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Tweeddale Area Partnership



MINUTES of Meeting of the TWEEDDALE
AREA PARTNERSHIP held in St. Ronan's
Primary School, Innerleithen on Wednesday,
23 May 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman), H. Anderson, S. Bell, K. Chapman,
S. Haslam, E. Small together with 30 Representatives of Partner
Organisations, Community Councils and Members of the Public.
In Attendance:- Communities and Partnership Manager, Democratic Services Team Leader

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the third meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership.

2. **OPEN FORUM**

The following issues were raised by those present:-

- Concerns were raised regarding possible cuts to the bus service from Biggar to Edinburgh and Service 62 serving Clovenfords – Councillor Haslam advised that the re-tendering process was ongoing and that a number of options were being considered.
- The possible changes to opening times of the Eshiels Community Recycling Centre was raised – Councillor Haslam advised that following a public consultation it had been agreed to close the centre on 1 day per week on the basis that the centre would be open longer on the other days during the summer months. Councillor Bell requested that details of the consultation be shared.
- In response to a query regarding the commencement date for the programme to repair potholes Councillor Haslam advised that work had commenced and she would ask for a timetable for specific areas.

3. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 27 MARCH 2018**

The Chairman summarised the feedback which had been received. In response to the query regarding the renovation of the monument at the source of the Tweed, Councillor Anderson advised that she had visited the site with officers and Tweedsmuir Community Council were assisting with gathering funds to allow for further improvements.

4. **THEME: QUALITY OF LIFE**

- 4.1 The Chairman advised that the initial presentations would be broken into two parts and he then introduced Margaret Smail from the Community Learning and Development Service and Lisa Denham from Live Borders. Margaret Smail advised that her service aim was all about improving the quality of life for individuals and communities as a whole. In a time of limited resources the key was partnership working to help address inequalities. She also co-ordinated the Tweeddale Community Learning Partnership who were identifying the priorities for the area based on a combination of data and speaking to people. There were both Youth and Adult learning teams. There was an officer based at Peebles High School who engaged with young people and helped take learning out into the community. This was very successful for those who did not respond to traditional learning methods. In respect of adult learners the main issues being addressed were literacy and IT skills.

- 4.2 Lisa Denham advised on the work of Live Borders in the Tweeddale Area. The Tweeddale Arts Strategy was very successful and allowed significant funding to be obtained. There was a Cultural Forum which met and the next meeting in Tweeddale would be held on 26 November in the Eastgate Theatre. She also commented on the success of the Peebles Library which had the highest lending rate in the Scottish Borders. There were a number of other activities run by the Library which included a very successful Code Club for young people. The Borders Science Festival was running throughout May and events in Tweeddale so far had been well supported. Live Borders were also working closely with the Eastgate Theatre on their ambitious extension project. Two new Arts posts were being funded and a consultation with young people was about to be launched as part of the Year of Young People. She also commented on forthcoming events and the redesign of the Live Borders Website.
- 4.3 Shona Smith, Communities and Partnership Manager explained how the session would work and that there were information packs on each table. Those present were invited to discuss and agree at their respective tables an answer to the question "What are the key challenges, issues or opportunities for quality of life in Tweeddale". The points identified were to be written down on the post-it notes provided and would be collated at the end of the discussion. 15 minutes was given for this first discussion.
- 4.4 The Chairman introduced Inspector Tony Hodges from Police Scotland and Mike Jaffray, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Delivery Manager for the Scottish Borders. Tony Hodges advised that the fundamental aim was to keep people safe. The Local Police Plan covered the period until 2020 and contained the seven Local namely domestic abuse, road safety, violent crime, anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol misuse, protecting people and acquisitive crime. There was also strong links to the Council's Safer Communities team. He highlighted the protection of vulnerable people which demanded the greatest part of police resources and commented on the recent search for a high risk missing person. A new Community Action Team funded by the Council had been set up to specifically address quality of life issues. To date they had issued 100 parking tickets and were also dealing with drugs and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of schools.
- 4.5 Mike Jaffray commented on the Local Fire and Rescue Plan for the Scottish Borders which included the priority of making people feel safer in their homes and on the roads. He also highlighted work on community resilience, road traffic collisions and extreme weather such as flooding. The service also worked with young people to help prevent anti-social behaviour. Work was being carried out to reduce unwanted fire alarm signals, where there was no fire but an automated fire alarm system was activated which accounted for over 50% of all calls in the Tweeddale area. He concluded by emphasising the importance of partnership working and that the service wanted to work closely with communities.
- 4.6 A further 15 minutes of discussion time was given and this was followed by a short break. Shona Smith then highlighted some of the most common points identified with transport being the biggest issue. Other points raised included care provision, communications, the environment and youth provision. A copy of the output from the evening forms the appendix to this Minute. The Chairman thanked the speakers and all those present for their contributions.
5. **OTHER BUSINESS**
The Chairman advised that there was no other business.
6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 5 September 2018 and the theme would be "Our Place". The venue for the meeting would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm

Discussion Output: Our Quality of Life Theme (23rd May 2018)

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Care provision

Post-it Notes:

- Care provision to remote or outlying areas (under provision in Tweeddale)
- Supporting improving Quality of Life for disabled. Home care service proving difficult to recruit. People left in bed too late.
- Fuel poverty – reports of people using Halogen heaters which can be dangerous and expensive.
- Support people to complete Universal Credit applications.
- Care facilities for elderly in Peebles. Semi or sheltered accommodation.
- Extra care at Dovecote as over subscribed?
- Housing for younger disables people.
- What's the offer for transition?
- Dementia requires acute hospital.

“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:

- Train and value care staff. Pay better.
- Give people better energy advice.
- Bulk buying oil and fuel can be cheaper.
- Use libraries to provide support for credit applications.

Key Areas for Tweeddale

- **Provision of suitable housing (sheltered, extra care, young people with disabilities), incl. tackling fuel poverty**

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Transport

Post-it Notes:

- Reporting near misses on roads, which normally aren't reported.
- Last bus times are too early.
- Abuse of parking spaces. Victorian layout doesn't help.
- Community Councils are great for listening to communities. W4Peebles website? Walkerburn and District.
- Tensions in Innerleithen – MTB's cycling in the woods – need a balance as residents should be considered.
- A701 – Road traffic accidents - motorbikes?
- Can we have a breakdown of the RTA's?
- Unforgiving roads in the Borders contributes to the problem.
- Expansion of community transport network projects is key to quality of life in the Scottish Borders.

- Red Cross drivers are fantastic!
- Mechanism for reporting to the CAT team – Cllr Tatler.
- Parking at Dovecote Road.
- Parking issues at centre of Peebles, Innerleithen, Walkerburn, Broughton and West Linton.
- Bus service to Galashiels not just to Edinburgh. Last bus is 9.30pm!
- Concerns regarding public transport particularly for the rural communities.
- Cost of transport.
- Impact of lack of transport on communities – particularly young people.
- Better direct transport links to Edinburgh to attract tourists and make Tweeddale more accessible.
- Speedwatch pilots in rural areas.
- 101 and 102 Bus routes needs looked at.
- Buses to BGH are a nightmare.
- Getting people back into work who need transport – lacking!
- Social interaction – transport is a barrier. People who could benefit don't get it. Bus companies wont run a route if not making money.
- Remote and rural – cost, access to transport and low wages have an impact on Quality of Life. SIMD – rurality.
- Young people cant get jobs or education if a lack of transport.
- Motorcyclists – safety – High vis, helmets, need educated on respecting other road users – they need targeted to be educated.
- Motorcycles – noise, travelling in packs, 701 bikes trying to take off on bump on road.
- Bicyclists – ASB – on pavements, wheelies and causing a nuisance on shared use paths/bridleways.
- Older people will have a loss of independence if cannot drive and so rely on a bus service.

“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:

- Campaign to increase volunteer drivers in the Borders.
- Ability of school pupils to use bus passes on later routes to enable them to make better use of activities without additional cost as is current situation.
- Community consultation regarding timetables/routes etc in respect of public transport.
- Transport partnerships – can better use be made/better co-ordination of non public funded transport.
- Community Trust set up a Community Bus?
- Community bus linked in with Tweed Wheels or School buses?

Key Areas for Tweeddale

- **Transport**
 - **Public transport – key routes and availability/cost of public transport**
 - **Barrier to employment**
 - **Social isolation**
 - **Community transport**

- Road safety, incl. motorcyclists, cyclists
- Parking provision and policing

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Youth

Post-it Notes:

- Being heard and how to listen.
- Peer services for younger kids.
- Child forums like the Area partnership meetings.
- Public transport for rural areas.
- Ongoing support from a young age.
- More child involvement.
- Non –sport programmes for children.
- Littering from cyclists, tourists and locals in parks.
- Local mental health for children is atrocious.
- Interjection at a younger age.
- More support for children at school.
- More social spaces/outdoor space.
- More accepting in schools – alternative schools?
- Bike recycle?
- Issue of school being measured by academic achievement. Opportunity to develop other careers – micro businesses. Focus on keeping young people or attract them back – use of applied learning.
- Use of South of Scotland Enterprise Agency to support apprenticeship with local trades people.
- School careers events – opportunities for young people to get involved. Young people get to chat to experienced Trades people – facilitated bt CLD or guidance teacher.
- Use of groups such as the Callant’s club to go into schools to speak to young people.
- Imbalance of young people – need for Border College to have a presence in Tweeddale – gap for those who don’t have an academic career – get lecturers to come and present to pupils in High School.
- Importance of self-worth for young people – benefits of doing things for other people – positive feedback received. Value of both giving and receiving – volunteering. Give access to other opportunities, plus point on CV’s.
- Volunteering important for all ages. Need to draw people in. CLD going to have a column in Peebleshire news to share story of volunteers to encourage others.
- Use of a ‘day in the life’ of all sorts of people in the Peebleshire news to make young people aware if the opportunities available to them.
- Issue with youths – drink and drugs.

- Social media – positive and negative points.
- Use IT to share information on various topics such as ‘community banking schemes’.
- Existing activities taken to communities as opposed to being centrally based (in Peebles!)

“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:

- Closing the gap – peer support.
- Safety of vulnerable – a shorter time to identify vulnerable (especially youth)
- Continuation of partnerships advertising prevention.
- Closing the economic gap – transport, services, gym membership etc.
- Given the issues of bad/dangerous driving amongst young drivers – create a form of race track where young people can take their cars and race but also learn how to drive safely.
- More use of Special constables in Tweeddale.

Key Areas for Tweeddale

- **Youth Support at all ages and stages**
 - **Mental health**
 - **Different career pathways**
 - **Wider reach of Borders College**
 - **Wider reach into rural communities (out with Peebles)**

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Communication

Post-it Notes:

- Need for more visible police presence.
- Communication – information to isolated communities.
- Lots going on that people are not aware of – need a single Tweeddale website to bring everything together – needs funding and a co-ordinator.
- Use of modern technology to allow services such as registrars to visit communities rather than travelling into Peebles.
- Intergenerational – dissemination of information via technology and social media. Positive tool in education
- Knowing what is on? Access to information for all.

“Priority” & “Solutions/Actions” Post-its:

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Key Areas for Tweeddale

- **Communication of information and activities across/between communities, partners, etc.**

Summary/Area of Discussion:

Culture, Heritage and the Environment

Post-it Notes:

- Need for infrastructure to allow comfortable living eg state of roads. Need the fundamentals to be in place.
- Eastgate is a great place for disabled people to meet. How are Eastgate improving the life of disabled people. Access panel to consider how disabled are re-housed.
- Eastgate theatre could do with much more – specifically in the rural areas if it was funded properly/more?
- Core funding requires more.
- Improve partnership with Live borders – a spread of responsibilities.
- Importance of the environment in which we live – impact of physical environment.
- Quality of Life means different things to different people – need to consider all ages.
- SB Alert is great.
- Planning system is too narrow – doesn't take into account things like Peebles Town Action Plan which highlights local issues. Doesn't take into account urban planning needs.
- Recycling centres – not given information from the consultation – what were the questions that were asked?
- Information on the fly tipping figures.

"Priority" & "Solutions/Actions" Post-its:

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Key Areas for Tweeddale

- **What more could be done with our cultural and environmental assets?**
 - E.g. Eastgate Theatre, Peebles – opportunities for better support for people with disabilities; extend reach of Theatre into more rural/remote communities

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