan in November 2013 the Tweeddale Area Forum decided that rumble strips be installed on the eastern approach to the Puffin Crossing on the A72 at Neidpath, with the aim of reducing speed and informing drivers of potential hazards ahead.
- 1.3 Following that action there have been a number of complaints received by the Council about noise disturbance within neighbouring houses, which are more than 200 metres away, with regard to vehicles traversing these strips and it is appropriate that the Council look in to this matter

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 I recommend that the Tweeddale Area Forum instructs the Services Director Commercial Services to:-**
 - (a) investigate the modification of the rumble devices on the A72 at Neidpath in Peebles to reduce noise and vibration;**

and

 - (b) if identified solutions are within budget then proceed with works.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In August 2013, the Council received a petition calling for implementation of traffic calming around Peebles primary schools due to a near miss involving a small child at the Puffin Crossing on the A72 near Kingsland Primary School.
- 3.2 The Petitions Committee at the meeting held on 22 August 2013 accepted Environment and Infrastructure's departmental recommendation of non-acceptance of the petition as it was outside the terms of the petitioning procedure and agreed that an evaluation of Kingsland Primary School's Travel Plan would be taken forward in September 2013, with the agreement of the school.
- 3.3 On Monday 21 October 2013 a School Travel Plan meeting was convened at Kingsland Primary School to discuss evaluating the existing School Travel Plan and survey results from parents. This group, chaired by Councillor Bhatia, consisted of the head teacher, parent representatives, Environment and Infrastructure staff and police.
- 3.4 The group requested that a presentation be made to the Tweeddale Area Forum to gauge views on a variety of road safety improvements in the vicinity of Kingsland Primary School, such as constructing a build out on Rosetta Road, reducing the height of the wall at Haylodge Park and the possibility of forming a ramp from Neidpath car park to the Puffin Crossing.
- 3.5 A presentation was made to the Tweeddale Area Forum on 27 November 2013 outlining possible road safety improvements. Following debate a motion proposed by Councillor Bhatia to install a form of rumble device on the eastbound approach to the pedestrian crossing outside Kingsland Primary School was unanimously supported and accepted.
- 3.6 Generally and historically, in the Scottish Borders such rumble devices have been installed at rural accident cluster sites after a traffic study. In this instance no such study was carried out – why not?

4 DETAILS

- 4.1 In implementation of the decision of the Tweeddale Area Forum, a design was developed whereby three sets of 10 rumble strips would be placed on approach to the 30mph speed limit at Neidpath. These were placed over half of the carriageway at spacing where vehicles would cross each set at approximately 2.5 second intervals to raise awareness for drivers that they are entering an urban area.
- 4.2 Although no statutory guidance or regulation exists on the use and design of rumble strips the profile adopted for each strip was based on dimension suggested in the Department of Transport's Traffic Advisory Leaflet 11/93 Rumble strips. As no residencies were within 200m radius of the rumble devices consultation was not carried out.
- 4.3 The rumble devices were laid on 15 January 2014 and within 24 hours the Council had received a phone call from a resident of a nearby property but outwith the 200m radius referred to above stating that they were disturbed by the noise of vehicles crossing the rumble devices. On 17 February another resident complained about the noise and vibration from the rumble strips.

- 4.4 In response to these complaints, officers undertook that traffic monitoring would take place in March once the rumble strips had bedded in and when the weather had improved.
- 4.5 On the request of one of the residents officers visited their property to observe the noise nuisance as reported. On the day of the visit the weather was wet and windy and the resident informed the officers that the true perception of the noise nuisance related to the rumble strips was not apparent due to the inclement conditions.
- 4.6 The post-implementation traffic monitoring exercise was undertaken for the seven days between 17 March 2014 and 23 March 2014. Vehicle speeds and flows were collected for both directions at the west of the Puffin Crossing. Summarised results of the survey are tabulated in 4.7 below. At key school run times the majority of vehicles are travelling at less than 30mph as they approach the school. There are a percentage of vehicles travelling at above 34.6mph during this time.

4.7 24 hour summary (weekdays)

	Average speed (mph)	85 percentile speed (mph)	Average daily total
Eastbound	30.7	38.5	1,887
Westbound	33.4	38.5	1,832
Combined	32.0	38.5	3,719

8am – 9am weekday summary

	Average speed (mph)	85 percentile speed (mph)	Average daily total
Eastbound	27.5	34.6	183
Westbound	30.4	38.5	178

3pm – 4pm weekday summary

	Average speed (mph)	85 percentile speed (mph)	Average daily total
Eastbound	27.1	33.5	145
Westbound	29.7	38.6	148

- 4.8 It is impossible to determine what effect the installation of the rumble strips alone have had on vehicle speeds as the pre-installation information relates to March 2011 and there have been a number of changes to the electronic signs and road markings in the vicinity since then.
- 4.9 It would not be practical to burn off the rumble strips completely as it is likely that would result in the road surface being damaged to the extent of needing to be replaced and the rumble strips will wear down over time. In a bid to expedite this wear and tear with the anticipated result of reducing the noise nuisance it may be possible for officers to look at other methods of reducing the height of the layers of thermoplastic paint that make up the rumble strips and so reduce the likelihood of noise nuisance.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial

There are no costs attached to the recommendation contained in the report at this stage, and any costs to reduce the rumble strips would be from the cycling, walking safer streets budget.

5.2 Risk and Mitigations

There are no additional risks of proceeding with the proposed amendments, however if the Council do nothing, then it is likely that there will still be complaints over the noise associated with the rumble strips.

5.3 Equalities

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out on this proposal and it is anticipated that there are no adverse equality implications.

5.4 Acting Sustainably

There are no significant impacts on the economy, community or environment arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

5.6 Rural Proofing

Not applicable.

5.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Service Director Regulatory Services, the Service Director Strategy & Policy, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer Human Resources, the Interim Service Director Capital Projects and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted. Any comments received have been incorporated in this report.

Approved by

Service Director Commercial Services **Signature**

Author(s)

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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: Tweeddale Area Forum 27 November 2013 and Petitions Committee 23 August 2013

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