

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL
CHEVIOT AREA FORUM

MINUTE of the MEETING of the
CHEVIOT AREA FORUM held in
The Library, Kelso High School,
Bowmont Street, Kelso on
Wednesday, 1 June 2016 at 6.30
p.m.

Present:- Councillor T Weatherston (Chairman), J. Brown, A. Nicol, S. Scott, R. Stewart.
Community Councillors D. Weatherston, N. Jarvis, C. Cook, Mr Matt Acton, Station Manager (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service), Inspector John (Police Scotland – J Division), Director of Finance – NHS Borders (Carol Wood).

Apologies:- Councillor S. Mountford, Community Councillors J. Bassett, H. Wight, A. Drummond, D. Stark, S. Stewart, L. Johnston, P. Bridgewood, A. Leitch, D. Ogilvie, E. McNulty, Locality Team Leader (Ms K. Horsley), Inspector Wood (Police Scotland – J Division)

In Attendance:- Area Neighbourhood Manager (Mr A. Finnie), Democratic Services Officer (Mrs F Henderson).

Members of the Public:- 1

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **MINUTE**

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum of 3 February 2016.

DECISION

AGREED to approve the Minute for signature by the Chairman.

3. **UPDATE ON DOG FOULDING**

Mr Craig Blackie, Neighbourhood Area Manager (Eildon) was present at the meeting to brief Members on a new refreshed approach being taken to tackle dog-fouling in the Scottish Borders. In 2014 the Scottish Household Survey rated animal nuisance, such as noise and dog fouling, as the most common problem. Within the Scottish Borders there had also been an increase in the number of reports of dog fouling. This issue was being looked at by Scottish Borders Council in the wider context of responsible dog ownership. The 'Responsible Dog Ownership Strategy and Action Plan', recently approved by Scottish Borders Council, set out what the Council would do to encourage and promote responsible dog ownership and the Council's commitment to tackling the antisocial behaviour of irresponsible dog owners. The approach outlined in the strategy included the objective to reduce the number of dog fouling instances through education, partnership working and enforcement. Officers had been investigating options to enhance its environmental enforcement activities. In this connection Council agreed to appoint a private company to carry out focused enforcement activity

for a pilot period of twelve months. As part of the strategy the Council would work with communities on developing local solutions; develop an 'anti dog-fouling toolkit' which could be used by local communities; and promote key initiatives such as The Green Dog Walkers. Mr Blackie confirmed that the contract had been awarded to 3GS and two wardens had been appointed and commenced their duties with effect from 31 May 2016 for a trial period of 12 months. It was confirmed that material to promote responsible dog ownership, in the form of posters, would be available to Community Councils from the Neighbourhood Services section of the Council. There would also be regular updates to Area Forums and a consultation at the end of the trial period to decide whether to extend the contract. The Wardens would also regulate littering and could issue an on the spot statutory fine of £80. Mr Blackie answered members' questions and, in response to questions about where the monies collected from fines went, Mr Blackie advised that profit from the schemes was shared once salaries and the cost of tickets and promotional material had been deducted. The Chairman thanked Mr Blackie for his presentation.

DECISION

NOTED the presentation.

4.0 POLICE FORCE OF SCOTLAND – UPDATE FOR 'J' DIVISION

Inspector John Scott was present at the meeting to update the Cheviot Area Forum on performance, activities and issues across the Ward for the period up to 31 May 2016. The Ward Plan Priorities for Kelso and District had been reviewed and amended and were highlighted as Dishonesty, Road Safety, Antisocial Behaviour and Drug Dealing and Misuse of Drugs. The Ward Plan Priorities for Jedburgh and District had also been amended and were highlighted as Drug Dealing and Misuse, Road Safety, Anti-Social Behaviour and Rural Crime. In relation to Rural Thefts, Police Scotland had launched a series of information documents to keep rural communities safe. The rural communities of Scotland were safe places in which to live and work. However, the nature of the environment and way of life meant there were some crime prevention tips particularly relevant to rural life that were worth bearing in mind.

- 4.1. Much of the crime prevention advice outlined in other areas of 'Keep Safe' was equally relevant to urban or rural area, but there were issues unique to rural communities such as: Protecting Livestock; Securing Farm Machinery; Theft from fuel tanks; Securing tools and horse tack. The information could be accessed at the following link <http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/rural-crime>. In terms of Road Safety, it was recognised that parking in Kelso was a concern and regular patrols were undertaken in the town and 11 parking tickets had been issued during the reporting period. There had been an increase recently in the number of detections for drink driving in the Scottish Borders, with people being caught in rural, locations having been drinking at a village pub and then choosing to drive home. The public were encouraged to report all drink drivers either directly to the police on 101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 55 111. A young driver's event between 21 and 22 May 2016 had been held at Charterhall, Duns where about 90 young people experience driving, many of them for the first time, and had had a great experience. The event allowed them to develop driving skills under the watchful eye of the Police, Fire and Ambulance services who were giving training throughout the day. The aim was to encourage young people to engage with the long-term sustainable driver education and casualty reduction programme in the Borders. During May and June the Skills for Life programme, which provided free driver training to 17-25 year olds, was running in Duns. There were further courses being run during 2016 and these could be accessed through the Skill for Life page on Scottish Borders Council website. In terms of new Police Powers to tackle the production, supply and

importation/exportation of NPS, it was explained that the UK wide legislation aimed to tackle the harm posed by new psychoactive substances (NPS) which were marketed inaccurately as 'legal highs'. The consumption of NPS had been linked to a number of deaths in the UK. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (PSA 16) did not replace the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) but it would work alongside to complement it. It was explained that at this time of the year there was a large influx of visitors to the area, either through events or border festivals. Plans were well established to cope with the additional visitors coming to Kelso for events held in the area. Additional dedicated officers had been allocated over the weekends that had events planned and any antisocial behaviour would be dealt with appropriately.

4.2 **Air Weapon Legislation**

With effect from 1 July 2016, new legislation came into effect for air weapons. Any person who possessed, purchased, used or acquired an air weapon would be required to have a certificate to legally hold them. Because this was a new process, the public had been given time to achieve the certification and no one would commit an offence of possessing an air weapon without the relevant authority or certification up until 1 January 2017. Police Scotland recognised that a number of these types of weapons would be lying about homes and no longer used or required. As a result an 'amnesty' would be held where people could surrender air weapons at a police station. Provisional dates for the surrender campaign were Monday 23rd May to Sunday 12th June 2016. People with any weapons for surrender were asked to take them to Galashiels police station on these dates between 8am and 10pm. Further information on the legislation could be found on the Police Scotland website www.scotland.police.uk.

- 4.3 In terms of Jedburgh and District, it was reported that the Fire Service and Police had been called to a house fire in Newtown St Boswells on 18th April 2016. Enquiries carried out established that the house occupant had cannabis cultivation in his loft. Whilst checking these plants he had inadvertently started a fire. The male was charged with being concerned in the production of a controlled substance and also with culpable and reckless conduct and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. In relation to Road Safety, a number of road checks had been carried out during February, March and April and a total of three fixed penalty tickets had been issued, these being one each for speeding, failing to wear a seatbelt and for driving a vehicle whilst using a mobile phone. During the early hours of 14th March 2016 officers on patrol stopped a vehicle travelling in Oxnam Road, Jedburgh due to the manner it was being driven. The driver was found to be driving under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested, charged with drink driving and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. During the early hours of 14th March 2016 officers on patrol stopped a vehicle travelling in Oxnam Road, Jedburgh due to the manner it was being driven. The driver was found to be driving under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and charged with drink driving and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. A 73 year old male was charged with driving without due care and attention following an accident on the A68 on the 25th March and reported to the Procurator Fiscal. On 6th April another accident occurred on the A68 near to Charlesfield, which resulted in one of the drivers, a 40 year old male, being charged with careless driving. During the early hours of 10th April 2016, witnesses reported a male having crashed his vehicle into another vehicle in Newtown St Boswells. Officers were quickly on the scene and the male was found to be under the influence of alcohol. Following enquiries the 23 year old male was charged with drink driving and other road traffic documentation offences. Tragically, a fatal accident occurred on 13th April 2016 on the A68 where an 18 year old female died following a two car accident and enquiries were continuing into the circumstances of this. Eight parking tickets had been issued during the reporting period in the Jedburgh and District area. There were no fixed penalty tickets issued over this reporting period and

the Police continued to engage with those responsible for any youth antisocial behaviour in the ward area. The Community Beat Officer and Locality Integration Officer regularly discussed youth issues and had carried out joint foot patrols over recent weeks to interact with young people and prevent anti-social behaviour. In terms of rural crime, following a complaint regarding the actions of members of Jed-Forest Hunt on 18th February 2016 whilst on a hunt near to Oxnam, two males were reported to the Procurator Fiscal under the Protection of Wild Mammals (S) Act 2002.

**DECISION
NOTED the report.**

5. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE UPDATE

Mr Matt Acton, Station Manager explained that the purpose of the report circulated was to inform the Cheviot Area Forum on Scottish Fire and Rescue Service activity since the last meeting on 3 February 2016. The report detailed that during the period of the report there had been 2 House Fires (cooking related) occurrences of fire – open 7, occurrence of Special Services 10 and 18 unwanted Fire Alarm Signals. In relation to partnership working, The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Community Action Team (CAT) within the Scottish Borders core work centred on the on-going delivery of the SFRS Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) policy. The team continued to expand its partnership working with the Key agencies including Police Scotland, Health, Social care and Housing in order to focus on members of local communities at High Risk from fire and achieve outcomes in helping to reduce overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires.

- 5.1 Fire prevention and protection activity over recent years had been key to reducing the number of fires, casualties and losses in Scotland thus minimising the economic and social impact of fire on communities. The seasonal community safety calendar provided the catalyst for a number of initiatives and schemes throughout the calendar year.
- 5.2 Activity which was ongoing within the Cheviot Ward area included Scottish Fire and Rescue Service staffs in all local stations providing Home Fire Safety Visits all year round. The visits provided the householder with a home visit, focussing on identifying and reducing the risks of fire in the home. Smoke detectors with a 10-year battery life were provided as part of this free service; Living Safely in the Home was part of the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership Reducing Inequalities Strategy, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and the Scottish Borders Safer Communities Team would lead jointly on the 'Keeping People Safe' theme. Within this theme, it had been identified that older people are more likely to suffer an accident in the home resulting in an A&E admission to Hospital; Firesharp was an initiative for Primary 6 pupils, providing face-to-face education within local Primary schools on matters of fire risk and prevention; The SFRS Safeguarding Policy and Procedure for Protection of Children and Adults at Risk of Harm was implemented to link into adult and child protection. The introduction of the policy had created closer ties with Social Services within Scottish Borders and ensured those people and families that fire crews identify as at risk were brought to the attention of Social Services and had resulted in joint visits to homes to reduce risk to those occupiers. A strong partnership was being developed with the local Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and involvement in MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference). The Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) and Scottish Borders Station Manager for Prevention and Protection were fully involved in all local MARAC processes, attending the monthly conferences and all steering group meetings.

- 5.3 Crews from Duns and Coldstream recently took part in a multi-agency Young Drivers Initiative held at Charterhall, Greenlaw. The event gave the opportunity for 14-17 year olds from across the Scottish Borders to experience the controls of a car in 'try-drive' sessions and to experience vehicle handling through braking exercises in order to educate the next generation of road users.
- 5.4 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. The enforcement officer also engaged with members of staff to confirm their level of fire safety awareness; Unwanted Fire Signals were being addressed by phased intervention actions which identified premises which were producing 'false alarms', provided guidance on how to reduce a reoccurrence. In a pioneering partnership between the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and British Heart Foundation (BHF), all 356 of SFRS's fire stations were equipped with BHF donated 'Call Push Rescue' training kit and each station would now act as a base for local people to learn vital cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills and potentially save someone's life if they went into cardiac arrest. It took just 30 minutes to learn CPR using the Call Push Rescue kit and community groups were able to contact their local fire station to arrange a time to go to a station, watch the training DVD, and practice with the kit.

Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest trial.

- 5.5 A national trial and a first for Scotland involving Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) and Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to increase survival rate of patients who suffer out of hospital cardiac arrest went live on 29th October 2015. The trial would run at seven fire stations across Scotland, with three of these being in the Scottish Borders: Hawick, Lauder and Coldstream. Firefighters at these stations had received enhanced training in life-support, through a joint partnership approach with the Scottish Ambulance Service as part of a range of measures that it had in place across the country to target the condition and create a nation of life savers. If a fire service resource with a crew who were trained to provide high quality CPR and had a defibrillator was nearer to a potential cardiac arrest than a local Community First Responder team, then Ambulance Control would dispatch them at the same time as the ambulance crew, so that they could provide these life saving interventions while the ambulance was on its way. The trials were part of SFRS's commitment to supporting the Scottish Government's Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Strategy, which aimed to dramatically increase patients' survival chances and save as many as 1,000 lives by 2020. The LALO was in post within Scottish Borders Council HQ in order to improve partnership working, with a particular focus on the elderly and more vulnerable members of society. The primary aims of this partnership activity were to help ensure the safety and welfare of vulnerable persons throughout the community, and to seek to reduce the overall numbers of accidental dwelling fires, fire casualties and fire fatalities in homes. The Summer Thematic Action plan focused on Grass and Wildland fires; rubbish and refuse fires and Outdoor fire safety.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

LIVING SAFELY IN THE HOME PROJECT

- 6.0 Michael Jaffray, Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service gave a presentation on the SFRS approach to safeguarding persons at risk of harm, which

had been launched that afternoon in the Cheviot locality as a pilot. This included a home fire safety visits policy; post domestic incident response; safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm policy and case study/case conference policy. Over 2500 completed Home Fire Safety Visits had been completed in the Scottish Borders during the last Fiscal year, averaging 200 visits per month with 700 deemed as High Risk. In terms of emergency hospital admissions, due to unintentional injury, it was found that 45.8% of total incidents occurred in the home; of those incidents 38.7% were caused by falls in the home and 77% of those falls were in the 65+ age group. Almost 40% of SB homes were classed as being fuel poor in 2013 and the Scottish Borders was an area where there was low income and high consumption of fuel. The three main drivers for fuel poverty were fuel cost, income and energy efficiency. Mr Jaffray went onto explain the benefits of a holistic approach - increased efficiency and effectiveness; reactive to preventative; reduce duplication; financial benefit; demand reduction and increased safety. The Cheviot Pilot would target the elderly and the under 5s focusing on slips, trips and falls and preventing unintentional harm in the home. For the elderly and people with mobility issues, a level 1 falls screen assessment would be carried out; small aids and adaptations where required would be provided; other advice/guidance where deemed necessary would be provided and where required, a referral would be made to HES. A series of events would be held in Kelso and Jedburgh, with regular updates to the Area Forum.

DECISION

(a) NOTED the presentation.

(b) AGREED that there be an update to the Area Forum at its meeting scheduled for 14 September.

7. ENGAGEMENT WITH NHS BORDERS

An update on current activity was given by Carol Gillie, Director of Finance, NHS Borders. Mrs Gillie reported on the Celebrating Achievements Awards which had taken place at Springwood, Kelso where candidates for the Awards were nominated anonymously.

7.1 A&E Waiting Times

In relation to A&E waiting times, Mrs Gillie reported that the NHS Borders were meeting their waiting time target of 4hrs, 95% of the time, although this had been more challenging in recent weeks. NHS Borders now published their performance against the set targets. In response to questions, Mrs Gillie advised that all breaches were thoroughly investigated in order to understand the reasons behind the breach.

7.2 The Health in Your Hands Survey and Engagement had been out for consultation between November 2015 and March 2016 and would be presented to the NHS Board on Monday, 23 June 2016.

7.3 The Health and Social Care – Joint Board became operational on 1 April 2016 and the new body would meet on 20 June 2016.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES UPDATE

With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of 3 February 2016, there were circulated at the meeting copies of Appendices A and B which detailed the current position in terms of the Neighbourhood Small Schemes and Quality of Life Scheme previously approved. The Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that the allocated budget

(£47,099) for small schemes was available through Neighbourhood Services for the Cheviot Area in 2016/17. There remained £25,311 for future schemes, although any budget remaining at the close of the financial year would be lost as there was no carry forward provision. In addition, a budget of £31,072 was available for Quality of Life Schemes in the Cheviot Area in 2016/17. It had previously been agreed that this budget would be split equally between Kelso and District and Jedburgh and District Wards. There was a remaining budget of £11,422 in Kelso and District Ward and £14,372 in Jedburgh and District Ward for future schemes.

DECISION

(a) AGREED:-

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

(1) Install dropped kerb at St Andrews Church, Kelso	£1,137
(2) Erect notice board at Nisbet Village	£ 760
(3) Provision of carpet bedding display War Memorial, Kelso	£2,710
(4) Installation of additional telegraph pole at Ancrum Bottle Bank	£1,814
(5) Resurface access to Crailing Church	£2,970

(ii) to delegate authority to the Service Director Neighbourhood Services to allocate the funds for the current financial year to Neighbourhood Small Schemes, subject to consultation with and approval by all six members of the Cheviot Area Forum via email.

(b) NOTED:-

(i) the updates on previously approved Neighbourhood Small Schemes as detailed in Appendix A to the report; and

(ii) the updates on previously approved Quality of Life Schemes as detailed in Appendix B to the report.

9. OPEN QUESTIONS

There were no issues raised.

DECISION

NOTED.

10.0 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

10.1 Skiprunning Burn, Jedburgh (Flood Protection Scheme) – With reference to paragraph 10.2 of the Minute of 3 February 2016, the Area Neighbourhood Manager advised that the main contract works for formal Flood Protection Scheme were completed in February 2016 and the new water level sensors and CCTV infrastructure were fully operational. A protocol document detailing the management arrangements for the flood protection infrastructure had been drafted by the project team and would be finalised in consultation with the Council's Flood and Coastal Management, Neighbourhood Services and Emergency Planning teams. The masonry repair work to the town culvert would be undertaken during the summer,

when the burn was completely dry. This was the last element of work associated with the Jedburgh (Skiprunning Burn) FPS.

DECISION

NOTED the report.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Chairman asked all present for future agendas items. Councillor Stewart requested that a presentation be given by Mossburn Distillery, following submission and consideration of their planning application.

DECISION

NOTED.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum was scheduled for Wednesday, 14 September 2016 in Jedburgh.

DECISION

NOTED the date of the next meeting of the Cheviot Area Forum and that the venue was to be confirmed.

13. 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 it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

SUMMARY OF PRIVATE BUSINESS

1. DANGEROUS CHIMNEY AND MASONRY AND DEFECTIVE ROOF COVERING, RAINWATER GOODS AND DRY ROT AT 2 HIGH STREET AND 2 MARKET PLACE, JEDBURGH

The Area Forum noted an update from the Lead Officer Enforcement.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.