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TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM TUESDAY, 17 MAY, 2016

A MEETING of the TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM will be held in the LESSER HALL,
TOWN HALL, HAWICK on TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2016 at 6.30 pm

J. J. WILKINSON,
Clerk to the Council,

10 May 2016

BUSINESS		
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
2.	Apologies for Absence	
3.	Order of Business	
4.	Declarations of Interest	
5.	Minute (Pages 1 - 6) Minute of the meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum of 19 April 2016 to be approved. (Copy attached).	2 mins
6.	Dog Fouling Update by Neighbourhood Area Manager, Mr Blackie, on the current position with the new Enforcement Officers and the 'Green Dog Walker' initiative.	20 mins
7.	Street Cleaning Update by the Chairman, Councillor Turnbull.	10 mins
8.	Neighbourhood Small Schemes and Quality of Life (Pages 7 - 14) Consider report by Service Director Neighbourhood Services. (Copy attached).	10 mins
9.	Police Scotland Update report by Police Inspector detailing ongoing work and initiatives in the Teviot and Liddesdale area. (To follow).	10 mins
10.	Scottish Fire & Rescue Service Update report by Russell Bell, Station Commander, detailing ongoing work and initiatives in the Teviot and Liddesdale Area. (To follow).	10 mins

11.	Open Questions Opportunity for members of the public to raise any issues not included on the agenda.	10 mins
12.	Community Council Spotlight Consider matters of interest to Community Councils.	10 mins
13.	Any Other Items Previously Circulated	
14.	Any Other Items which the Chairman Decides are Urgent	
15.	Date of next Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum Meeting Tuesday, 16 August 2016 at 6.30 pm in the Lesser Hall, Hawick.	2 mins

NOTES

- 1. Timings given above are only indicative and not intended to inhibit Members' discussions.**
- 2. Members are reminded that, if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item of business coming before the meeting, that interest should be declared prior to commencement of discussion on that item. Such declaration will be recorded in the Minute of the meeting.**

Membership of Committee:- Councillors G. Turnbull, A. Cranston, W. McAteer, S. Marshall, D. Paterson and R. Smith

Mr M Grieve, Burnfoot Community Council
Mr C Griffiths, Hobkirk Community Council
Mr M Harrison, Southdean Community Council
Mr W Roberts, Denholm and District Community Council
Mr R Scott, Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage Community Council
Mrs M Short, Hawick Community Council
Mr T Stevenson, Upper Teviotdale & Borthwick Water
Mr S Wilson, Newcastleton & District Community Council

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SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

MINUTES of Meeting of the TEVIOT AND
LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM held in Lesser
Hall, Town Hall, Hawick on Tuesday, 19th
April, 2016 at 6.30 pm

Present:- Councillors G Turnbull (Chairman), A Cranston, W McAteer, S Marshall,
R Smith. Community Councillors: Mr M Grieve (Burnfoot), Mr C Knox
(Hawick), Mr C Griffiths (Hobkirk).

Apologies:- Councillor D Paterson, Mr W Roberts (Denholm Community Council), Mrs M
Short (Hawick Community Council), Mr T Stevenson (Upper Teviotdale &
Bothwick Water),

In Attendance:- Inspector Carol Wood (Police Scotland), Station Commander Russell Bell
(Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Neighbourhood Area Manager (Mr F
Dunlop), Democratic Services Officer (J Turnbull).

Members of the Public:- 4 in attendance.

1. PRESENTATION

- 1.1 Scottish Borders Council (SBC) officers: Colin Ovens, Infrastructure Manager, Ewan Doyle, Project Management Team Leader, Duncan Morrison, Flood and Coastal Management Team Leader and David Richardson, Asset Manager were in attendance at the meeting to give a presentation on the Bellwin Scheme, particularly in relation to Hawick. Ruth Ellis and Angela Floss, representing the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), were also present to answer questions.
- 1.2 Mr Ovens began the presentation by referring to the recent storms: Desmond, Frank and the flooding in 2015/16 which had been widespread across the Scottish Borders and had caused extensive damage to buildings, bridges, road, drainage channels and embankments, particularly in Hawick, Jedburgh and Peebles. Responding to the initial aftermath of storm damage, SBC had implemented a programme of repairs to infrastructure. Mr Ovens explained that damage which could be claimed from the Bellwin scheme was prescriptive and related to recovery and emergency works following immediate storms. Within the Bellwin timeframe, repairs to roads were required to be completed by 30 June 2016 and to bridges and river banks by 30 September 2016. Mr Ovens went on to explain that officers met weekly to discuss the programme of works which was in excess of 300 plus projects, 50% of which had been completed at a cost of £2m. The final spend was anticipated to be in excess of £4m.
- 1.3 Mr Doyle continued that the Hawick Flood Protection Strategy was a three phased strategy: the short term strategy was measures to increase the level of protection to 1 in 10 year. The medium term strategy was the Hawick Flood Protection project to deliver direct 1 in 75 year defences within the town. The longer term strategy was upstream management to increase the level of protection created by the medium term, phase two, direct defences. Mr Doyle further advised that the Executive Committee had that day, agreed to deliver stability improvements to the wall at the Post Office Sorting Office as a priority. The Executive Committee had also recommended that the Chief Financial Officer consider accelerating funding from 2017/18 to 2016/17 to deliver the remainder of the Priority 1 works including, 1 in 10 protection to the Common Haugh Car Park; increase the length of 1 in 10 kerb protection at Mansfield Road; 1 in 10 protection in Laidlaw Terrace and formation of a 1 in 10 ramp footpath at Glebe Mill.

- 1.4 Members expressed their concern over the level of gravel on riverbeds and the possibility of localised gravel removal as a measure to alleviate flooding risks. Mr Doyle advised that this was not a practical solution. The Council had carried out analysis of gravel removal and also historical mapping of Hawick had indicated that dredging the riverbed had little impact on reducing flood risk, particularly on large rivers moving at pace, which could move and deposit materials downstream. Any dredged sections being filled to their original levels very quickly. Analysis had also been carried out on a model which showed that removal of 1 metre of gravel over a 3.5 km length of the Teviot through Hawick would result in only an 11cm difference in flood level. Mr Doyle also presented a number of historical photographs and maps, from 1824 to 2005, to highlight that there had always been gravel deposits at key areas through the centre of the town. There had also been suggestion that the removal of gravel had stopped flood risk historically, so photographs of the 1903, 1924, 1928 and 1955 floods were shown to the Forum to help demonstrate that the removal of gravel does not directly reduce flood risk. Mr Doyle concluded that removal of gravel had its place when it was directly linked with scouring of adjacent embankments or infrastructure.
- 1.5 The Chairman advised that at a recent site meeting, the Chairman of SEPA had indicated that he would look favourably on gravel removal. Ms Ellis and Ms Foss advised that it was clear from the discussion that flood risk management of gravel removal had not been proven and that any work undertaken would not deliver flood risk management benefits. However, if other bodies put forward proposals SEPA would consider.
- 1.6 In answer to a question enquiring if the fish ladder at the Cauld could be cleared, Mr Doyle advised that other bodies such as the River Tweed Commission, could remove gravel if they acquired the relevant permissions from SEPA. Regarding the vegetated large islands near the Lawson Bridge and Burgh Cottages which were affecting the dynamics of the river, Mr Ovens advised that if this was deemed to cause a risk of flooding then SBC would promote works. However, in respect of removal of vegetation on river embankments it was considered that this would make little difference to flood risk.
- 1.7 In respect of works to Duke Street, Mr Richardson advised that this was to replace a damaged sewer syphon which transferred sewage under the river. Scottish Water had undertaken an intrusive investigation of the damaged syphon and declared it unusable and were redesigning a new piece of infrastructure which was almost completed. Work to interface with the new flood protection scheme still required to be undertaken. The Mansfield Road works, to repair the old mill lade, was an intricate piece of work which they had not envisaged would be so difficult. However, the works were due to be completed by end of May 2016. Mr Richardson intimated that he would be happy to discuss with Members, outwith the meeting, any areas of concern that they felt should be added to the list of projects. He would also circulate to Members a list of projects under the Bellwin scheme. The Chairman thanked all officers for their attendance and the presentation.

DECISION

AGREED to request that the Asset Manager circulate a list of Bellwin scheme projects.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Smith declared an interest in the above discussion relating to the Post Office boundary wall and did not take part in that part of the debate.

2. MINUTE

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 16 February 2016.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTE**

- 3.1 With reference to paragraph 5.2 of the Minute of 15 March 2016, it was noted that Police Scotland provided crime statistics to SBC. The Clerk was asked to find out if these could be circulated to the Area Forum.
- 3.2 With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 15 March 2016, the Chairman advised that as the Roads Service was not specific to geographical areas. Until the business case had been developed, there was no other information that could be shared with Members than what had already been briefed to all political groups prior to the Executive on the 8 March 2016.
- 3.3 With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of 15 March, Councillors Smith and Turnbull would raise at a meeting on 20 May and report back to the Forum.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

4. **STREET CLEANING MACHINE**

The Chairman advised that 4earch Solutions Ltd had demonstrated their gumstopper machine on the pavement at Stampers, North Road. The machine was extremely effective at removing chewing gum. It was suggested that specific jobs be priced and be brought back to the Area Forum for consideration of funding from the Quality of Life budget.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

5. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES AND QUALITY OF LIFE**

With reference to the paragraph 3 of the Minute of 18 April, there had been circulated a spreadsheet by Service Director Neighbourhood Services showing the progress of the Neighbourhood Small Schemes and Quality of Life Schemes. Mr Dunlop was in attendance at the meeting and advised that the electronic signs for The Hub, Burnfoot had been delivered and would be installed as soon as possible. The remaining budget in the Quality of Life schemes budget was £3,019 (Hawick and Hermitage) and £190 (Hawick and Denholm). Remaining in the Neighbourhood Small Schemes budget was £5,032 (Hawick and Hermitage) £4,676 (Hawick and Denholm).

**DECISION
NOTED:-**

- (a) **The updates on previously approved Neighbourhood Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A to the report; and**
- (b) **The updates on previously approved Quality of Life Schemes as detailed in Appendix B to the report.**

6. **POLICE SCOTLAND**

- 6.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by Inspector Carol Wood, Police Scotland. The report highlighted that with regard to the Drug Dealing and Misuse priority, a number of properties had been searched in Hawick, as a result of these searches five people were charged with drug offences. The Road Safety priority showed that six road checks had been carried out in March. One conditional offer was issued for speeding and a warning was administered for the anti-social use of a vehicle. Four different drivers were charged with driving without insurance and one driver arrested and charged with drink driving. With regard to the Violent Crime priority, following an incident within a property in Millport, a male had been charged with assault and robbery. Inspector Wood further advised that following a disturbance in Elm Court a male had been arrested for possession of an offensive weapon and breach of the peace. Police had also attended an altercation in the

High Street and a female was charged with serious assault. Police Scotland continued to monitor closely all anti-social behaviour incidents and a number of individuals were at various stages of the process. Police Scotland worked in partnership with Scottish Borders Council and Registered Social Landlords in dealing with those people who cause a nuisance for their neighbours and in the wider community. During March one fixed penalty ticket was issued and four recorded police warnings were administered.

- 6.2 Inspector Wood further advised that following an incident, two 14 year old youths had been charged with reckless discharge of a firearm. A report on the circumstances had been sent to the Children's Reporter. The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 came into effect on 1st July 2016 at which time the public would begin to apply for licences. Enforcement for this act would commence on 1st January 2017. This legislation would tighten up on processes and be similar to current firearms legislation. These new procedures should assist in reckless incidents, reducing and introducing stricter controls for the possession of air weapons and dealing with offences that occurred.
- 6.3 Inspector Wood concluded her report by advising that a public survey entitled 'Your View Counts' was launched on 7 April. Information on this could be found on the Police Scotland website. The survey would take about 15 minutes to complete and she encouraged all members of the public to participate as it would help inform policing priorities throughout the country for the year ahead. The web address was www.scotland.police.uk/yourviewcounts. The Chairman thanked Inspector Wood for her informative report.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

7. **SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE**

There had been circulated, copies of a report from Mr Russell Bell, Station Manager, Hawick Fire Station, updating the Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue activity for the month of March. The report detailed that there had been one house fire, three open fires, two special service incidents and seven unwanted fire signals. Mr Bell advised that the Chief Officer of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Mr Alasdair Bell had visited Hawick Station along with Mr Paul Wheelhouse MSP. The purpose of the visit was to thank Hawick crews for their endeavours during the recent floods. Also in attendance was Mr Wight, the 'Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest' trial being pivotal in saving Mr Wight's life following his cardiac arrest in January. The Chairman thanked for Mr Bell for his informative presentation.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

8. **OPEN QUESTIONS**

There were no open questions.

9. **COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

- 9.1 Mr Grieve, Burnfoot Community Council, advised that work was still ongoing with the Garden of Remembrance. The Carnival Committee met regularly and had raised over £200 at Sainsbury's. Mr Grieve further advised that the Community Council had arranged a litter pick the previous weekend. On the 12 May 2016 they would be taking part in the Coronet's night.
- 9.2 Mr Griffiths, Hobkirk Community Council stated that defibrillator was now in place, four volunteers would be delivering training. Potholes were still an issue and becoming more apparent. The Community Council would be meeting about the abundance of wind farm applications in the area.

- 9.3 Mr Knox, Hawick Community Council, advised that there had been an enthusiastic band of volunteers for their annual spring clean. The Community Council would again be taking part in the Flora Gateway Competition. Mr Knox continued that they were hosting a hustings session on the 25 April for the Scottish Parliamentary election. Mr Knox further advised that an energy sub group had been established to investigate the possibility of harnessing water from the River Teviot
- 9.4 Mr Griffiths, Hobkirk Community Council, advised that they were developing a community website. They were carrying out an enquiry into the flooding incident.

DECISION

NOTED the reports.

10. **DATE OF NEXT TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM MEETING**

The next meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum would be held on Tuesday, 17 May 2016 at 6.30 pm in Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Hawick.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.

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NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Report by Service Director Neighbourhood Services

TEVIOT & LIDDESDALE AREA FORUM

17 MAY 2016

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the proposed new Neighbourhood and Quality of Life Schemes from the Area Forum.**
- 1.2 The following Neighbourhood Small Schemes have been requested for consideration by the Teviot & Liddesdale members: - grass cutting at The Mote, Hawick; contribution towards the removal of a derelict garage at rear of Lochpark Road, Hawick and removal of unwanted trees at Minto Churchyard.
- 1.3 The following Quality of Life Schemes have been requested for consideration by the Teviot & Liddesdale members: - provision of bus shelter at Newcastleton; contribution to Hawick welcome initiative.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 I recommend that the Teviot & Liddesdale Area Forum:

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

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (i) Grass cutting at The Mote, Hawick. | £600 |
| (ii) Contribution towards the removal of a derelict garage at the rear of Lochpark Road, Hawick. | £495 |
| (ii) Removal of unwanted trees at Minto Churchyard. | £434 |

(b) approves the following new Quality of Life Scheme for implementation:-

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| (i) Supply and install bus shelter at Newcastleton. | £7,755 |
| (ii) Contribution to Hawick Welcome Initiative. | £2,000 |

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Elected Members, Community Councils and the public can request potential Neighbourhood or Quality of Life schemes 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.

The following schemes have been requested for consideration via these routes to enhance the Teviot & Liddesdale Area:-

- (a) Grass cutting at The Moat, Hawick on two occasions – May and August (£600) This request was received from Ward Councillors.
- (b) Contribution towards the removal of a derelict garage at the rear of Lochpark Road, Hawick (£495). This request was received from Ward Councillors.
- (c) Removal of unwanted trees at the front corner of Minto Churchyard, allowing regeneration from the base of the trees, which will be managed at a lower level in future (£434). This request was received from local Ward Councillors.
- (d) Supply and installation of a bus shelter at Douglas Square, Newcastleton (£7,755). This request was received from local Ward Councillors.
- (e) Contribution to Hawick Welcome Initiative (£2,000). This request was received from local Ward Councillors.

3.2 Works will be scheduled to meet specific area needs, local timetable and to maximise the overall efficiency of the works programme.

4 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

- (a) A budget of £34,702 is available through Neighbourhood Services for small schemes in the Teviot and Liddesdale area in 2016/17. It has been agreed previously that this budget will be split equally between the Hawick & Hermitage and Hawick & Denholm Wards. If the above schemes are approved, then there will be a remaining budget of £16,256 in Hawick & Hermitage Ward and £16,917 in Hawick & Denholm Ward for future schemes.
- (b) In addition, a budget of £20,000 is available for Quality of Life schemes in the Teviot & Liddesdale Area in 2016/17. It has been agreed previously that this budget will be split equally between the Hawick & Hermitage and Hawick & Denholm Wards. If the above schemes are approved, then there will be a remaining budget of £245 in Hawick & Hermitage Ward and £10,000 in Hawick & Denholm Ward for future schemes.

4.2 Risk and Mitigations

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

4.3 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.

4.4 Acting Sustainably

It is anticipated that there will be a variety of economic, social or environmental benefits arising from the proposed schemes in para 3.1.

4.5 Carbon Management

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

4.6 Rural Proofing

This report does not relate to new or amended policy or strategy and as a result rural proofing is not an applicable consideration.

4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There is no change to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council are being consulted and any comments received will be incorporated in the final report.

Approved by

Jenni Craig

Service Director Neighbourhood Services

Signature

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Fraser Dunlop	Neighbourhood Area Manager 01835 824000 Ext 8029

Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: None

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Jacqueline Whitelaw can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA
NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES

APPENDIX A

Location	Work Description	Origin	Date of Enquiry	Status'	Price	Available Budget	Comments
Total Budget available for Neighbourhood Small Schemes						£34,702	
Hawick & Hermitage						£17,351	
The Mote, Hawick	Grass cutting				£600	£16,751	
Rear of Lochpark Road, Hawick	Contribution towards removal of derelict garage				£495	£16,256	
Hawick & Denholm						£17,351	
Minto Churchyard	Removal of unwanted trees				£434	£16,917	
Remaining Balance for Neighbourhood Small Schemes						£33,173	

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Location	Work Description	Origin	Date of Enquiry	Status ¹	Price	Available Budget	Comments
Total Budget available for Quality of Life Schemes						£20,000	
Hawick & Hermitage						£10,000	
Newcastleton	Supply and install bus shelter				£7,755	£2,245	
Hawick Welcome Initiative	Contribution				£2,000	£245	
Hawick & Denholm						£10,000	
Remaining Balance for Quality of Life Schemes						£10,245	

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