

# SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL CHEVIOT AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of Meeting of the CHEVIOT AREA  
PARTNERSHIP held in Microsoft Teams on  
Wednesday, 26 January 2022 at 6.30 pm

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Present:- Councillors S. Hamilton (Chair), J. Brown, S. Mountford, E. Robson, S. Scott  
and T. Weatherston

Apologies:- Councillors

Absent:- Councillors

In Attendance:-

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## 1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- 1.1 Microsoft teams, which included elected Members, guests attending within the meeting and those watching via the Live Stream. He outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

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.

## 2.0 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 24 NOVEMBER 2021

- 2.1 The minute of the meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership held on 24 November 2021 had been circulated and was noted.

## SECTION 1: SERVICE & PARTNER UPDATES

### 3.0 PLACE MAKING UPDATE

- 3.1 The Strategic Community Engagement Officer reported that appointments had been made to the posts of Community Place, Planning and Regeneration Officer and Project Manager - Place Making. The Chairman welcomed Sharon Renwick (Community Place, Planning and Regeneration Officer) and Naomi Sweeney (Project Manager – Place Making to the meeting and asked them to say a few words about their future plans.

## DECISION NOTED.

### 3.2 COMMON GOOD – CONSULTATION ON ASSET REGISTER

Mrs Hannah MacLeod, Principal Solicitor was present and explained that under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 the Council was required to establish and maintain a register of property which was held by the authority as part of the Common Good (“a Common Good Register”). Common Good was a type of property that local authorities may have, which had been passed down by former burgh councils. It often had strong historical and emotional value to local communities, as well as its practical use and financial value. Before establishing a Common Good Register, the Act required the Council to publish a list of property that it proposed to include in the Register and consult the public in setting up these registers. The Council approved the process for compliance with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 on 31 January 2019, and work had been ongoing in consolidating all information held in respect of heritable and moveable Common Good assets. From the work carried out, a draft list of assets considered to be a complete list of heritable and moveable assets held by the Kelso

Common Good and Jedburgh Common Good had been prepared, and were included on the draft registers which were out for consultation. The consultation would seek representations on (i) whether a proposed asset should be included as part of the Common Good; or (ii) whether there should be other assets included in the Common Good asset list. In addition to the electronic survey, the proposed lists of Common Good assets would be published on the Council's website and paper copies would be made available, free of charge, on request. All Community Councils and other community bodies were being made aware of the publication of the proposed Common Good Asset lists and invited to make representations in respect of these lists. The twelve week consultation would run until 31 March 2022.

## **DECISION NOTED.**

### **JIM CLARK RALLY**

- 3.3 There had been circulated copies of a report by the Director of Infrastructure and Environment which provided the Area Partnership and the local community an opportunity to consider and comment on the proposals submitted by event organisers of the Jim Clark Rally to hold a rally on closed roads in the Scottish Borders on the weekend of 27 to 29 May 2022. The report highlighted the revised legislation introduced in 2019 to allow motor sports events to take place on closed public roads. The new regulations build upon previous experience through the Jim Clark Rally and other events and were intended to introduce increased rigor to the procedure for organising and running such events. The 2019 Regulations introduced a two stage procedure where organisers must first successfully apply to an "authorised body" for a permit before applying to the local roads authority for a Motor Sports Order. In determining whether to make a Motor Sports Order, Scottish Borders Council, as local roads authority, had to consider a number of factors laid out in the Regulations. The report outlined those factors and provided an opportunity to examine the proposals submitted by the rally organisers in respect of the routes and timings for the rally on 27 to 29 May 2022. The organisers of the Jim Clark Rally, having successfully applied for a permit from "the authorised body", had lodged an application with Scottish Borders Council (within the specified 6 month period required to allow consideration) seeking a Motor Sports Order to undertake the event. It was noted that the event organisers had, prior to submitting the application, been in consultation with representatives of Scottish Borders Council and Police Scotland through the established Safety Advisory Group (SAG). The intention of the Jim Clark Rally organisers was for the event to be based in Duns and to hold a pre-rally 'shakedown stage' on the Friday morning followed by two rally stages starting early evening; then hold 7 rally stages (over 3 different routes) on the Saturday and a further 6 rally stages (over 3 further different routes) on the Sunday. The Shakedown Stage on Friday was scheduled for the road south of Mellerstain Mill with the evening stage being two runs of Longformacus to Abbey St Bathans following a ceremonial start in Duns Square. On the Saturday the three routes were Westruther, Scott's View, and Eccles. This would see a single run, in an anti-clockwise direction of travel, over the three routes followed by vehicle servicing and refuelling in Duns and then a repeat of that earlier sequence. Following a further refuelling there would then be a third run over the Eccles Stage ahead of a Ceremonial finish in Duns shortly after 1700 hours. Sunday would see routes at Edrom, Ayton and Fogo. The intention being to run a clockwise loop of these routes followed by servicing and refuelling in Duns before a repeat loop over the three routes and a final Ceremonial finish in Duns. Daily overall route plans were provided in Appendix A to the report and provisional stage timings provided at Appendix C to the report.
- 3.4 The report was welcomed as the Jim Clark Rally was a major sporting event and brought significant economic benefit to the Scottish Borders. It attracted a high number of spectators, supporters, staff and competitors to the area, many of whom stayed a number of nights and by extending the route it would spread the benefits throughout the Borders. Organisers of the Jim Clark Rally were present at the meeting to answer questions. They encouraged everyone to make use of the consultation, confirmed that they would be

consulting with each of the Community Councils within the rally route and thanked the Area Partnership for their time.

## **DECISION**

- (a) **NOTED the application by organisers of the Jim Clark Rally to run an event on the weekend of 27 and 29 May 2022.**
- (b) **AGREED to make known any comments it had about the proposal to run an event and/or proposed routes and timings for that event.**

## **4. SECTION 2: LOCAL PRIORITIES**

### **4.1 Meeting evaluation**

Clare Malster, Locality Development Co-ordinator, explained Mentimeter, an online tool that SBC were using to gather information and feedback during meetings. Those attending the meeting and watching on the live stream were invited to rate a range of presentations that had taken place at Cheviot Area Partnership meetings over the past 12 months. The evaluation would be available for seven days for those who wished to share their thoughts on the meeting and was also available for those who were unable to attend but had comments to share.

## **5.0 SECTION 3: COMMUNITY FUND**

With reference to paragraph 9 of the Minute of the meeting held on 22 September 2021, it was reported that recruitment for the Cheviot Community Assessment Panel was now complete. Mr Dean Weatherston had not sought re-election for Kelso Community Council and had applied to become a Community Representative. Sarah Mackie had also applied and been appointed to the Panel as a community representative. The Quorum had been increased again to 5 following appointment to the remaining vacancies. It was clarified that the Community Councillors could be represented by their deputies if they have a conflict of interest.

## **DECISION NOTED.**

## **6.0 CHEVIOT COMMUNITY FUNDING 2020**

- 6.1 There was still funds available for community based projects. The cut-off date for applications of £500 and under was the end of February and applications in the £500-£2,500 required to be submitted by 14 February 2022.

## **DECISION NOTED.**

## **APPLICATIONS**

- 6.2 There had been circulated copies of a report which detailed the recommendations of the Cheviot Community Fund Assessment Panel. The report provided a brief description of each application received and a recommendation on the sum to be awarded to each project.
- 6.3 **Jedburgh Community Trust** - An application had been received for assessment work to preserve the historic Capon Tree. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were preservation of a local landmark and heritage, community driven and would have a positive impact on tourism. The Panel recommended awarding £1,798.
- 6.4 **Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council** - An application had been received for the repainting of the community owned telephone boxes. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were that the telephone boxes housed the defibrillator, would allow provision of information, advice and support for

the local community and general public and would support the local community. The Panel recommended awarding £1,026.

- 6.5 **Tweed Valley Railway Campaign** - An application had been received for community engagement costs. The Panel had a healthy discussion on this application, with the majority supportive of the project. The key points influencing the Panel's decision were that it would help establish the level of interest across the community and was community driven. The Panel recommend awarding £2,500.
- 6.6 **Morebattle Institute** - An application had been received for roof repair costs. The Panel were supportive of the project and the key points influencing the Panel's decision were the preservation and maintenance of a valued local resource and community benefits. The Panel recommended awarding £2,500.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED that the following grants be awarded:-**

- (a) Jedburgh Community Trust in the sum of £1,798.20**
- (b) Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council in the sum of £1,026**
- (c) Tweed Valley Railway Campaign in the sum of £2,500**
- (d) Morebattle Institute in the sum of £2,500**

- 7.0 **SBC BUILD BACK A BETTER BORDERS RECOVERY FUND**  
With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of 30 June 2021, there had been circulated copies of an application in respect of:-

### 7.1 **CHEVIOT TOGS**

The Group planned to create a clothing bank for children and young people in the style of a boutique shop located in Teviot Crescent, Hawick. The project would operate across both Cheviot and Teviot and Liddesdale and the application for funding had been split pro rata across the two community funds. The aim of the project was to reduce the amount of good

Quality clothing going to land fill while helping those in need of support with clothing for children and young people and reducing the stigma of second hand clothing. The group would provide free, clean and suitable clothing to children who found themselves in need of clothing due to domestic violence, flood or fire, homelessness or financial difficulties facing the family. Clothing was sourced by donations, and partner organisations.

Jedburgh Grammar had asked Cheviot Togs to manage all excess school uniforms and there were plans to engage with Kelso and Hawick high schools, as well as working with local supermarkets and shops to use excess stock. Clothing would be provide via delivery and in person at the Hawick base if people are able to travel, as well as pop up shops, and events within Cheviot pending setting a base up in Jedburgh and Kelso.

- 7.2 Cheviot Togs had worked with and consulted to establish need with a wide range of organisations including NHS Borders, Jedburgh Grammar Campus, School Nurse Hawick High School, Morrisons, Live Borders, Salvation Army, Borders Women's Aid, local community councils and Tweed Togs in Peebles who mentor the project and whom Cheviot Togs based the business model on. There was a referral process based on the operation of best practice used by Tweed Togs, through health, youth workers and education professionals and the organisation were keen to look at a mechanism for self-referral considering the dignity and confidentiality of the people using the service. The organisation believed that access to clothing was a human right and all children should have access to clean, appropriate clothes to help them participate fully in life and wanted to provide autonomy, choice and dignity wherever possible. Cheviot Togs, although based in Hawick, would be taking over the service in Jedburgh and Kelso areas, currently operated by Tweed Togs, from January, covering a greater area of the Cheviot locality.

## **DECISION**

**AGREED to award the sum of £2,227.50, subject to the following conditions:**

- (i) The applicant must follow Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance when delivering the service;**
- (ii) Moveable equipment should be passed to another community group/organisation should this project cease to operate.**

### **8.0 Edgerston Village Hall**

8.1 Christine Wylie, Village Hall Secretary was present to update the Area Partnership on Edgerston Echoes. The book, two decades in the making, charted the stories and memories of rural residents living south of Jedburgh from the 1900s to the present day. The 210 page book was a collection of memories, historical and more recent stories together with more than 150 photographs of Edgerston folk, events and places over the years, as well as entries from old record books and diaries. Originally intended as a Millennium project, work began gathering contributions for the book in 1997. The original deadline was missed, however, the coronavirus lockdown proved the catalyst needed to push the publication over the finish line. Christine and past secretary Marion Anderson spent last summer updating the pages before it was edited and published by Jedburgh firm footprint.

### **9.0 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Future Meetings of the Cheviot Area Partnership would be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, 29 June 2022

The next meeting would be held on **Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at 6.30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.**

### **10.0 MEETING EVALUATION**

Ms Malster reminded those present about the meeting evaluation form which could be accessed via the link <https://forms.office.com/r/HHH1dEcmz3> and was available until 11.45 p.m. on 29 November 2021. She added that feedback about the Area Partnership meetings was really helpful and always appreciated.

## **CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

*The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.*