

# SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL CHEVIOT LOCALITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of Meeting of the CHEVIOT LOCALITY COMMITTEE held in Assembly Room, Jedburgh Grammar School, Jedburgh on Wednesday, 13 September 2017 at 6.30 pm

-----

- Present:- Councillor S. Mountford (Chairman), S. Hamilton, E. Robson, S. Scott, T. Weatherston, Community Councillors C. Cook (Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet CC), N. Jarvis (Sprouston CC), D. Weatherston (Kelso CC), J. Taylor (Jedburgh CC), D. Allan (Yetholm CC), Inspector Carol Wood and Inspector Scott (Police Scotland – J Division).
- Apologies:- Councillor J. Brown, Community Councillors A. Drummond (St Boswells CC), B. Bell (Kalewater CC), A. Carter (Floors, Makerstoun, Nenthorn & Smailholm CC), D. Ogilvie (Ancrum CC), R. Bell (Heiton & Roxburgh CC), Matt Acton (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).
- In Attendance:- Area Neighbourhood Manager (Mr A. Finnie), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs F Henderson).
- Members of the Public:- 0
- 

## 1.0 **WELCOME**

- 1.2 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **DECISION NOTED.**

## 2.0 **MINUTE**

- 2.1 There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting of the Cheviot Locality Committee of 21 June 2017.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chairman.**

## 3.0 **UPDATE ON LOCALITIES**

- 3.1 The Service Director – Customer & Communities was present at the meeting to update the Committee on the emerging Agenda from the Community Empowerment Act. It was explained that Communities and Organisations could get more involved in shaping services and Scottish Borders Council was looking at Communities being the key in taking the Agenda forward. There would be development and engagement with Communities in partnership with SBC, Police Scotland, NHS Borders, Scottish Enterprise, Fire and Rescue Services. Locality Committees are seen as being key to this but not in the form they are at the moment. Discussions are ongoing on how to improve them and the proposed name of the Committee is likely to be 'Cheviot Area Partnership' and a report would be presented to Council later in the month, any decision taken would be reviewed and monitored as the Agenda evolved.
- 3.2 A Devolved Localities Bid Fund of £0.5m had been put in place and would be divided between the 5 Partnership areas and the report on 28 September 2017 will detail how this will work, the proposal being that projects which would be key to Community Bids

would be submitted to an assessment panel for criteria checking and if successful, the public would vote on-line, in Libraries etc. As this is a new venture it would be evaluated on an ongoing basis and looking at ways to enhance the Area Partnership and get members of the public involved by looking at the Agenda Structure and allowing the public to decide on items for the Agenda. In response to a question about engaging with the Clubs in the area, Mrs Craig advised that was the challenge each area faced as one size did not fit all. Some concern was raised about on-line voting and Mrs Craig advised that the most popular system seemed to be holding events and getting people to come along and vote, all comments would be taken on board and taken into considered when finalising proposals. The Council would work with unsuccessful groups to try and find other sources of funding.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

**4.0 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN MAIN ISSUES REPORT**

4.1 With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of 1 February 2017, Mr Johnston’s presentation related to the preparation of a new Local Development Plan (LDP). He confirmed the Council was commencing work on the new Local Development Plan and the timeline for preparing the new LDP which was on a 5 year cycle. He summarised the timeline for the production of the Plan and highlighted that the first stage, the Main Issues Report (MIR), would be prepared by spring 2018. The MIR was a front runner to the LDP which in essence sought to identify a range of issues which the LDP should address. The MIR, which would be sent out for public consultation, identified preferred sites for houses as well as alternatives. It also proposed where planning policies could be updated, removed or merged. The MIR sought public opinion on a range of matters such as the main aims of the LDP, proposals for allocation of employment sites, housing policy, retail policy, regeneration issues, green space protection and climate change issues. Community engagement would be carried out through a series of exhibitions and workshops with community groups as follows:-

- |                       |                                  |   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| • Eyemouth            | Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept  | Eyemouth Community Centre   |
| • Kelso               | Tuesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | Kelso Town Hall   |
| • Galashiels<br>Trans | Wednesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Tesco foyer (afternoon) /<br>Interchange (evening)                  |
| • Peebles             | Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup>       | Hawick Heritage Hub   |
| • Duns                | Thursday, 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct    | Duns Council Chamber  |
| • Selkirk             | Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct    | 1 Tower St (afternoon),<br>Comm. Connections, Back Row<br>(evening) |
| • Newtown St Boswells | Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct   | Council Chamber (Workshop only<br>2 – 4 pm)                         |

4.2 In response to a question regarding the size of advertising Boards on empty properties within town centres, Mr Johnston advised that was a matter for the Enforcement team. The matter of town centre properties being converted into flats and not providing parking spaces was raised and Mr Scott, Senior Roads Planning Officer advised that it would depended on whether it was a conversion or a new build, but is was certainly something which would be taken into consideration. Other matter which were raised included capacity and effect on existing infrastructure and seeking developer contributions towards residential homes and care for older people.

**DECISION  
NOTED.**

5.0 **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR THE STOPPING-UP OF A SECTION OF ROAD FROM THE COUNCILS LIST OF PUBLIC ROADS**

5.1 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director – Assets & Infrastructure seeking approval for the stopping-up of part of the D148/4 Samieston and Upper Samieston road. The report explained that the Council had been asked by the land owner if a section of the aforementioned road could be stopped-up and removed from the Council's List of Public Roads. Following discussions with the various interested parties, it was proposed to stop-up the section of road shown on the plan attached to the report and remove from the Council's List of Public Roads as requested. Mr Scott, Senior Roads Planning Officer who was in attendance to present the report, advised that the proposal was still in the consultation period, although no comments had been received to date.

**DECISION**

**AGREED the stopping-up of part of the D148/4 Samieston and Upper Samieston road, as shown on the plan attached to the report, and delegated authority to confirm the order subject to there being no substantive representations made against the proposal.**

6.0 **NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES UPDATE**

6.1 With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of 21 June 2017, there had been circulated copies of a report by the Service Director Assets and Infrastructure which sought approval from the Locality Committee for the proposed new neighbourhood Small Schemes. The Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that the allocated budget (£34,702) for small schemes was available through Neighbourhood Services for the Cheviot Area in 2017/18. Approval of the schemes detailed below would result in a budget of £27,076 for future schemes. In addition, a budget of £34,099 was available for Quality of Life Schemes in the Cheviot Area in 2017/18. Approval of the schemes detailed below would result in a remaining budget of £15,246 in the Kelso and District Ward and £9,743 in the Jedburgh and District Ward for future schemes. It had previously been agreed that this budget would be split equally between Kelso and District and Jedburgh and District Wards.

**DECISION**

**(a) APPROVED the following new Neighbourhood Small Schemes:-**

- (i) Erect rabbit proof netting around Castlewood Cemetery, Jedburgh  
£2,630
- (ii) Supply and erect street name plate at Howdenburn Court, Jedburgh  
£ 260
- (iii) Supply and install defibrillator signs within existing kiosk at Clintmains Village  
£ 160

**(b) APPROVED the following new Quality of Life Schemes for implementation:-**

- (i) Financial contribution towards tree maintenance Works at Howden Crescent, Jedburgh  
£ 865
- (ii) Removal of trees within woodland strip to rear of The Linn, Kelso  
£ 825

**(c) AGREED to delegate authority to the Service Director for Assets and Infrastructure to allocate funds for Quality of Life schemes in 2017/18 out with the scheduled Locality Committees when work was considered time critical, subject to approval by all Ward Members.**

## 7.0 **POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND – UPDATE FOR ‘J’ DIVISION**

7.1 Inspector Wood was present at the meeting to update the Cheviot Locality Committee on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period 1 June 2017 to 31 August 2017. During the reporting period, Inspector Wood advised that five persons had been charged with possessing a controlled substance. Four of these related to the town of Jedburgh and one St Boswells. Additionally one male was reported for possession with intent to supply a controlled substance in St Boswells. Two of the above persons were reported following the executive of drugs search warrants at their home addresses. The Police would remain visible in the community to develop intelligence on people who deal in and use controlled drugs. Work with partners, combining education and enforcement strategies would continue together with intelligence received from the public in relation to drug matters whether that is persons being in possession or persons dealing drugs. Completely anonymous information can be left on Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. In terms of Road Safety, a number of road checks had been carried out and a number of drivers have been charged with various road traffic offences following incidents or accidents over the last three months notably: A thirty-two year old male charged with a drink driving offence following an incident on 2<sup>nd</sup> of June in Jedburgh. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of July a twenty-nine year old male was cautioned and charged with failing to have a valid driving licence, no MOT and no insurance following reported driving behaviour which culminated in two accidents. Additionally he has been charged with offences relating to providing identity details. A forty-nine year old male was charged with failing to possess a valid licence or MOT whilst driving in Jedburgh on 13<sup>th</sup> July and His vehicle was seized. A John Deere tractor with a towed red trailer damaged two cars in Jedburgh on 27<sup>th</sup> of July. The male driver failed to stop and enquiries to date have not traced him. Also during the reporting period one driver had been issued a fixed penalty notice for driving whilst using a mobile phone and two further notices were issued for speeding offences. In terms of Anti-Social Behaviour, A number of individuals had been charged with causing a breach of the peace. These incidents were isolated and there was no pattern to them. It was further reported that Rural Crime thefts of fuel had been reported from HGV operators whilst the vehicles had been parked and secure within industrial estates in the locality. Locked fuel caps had been forced in these cases. Two incidents of the theft of phone cable had been reported where persons had cut underground cables at maintenance access points. Two four foot gates forming a ‘kissing gate’ on a SBC maintained countryside walk were stolen on 20<sup>th</sup> July and following a series of presentations of counterfeit currency in the area a twenty-four year old male was charged with such an offence in Jedburgh.

7.2 In terms of Kelso and District, the final stages of the recruitment process for the appointment of the Station Assistant Post at Kelso Police Station were awaited and it was hoped to appoint a candidate in the near future. In terms of Dishonesty, there had been one theft by housebreaking committed in the reporting period, which related to the theft of a horsebox and equipment from Kaimeknowe Stables overnight between the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August and enquiries were ongoing in relation to this crime. It was again highlighted the need to take extra steps to maintain the security of homes, following reports of a prowler in the Wallaceneuk area of Kelso and the public were asked for extra vigilance to prevent thefts. There was a Drivewise Project running in partnership with the emergency services, The Institute Of Advanced Motorists, Scottish Borders Council and supported by John Cleland and Volvo UK to which all schools across the Borders were sending their young people to get a driving experience at the Charterhall airfield. This had been really well received by those participating and had allowed road safety messages to be delivered along with a positive experience of learning to drive. The young persons and older peoples driving programmes continued to run and these were sponsored so there was not a cost to those participating. There had been one drink driving offence reported in the Kelso area and the Police notified media outlets of all drink driving offences to highlight this to the community. In terms of Drug Dealing and Misuse of Drugs, it was reported that there had been 8 drugs offences in the Kelso during the reporting period. There had been a number of concerns with regards to Antisocial Behaviour in the area around Roger Fish Gardens,

Kelso. A multi-agency approach had been implemented and the police would continue to support the residents there, we would encourage the reporting of all issues and where required telephone the police to report incidents.

- 7.3 Action Against Violence campaign, aimed to reduce the number of violent incidents and improve the safety and wellbeing of individuals and communities.” During recent public surveys, violent crime was ranked as a key concern, placing it as one of Police Scotland's top priorities. As such, the One Punch Can Ruin Two Lives campaign had been introduced to raise awareness of the consequences that one punch can have on two people's lives. “One punch can kill and could result in facing a jail sentence. We want people to enjoy their nights out but at the same time to drink responsibly and consider how much alcohol they were consuming and the effect it had on their decision making and judgement.” More details are on the Police Scotland website. During August an information event was held at Eildon Mill, Tweedbank, encouraging members of the public to consider volunteering with the Police as a Special Constable. This was very successful and well attended and was part of a long term plan to recruit more Special Constable Officers. More information was available on the website along with all of the information you need to apply. There were currently a number of officers volunteering alongside their full time colleagues, they were an important and valued support in delivering first class services in the area. Finally in terms of Student Safety, Police Scotland were delivering vital safety advice to students at Fresher's Weeks around the country as part of the Student Safety Campaign, which was launched on 5 September 2017. The campaign provided tips on how to enjoy student life while avoiding potential dangers, and covered advice on home and property security, Online Safety, Party Safety, Identity Safety, Water Safety and Illicit Trade. Students were encouraged to think about how secure their accommodation was, and giving useful tips on how best to prevent their home being targeted by thieves. Students were also being reminded to record details of all valuables, such as laptops, phones etc. which could be logged into [immobilise.com](http://immobilise.com), so if they do experience a theft and the police recover the items, they can be returned to the owner. With social media being a large part of a student's life, there's useful advice reminding students that “what goes online stays online” and not to leave themselves open to criminal charges or vulnerable to blackmail. In response to a question about special constables, Inspector Scott explained the role of a Special constable. Concerns were raised about the boy racers in the car park and at Allers Mill, Inspector Wood advised that the police were working on this although cautioned that they did not want to displace the problem to another area. The Police were alerted to the fact that some drivers were ignoring the one way system at the top of Roxburgh Street, Kelso in order to access the Cobby and the Police agreed to look into this.

## **DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

### **8.0 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE UPDATE**

- 8.1 In the absence of a representative from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) the Chairman referred to the written report submitted by Station Manager, Matt Acton which had been circulated. The update referred to the ongoing prevention and protection activity described in the last report to the Locality Committee. The report detailed that during the period of the report there had been 3 House Fires (2 x private and 1x Sheltered Housing); 4 Other Fires (3 x crop/grass and 1 x barbeque); Special Services 7 and 23 unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. Activity which was ongoing within the Cheviot Ward area included Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staff in all local stations providing Home Fire Safety Visits all year round; The living safely in the home (LSITH) initiative continued in the Cheviot locality, with a number of referrals made by the SFRS to community partners and an evaluation of the trial was underway. Crews from Kelso Fire Station were taking part in the Cheviot Youth Group Initiative to engage with the Youth Group at The Planet, Kelso. The initiative involved a series of visits and discussions around life in the fire service and would include valuable safety messages,

including fire safety in the home, bonfire night safety, water safety, amongst other topics. It was also a great opportunity for the firefighters to become positive role models for the young people of Kelso. Kelso crews recently attended the Mass Pipe Band and Family Day at Floors Castle, where they provided a demonstration of rescuing a casualty from a road traffic collision. Watch Manager Garry Lees provided an informative running commentary of the rescue to the crowd. The crews also delivered CPR training to the public at this well attended event.

8.2 New ways to engage with the farming community were being investigated to provide advice and guidance regarding farm fire safety and security. Work had taken place in partnership with Police Scotland, the NFU, NFU Mutual and the Scottish Association of Young Farmers, where a number of positive engagement opportunities had been identified, including farm walk and talks, attending agricultural shows, markets and auctions, and engagement with young members of the farming community.

8.3 Road Safety Community Action Team (CAT) had delivered road safety awareness to secondary schools throughout the Scottish Borders with the support of the local whole time personnel from Galashiels and Hawick. Fire Safety Audits provided a targeted examination of business premises and their relevant documents to ascertain how the premises were being managed regarding fire safety.

**DECISION**

**NOTED the report.**

9.0 **ENGAGEMENT WITH NHS BORDERS**

9.1 As there was no representative present from NHS Borders, there was no update given.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

10.0 **OPEN QUESTIONS**

10.1 There were no issues raised.

**DECISION**

**NOTED.**

11.0 **COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT**

11.1 Community Councillor Weatherston requested that the amount of Hospitality received be increased in line with that allowed for SBC Elected Members'

**DECISION**

**AGREED that the Democratic Services Officer investigate.**

11.2 Community Councillor Jarvis raised concerns with regard to an undesignated layby on the Sprouston to Kelso road which was being used for inappropriate behaviour and a dumping ground for large quantities of lager cans. A litter bin was suggested, however Mr Finnie advised that placing a bin was more likely to encourage inappropriate use and the solution may be to remove the layby altogether.

**DECISION**

**AGREED that Mr Finnie investigate this matter and report back to a future meeting.**

12.0 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12.1 The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership was scheduled for Wednesday, 6 December 2017 in the New High School, Kelso.

**DECISION**

**NOTED** the date of the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership and that the venue would be the new Kelso High School.

**PRIVATE BUSINESS**

**DECISION**

**AGREED** under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the business detailed in the Appendix to this Minute on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 12 of part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

**SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS**

**13.0 HIGH STREET, JEDBURGH**

- 13.1 The Committee received an update from Mr Alan Gueldner on the progress of the work being undertaken on the High Street, Jedburgh.

*The meeting concluded at 8.10 p.m.*