

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA LOCALITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the TEVIOT AND
LIDDESDALE AREA LOCALITY
COMMITTEE held in LESSER HALL, TOWN
HALL, HAWICK on Tuesday, 20 June 2017
at 6.30 pm

Present:- Councillors: S Marshall (Chairman), W McAteer, N Richards, G Turnbull.
Community Councillors: Mrs B Elborn (Newcastleton), Mrs A Knight
(Burnfoot), Mr C Griffiths (Hobkirk), Mr W Roberts (Denholm), Mr I Turnbull
(Hawick)

Apologies Councillors Paterson and Ramage, Mr McAdam (Southdean Community
Council)

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

Members of the Public 7

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman, Councillor Marshall, welcomed Members, officers, community councillor representatives and the public to the first meeting of the new Teviot and Liddesdale Area Locality Committee.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Turnbull moved that Councillor Richards be appointed as Vice-Chairman and this was unanimously agreed.

DECISION

AGREED that Councillor Richards be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Locality Committee.

3. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the meeting held on 21 March 2017.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute of the Meeting held on 21 March 2017.

4. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES**

With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of 21 March 2017, there had been circulated a report by Service Director Neighbourhood Services seeking approval for the following new Neighbourhood Small Schemes from the Locality Committee: felling of three conifer trees at the rear of Wilton Hill Terrace, Hawick; repair of existing handrail and replacement of missing handrail at Bright Street, Hawick; grass cutting at the Moat, Hawick in June and August.

DECISION

AGREED contributions towards:-

- (i) **Felling of 3 conifer trees at the rear of Wilton Hill Terrace, Hawick £410**

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| (ii) | Repair of existing handrail and replacement of missing handrail at Bright Street, Hawick; and | £850 |
| (iii) | Grass cutting at the Moat, Hawick | £600 |

5. **QUALITY OF LIFE SCHEME**

With reference to paragraph 7.2 of the Minute of 17 November 2015 Members were asked to note the grant of £2,000 to the Hawick Welcome Fund Initiative for 2017/18 from the Hawick and Hermitage budget.

DECISION

NOTED the grant of £2,000 to the Hawick Welcome Fund Initiative.

6. **POLICE SCOTLAND**

6.1 There had been circulated a report from Inspector Carol Wood, Police Scotland, updating the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Locality Committee on performance activities and issues in the area. The Ward Plan priorities for Teviot and Liddesdale were highlighted as Drug Dealing and Misuse, Road Safety, Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour. In summary, with regard to the Drug Dealing and Misuse priority, Inspector Wood advised that during May, four separate males had been charged with possession of a controlled substance after being searched by officers. The males were aged 16-29 and were all from the Hawick area. Also in May, Police were called to a dispute in Earl Street, Hawick. A male was searched and found in possession of a controlled substance and also an uncapped needle. The male was charged with possession as well as culpable and reckless conduct.

6.2 In terms of the Road Safety priority, Community Officers continued to give attention to areas where they had received complaints of speeding and inconsiderate driving. In certain circumstances, motor vehicles could be seized by Police where there was evidence that the vehicle was being driven carelessly or off road. It was essential that complaints about driving behaviour were notified to the police via 101 at the time. Vehicles continued to receive parking tickets and drivers were warned for parking longer than they should or breaching yellow line restrictions throughout the town. During May officers in Denholm observed a caravan being towed with no lights to the rear. Officers stopped the vehicle and found that the 19 year old driver and his passenger did not have the correct driving authorisation for towing a vehicle. Both were charged with various driving offences. There was also an incident at the Sandbed roundabout, when a man crashed his vehicle into the barrier. He was found to be driving without insurance and charged accordingly. Also in May, officers were called to a domestic disturbance at Eildon Road, Hawick, where the perpetrator had made off in his vehicle. Officers located the male and he was subsequently arrested for failing a breath test. He was charged with drink driving as well as breach of the peace. There were also a number of road checks carried out during the month, resulting in fixed penalty tickets being issued for speeding, failing to wear a seatbelt and one vehicle being seized under antisocial behaviour legislation. Inspector Wood highlighted the Drivewise Project which had been well received by those participating. The Young Persons' and Older Peoples' Driving programmes continued, there was no cost to those participating and community councils were encouraged to promote the programme across their areas. Further information was available at www.drivewiseborders.co.uk/index.html

6.3 In respect of the Violent Crime priority, there was one serious assault reported in Hawick during May. A 14 year old male had been assaulted in the Burnfoot area by four youths aged 13 and 14. The youths were charged with assault and have been reported through the youth justice system. Also in May, a male was charged with housebreaking as well as being in possession of drugs and a knife when searched by officers. The male has been detained in custody for appearance at court.

- 6.4 With regard to the Antisocial Behaviour priority, there was one fixed penalty ticket as well as eight police warnings given for antisocial behaviour.
- 6.5 Inspector Wood went on to advise that in the main the Common Riding events had ran smoothly and without issue. However, Police had dealt with a number of issues at Hawick Mair on Common Riding Friday, alcohol playing a part. A full debrief would be held with Hawick Common Riding Committee and learning points and areas for improvement for next year's event would be discussed.
- 6.6 To conclude her report, Inspector Wood referred to recent terrorist events. She reassured the Committee that Police Scotland were working with those responsible for large scale events in order to keep people safe. This had included Hawick Common Riding and this focus would be maintained on local events throughout the summer months. The current threat for International Terrorism was at severe, this meant that an attack was highly likely and we should remain alert. When the threat level had been critical there had been an increase in numbers and visibility of Police at events. The Police would act on information from the public who reported suspicious people or behaviour and would provide an appropriate response to the information given. Inspector Wood encouraged everyone to remain vigilant and "If you suspect it, report it" by contacting Police Scotland directly by calling 101 or reporting through the anti-terrorist hotline 0800 789 321. If there was an attack the 'Stay Safe' principles (Run Hide Tell) gave actions to consider at an incident. Full details were available on the Police Scotland website at www.scotland.police.uk
- 6.7 The Chairman thanked Inspector Wood for the comprehensive report and it was suggested that officers from Crimestoppers could be invited to give a presentation to a future Locality Committee to reassure the public of confidentiality when information was received by them. The Committee congratulated Police Scotland on their Drivewise Project and the Young Persons' and Older Peoples' Driving programmes. However, the number of fatal road accidents in the Scottish Borders was of concern. Inspector Wood advised that following a serious road accident, the site was scrutinised and road safety measures investigated.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the report;

(b) AGREED to invite Crimestoppers to attend a future Locality Committee to give a presentation.

7. SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

- 7.1 There had been circulated a report from Station Manager Russell Bell, Hawick Fire Station, presenting service delivery activity in the Teviot and Liddesdale Area for the month of June 2017. In summary, the report detailed that during the period of the report there had been two house fires (one accidental and one chimney); two other fires (one vehicle and one shop); seven special service occurrences (three medical responder, one flooding, two animal collisions, one animal rescue); and 15 unwanted fire alarm signals (domestic and industrial). Mr Bell advised that Hawick Whole-time crews had completed their water based, swift water rescue training and now all staff were trained to enter the water and a proportional number had also been trained as boat operators. The station had also received a dedicated, fully kitted van with towing trailer and boat to allow full deployment to a water rescue incident. Hawick Station now had a 'live status' which meant that the crew could be mobilised to any part of the UK if requested. The high volume pump was still located at Hawick, as training had not been completed at Dundee, its final destination. The extended trial period for the out of hospital cardiac arrest service continued. A report had been passed to SFRS Strategic Leadership Team with recommendations that the trial continued, a decision was awaited

- 7.2 Mr Bell further advised that the 5 Watch Duty System had now been introduced. A buffer number of three staff had been retained at Hawick Fire Station in recognition of future retirements. Mr Bell referred to the ongoing activity within the area including: working with Borders College to provide road safety awareness training; Driving Into the Future – an initiative aimed at educating new/potential drivers; Home Fire Safety Visits, Firesharp and Crucial Crew. It was noted that unwanted fire alarm signals were being addressed by a phased intervention which would identify premises producing ‘false alarms’. The Fire Service would provide guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence and could also evoke legislation if occurrences failed to reduce in number.
- 7.3 Mr Bell went on to advise that the Spring season 2017 thematic plan was current, the aim of which was the reduction of: grass fires; woodland/forest fires; heathland/moorland fires; fires in derelict buildings; fires involving refuse/rubbish; raising awareness of business/commercial waste management and environmental responsibilities; encouraging operational personnel to support local community spring clean-up initiatives; and assisting Police Scotland identifying fire offenders and managing offending.
- 7.4 To conclude his report, Mr Bell referred to the recent tragic events at Grenfell Tower, London. Mr Bell advised that there were three to four storey flats in the Teviot and Liddesdale area. The Fire Service had inspected these premises and there were no concerns at the moment. However, he warned against residents leaving goods in stairwells as this was a fire hazard.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

8. **OPEN QUESTIONS**

In answer to a question, Mr Bell advised that the Fire and Rescue Service liaised with the Borders Water Rescue Team when necessary.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

9. **COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

- 9.1 Mrs Knight, Burnfoot Community Council, reported that in May the community council had held a Cornet’s night at Burnfoot School which had been well attended. The Burnfoot Carnival would take place on Saturday 8 July at Burnfoot School. There would be bands, shows, stalls and other entertainment, it was hoped that Councillors would be able to attend. Mrs Knight also reported that the Community Council required a secretary. Meetings were held on the last Tuesday of each month at Burnfoot School. If anyone was interested in the position, they were asked to contact Burnfoot Community Council.
- 9.2 Mr Griffiths, Hobkirk Community Council, advised that flood repair works had commenced at Bonchester Bridge and thanked Members and officers for their assistance. With reference to paragraph 11.2 of the Minute of 21 March, the community council had been informed that burial plots at Hobkirk Churchyard were owned by the community not the Church. The Council were investigating responsibility for maintenance and would respond to the community council. Mr Griffiths referred to the Birneyknowe Windfarm application which had been rejected unanimously by Scottish Borders Council. Banks Renewables, the applicants, were now appealing the decision in terms of economic benefit and visual amenity. This meant that the community were now faced with a Public Inquiry and would be required to give evidence. The community would require to be legally represented which could cost in the region of £10k to £20k. To conclude his report, on a positive note, Mr Griffiths advised that the community were holding a party on 25 August to coincide with the Scarecrow Festival. In answer to a question, Mr Dunlop advised that the estimate for a notice board was still awaited.

- 9.3 Mrs Elborn, Newcastleton Community Council, referred to their last meeting when it had been requested that Council officers addressed removal of the tarmac left at Douglas Square. The tarmac had been removed the following day, the community council had photographic evidence if the Council required to pursue for fly tipping. Mrs Elborn continued that following a meeting with the local Health Service the community council had been advised that the mobile dental service was to be removed from the primary school. No communication had been received regarding the closure and the removal was of concern to the community. It was noted that the community council requested that works to access roads and pathways at Ettleton Cemetery be resolved through the Small Scheme or Quality of Life Scheme before the onset of inclement weather. Mrs Elborn agreed to send Mr Dunlop details of the problem areas. Mrs Elborn advised that there was an ongoing problem with speeding timber transportation through the village and damage being caused to the roadside and verges. Police were carrying out speed checks but more were required. The community council would be attending the Transport Feasibility meeting to ensure that freight transportation would be considered as part of the railway line extension. There was also the requirement for the road infrastructure to be investigated as the increase and volume of timber extractions would continue to affect the road infrastructure. Representatives from the community council would also be attending the FCS Forestry Panel meeting. The change of use from farmland to planting without full consideration of the impact on flood management and the requirement for mobile phone technology and broadband was of concern. Trees had the potential to ruin line of site locations for masts resulting in no signal for areas. This was not a planning consideration and the community council were seeking to fund a project officer to investigate more fully. SBC's planning department were supportive of the communities' concerns. However, national policy required that 25% of Scotland's landscape should be covered by trees by 2020. Mrs Elborn further advised that the community council were also working with Borders Broadband to provide a rural solution for homes and business. It was important that the council worked with the community to delivery this project and noted that anything which obstructed the landscape, such as a tree(s), could jeopardize the project. The community council asked that the Council consider these issues and lobby Scottish Government regarding. Mrs Elborn went on to refer to the local topographical survey underway in the village to determine the flood plan. There had been an incident recently when rainfall fell from the hillside into the Lakes, this required to be investigated as a priority. Mrs Elborn further advised that there had been a large turnout at their last meeting when there had been a discussion on job cuts to temporary staff at Newcastleton Primary School. Officers from the Council had been unable to respond to the communities' concerns. The community council has since met with the SBC's education department and had been given reassurance that their concerns would be addressed. However, one issue regarding the concerns of a parent had yet to be resolved.
- 9.4 It was noted that there would be no community council meeting in July. There next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting, following which the community council election would be held. To conclude her report Mrs Elborn advised that Newcastleton Music Festival would take place in two weeks' time and all were invited.
- 9.5 Mr Roberts, Denholm Community Council, advised that the Denholm Ride-Out had been well attended. He thanked the Police for their presence at the event for which they had received many positive comments. Another successful event hosted by Denholm was the Jimmie Guthrie Memorial Run. With reference to paragraph 11.3 of the Minute of 21 March regarding the mobile phone mast, the site visit had identified a location which would be discussed at the community council meeting the next evening. The provision of an additional mast would result in a significant improvement in mobile phone coverage for the Denholm area.
- 9.6 Mr Turnbull, Hawick Community Council, referred to his appointment as the new chairman of Hawick Community Council, due to the resignation of Mrs Short. With reference to paragraph 11.5 of the Minute of 21 March regarding dog fouling, he reported that the community council had received funding from the Small Schemes budget for bags and

warning posters which were now in place. He enquired as to the status of enforcement officers, Mr Dunlop advised that he would investigate and report back to Mr Turnbull outwith the meeting. With regard to the Resilience Group, 23 members had been trained to use the defibrillators and he was pleased to advise that a defibrillator would be located at the Town Hall. Mr Turnbull further advised that the community council had purchased 10 two way radios which would enhance the Resilience Group's communication and would also be used at the Christmas Parade. Mr Turnbull concluded by advising that the community council had been disappointed that Wilton Park Café had still not opened, the cafe had lost valuable resources as they had missed another season.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the reports;

(b) AGREED:-

(i) That NHS Borders be requested to supply a list of dates representatives would be available to attend Locality Committee meetings; and

(ii) Works to Ettleton Cemetery, Newcastleton be pursued through the Small Schemes or Quality of Life budget.

10. LOCALITIES COMMITTEE

10.1 The Chairman, Councillor Marshall, referred to the change of name for the Committee. He explained, that this was the first stage in the development of the Council's new Locality Committees. At this point in time, this was the only change. A report would be presented to Council over the summer which would include proposals for developing arrangements. Locality Plans would sit with Locality Committees, as would some additional budgeting responsibilities including a new Localities Bid Fund. Guidance on this was currently being prepared and details would be provided to communities as soon as possible. A review was being carried out over the summer as to the shape of the new Locality Committees and communities would have the opportunity to feed into this process. The Chairman went on to advise that under a directive from the Scottish Government, as part of the Community Empowerment Act, £500k had been set aside from the Council's budget to spread across five localities. The Committee would decide how to allocate the money for which communities would be encouraged to bid to benefit their areas. The Quality of Life and Small Schemes budget would not be affected. The five Locality Committee Chairmen would attend a briefing in August which would include discussion on the parameters for the bidding process.

10.2 There followed a discussion, it was noted that although the funding was welcomed there was a concern that communities might not have the necessary time or effort to drive forward projects. The appointment of a development officer would be beneficial to maximise funding opportunities and provide advice. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

11. DATES OF TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA LOCALITY COMMITTEES FOR 2017/18

The dates for future meetings of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Forum were as follows:-

Tuesday, 15 August 2017 at 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 19 September 2017 at 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 14 November 2017 at 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 12 December 2017 at 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 16 January 2018 at 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 20 February 2018 at 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 20 March 2018 at 6.30 pm

Tuesday, 17 April 2018 at 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 15 May 2018 at 6.30 pm
Tuesday, 19 June 2018 at 6.30 pm.

The meeting concluded At 7.30 pm.