

Reference (official use)



## Petitions – submission form

If you wish to submit a petition for consideration by the Audit & Scrutiny Committee, please complete the form below. You are advised to refer to the Guidance Questions and Answer sheet provided.

<b>Details of Principal Petitioner</b>	
Please enter the name and contact details of the person raising the petition. <i>The Principal Petitioner must be on the Register of Electors for the Scottish Borders Council area.</i>	
<b>Name:</b>	Kevin Payne
<b>Address:</b>	Aikieside Cottage, 9 West End
	Cove
	Cockburnspath
<b>Postcode:</b>	TD13 5XD
<b>Telephone no:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	

<b>Title of Petition and Petition Statement</b>	
Please enter the title of the Petition and a statement to cover the main subject of the Petition or the action you would like the Council to take.	
<b>Title:</b>	Cove Car Park
<b>Statement (no more than 250 words):</b>	
We as residents of Cove, Cockburnspath, Scottish Borders hereby petition Scottish Borders Council to -	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Designate ten parking spaces for residents use only</li><li>2. Introduce a 15mph speed limit into the village</li><li>3. Limit vehicle size into the village</li><li>4. Erect a 'No Through Road' sign</li></ol>	
<b>Statement</b>	
Our tiny village of Cove has over recent years experienced increasing traffic volumes, including large motorhomes and tour buses. The only turning places are the increasingly congested car park, and residents' private drives.	
On busy days the parking situation has become so severe that villagers are wary of using their cars, finding parking on their return home increasingly difficult, and sometimes impossible. Cove has a high proportion of older residents, and the lack of parking can impact disproportionately on them in tasks such as unloading shopping. It can also act as a deterrent to family visitors. Recent reductions in local bus services, particularly at weekends, have increased car dependency among local residents.	
In the past, expensive works have been carried out to stabilise the cliff on which the village stands, and we now worry how the road will stand up to increasing traffic volumes if the traffic is not managed. The road into Cove is a single track no through road, with no pavements or passing places, and with limited parking available in the village. Yet there are no speed limit signs, no vehicle size restrictions, no indication of the 'No Through Road' status, nor any notification that parking space is limited.	

**Further information.**

Please enter below any measures already taken, or persons/organisations approached to attempt to resolve the issues. Attach additional sheets to this form if required but please note that this information must be limited to no more than 4 sides of A4 paper.

Communications with SBC concerning parking.

In my time as a community councillor I have informally brought up the subject of car parking at Cove with SBC councillors at a meeting of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council at least twice. On both occasions I have been told that it was 'not SBC's policy to have reserved places for residents in public car parks'. Mr Kevin Payne of Cove has also contacted Phillipa Gilhooly and Jim McQuillan of SBC in the last two years in connection with the subject of reserved parking and been informed that it was not SBC's policy to have reserved parking because the policy could not be enforced.

Previous concerns about air pollution because of vehicles sitting with engines idling were raised in the past by Mrs Dorothy Swanston a resident of Cove and by David Arnott a community councillor and at that time a resident of Cove. This correspondence was in 2012/13 with the then SBC councillor Mr Michael Cook and SBC officers Samantha Elliot, Jim McQuillan and Darren Silcock.

Neil F. Simpson  
Vice-chairperson, Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council.

Action taken.

In Spring 2017 residents of Cove being aware of SBC's policy and having become frustrated with the traffic and parking situation in Cove car park took it on themselves to place 'Resident Only' signs along a private boundary fence on the east side of the car park. These signs although unofficial and therefore not policed have been quite effective in keeping some spaces free for residents. Visitors on the whole seem to respect that the places are reserved so some of the frustrations of living with the traffic and parking situation has been alleviated.

On 15th July 2018 Councillor Fullerton of SBC emailed the secretary of Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council to enquire as to whether she knew anything about the signs being erected in the car park as SBC officers wanted to have them removed and needed to know who erected the signs in order to inform them that this action would be taken.

Transcripts of emails in support of this petition and photographs attached.

**Presentation of petition to the Committee.**

Please indicate below if you would like the opportunity to make a statement at the meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee when your petition is considered. Whether or not you will be invited to do so will be at the discretion of the Chairman.

\*I do/~~do not~~ wish the opportunity to make a brief statement about the petition.

~~\*I would like my deputy named below to make a statement on my behalf.~~

Name of deputy ..... N/A .....

Contact details .....

Signature of deputy.....

\* please delete as appropriate



**Signature of Principal Petitioner.**

If you are satisfied your petition meets all the requirements as stated in the Guidance Questions and Answers please add your signature and date below.

Signature of Principal Petitioner.....

Date..... 1/8/18.....

**Accompanying signatures.**

Your petition must be accompanied by at least 10 signatures in total, from persons aged 16 and over, resident in the Scottish Borders. The signatures must be from a minimum of 3 separate addresses.

*Please be aware that if the petition is on the agenda for a meeting of the Audit & Scrutiny Committee the names and addresses, but not signatures, of all signatories will be published on the Council website.*

	Name	Address	Signature
1	Muonne Payne.	9, West End, Cove, TD13 5XD	
2	KEVIN PAYNE	9 WEST END, COVE, TD13 5XD	
3	REG BROWN	CLAREMONT COTTAGE TD13 5XD	
4	CHRISTINA PORTER	CLAREMONT COTTAGE TD13 5XD	
5	ADAM FISHER	BANKS COTTAGE COVE TD13 5XD	
6	Katie Warner	Banks Cottage TD13 5XD	
7	SUSAN DAVIDSON	2 EAST END COVE TD13 5XD	

8	Aili Rattray	Dunelm Cottage, Corrie	
9	Brian Rattray	' K	
10	CAROL ROBINSON	Inverbrack, Cove, Cockburnspath, TD135XD	

Attach additional sheets of signatures if you wish.

**Please submit this form and any additional sheets to:-**

Clerk to the Council, Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown  
St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA,  
or email to:

[committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:committeepapers@scotborders.gov.uk)









Accompanying signatures for Cove car park/SBC petition.

	Name	Address	Signature
11	D SWANSTON	ORWELL COTTAGE	
12	D BOUCHARD	GREENHEUGH, COVE	
13	Rachel Simpson	Kittiwake Cottage Cove	
14	Neil F. SIMPSON	KITTIWAKE COTTAGE COVE	
15	DEE KIERAN	LOBSTER POT COTTAGE 6 WEST END COVE	
16	DREW METCALFE	LOBSTER POT COTTAGE 6 WEST END COVE	
17	Anne Hawbain	Seaview Cottage	
18	EVEZYN DUNCAN	LA BISE	
19	JOHN REA	5 Coastguard Cottage	
20	DELLA REA	5 Coastguard Cottage	
21	ELIZABETH GRAY	3 COAST GUARD COTTAGES COVE	
22	PETER GRAY	3. COAST GUARD COTTES COVE, COCKBURN SPASH	

Accompanying signatures for Cove car park/SBC petition.

	Name	Address	Signature
23	RANDI ANDERSON	2 COASTGUARD COTTAGE COVE, TD13 5XD	
24	ELSPEETH DAVEY	1 COASTGUARD COTTAGES COVE TD13 5XD	
25	PETER DAVEY	1 COASTGUARD COTTAGES COVE TD13 5XD	
26	Maggie Kilian	The Old Coastguard cottages Cove TD13 5XD	
27	D. Anderson	TIGH NA MARA. Cove	
28	MARION ANDERSON	TIGH NA MARA Cove	
29	John Paul Smith	ELSHAM. COVE	
30	Mathew Statham	ELSHAM. Cove	
31	Keroline Saxon	LILLARNIE COVE TD13 5XD	
32	James Graham	LILLARNIE COVE TD13 5XD	
33	Sachs Clark	Bewlie, Cove TD13 5XD	
34	KAREN Nelson	10 COVE TD13 5XD	

Accompanying signatures for Cove car park/SBC petition.

	Name	Address	Signature
35	PETER NELSON	10 COVE TD13 5XD	
36	KARA YOUNG	WAIRARE COVE	
37	MICHAEL ANDERSON	2 COASTGUARD COTTAGE	
38	RACHEL GRIFFITHS	CREEL COTTAGE, COVE	
39	BEN POLITOWSKI	CREEL COTTAGE, COVE	
40	PERSI GAVR	Sentkilly Cottage, Cove	
41	ALAN COLE	Sentkilly, Cove	
42			
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45			
46			



# *Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council*

Chair: PM Hood, The Corn Barn, Cove, Cockburnspath, TD135YP; Secretary: K Tulloch, Callarfountain, The Square, Cockburnspath TD135XX  
[Pmhood20@gmail.com](mailto:Pmhood20@gmail.com) [katetulloch@btinternet.com](mailto:katetulloch@btinternet.com)

8<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Scottish Borders Council  
Audit and Scrutiny Committee

## **To whom it may concern:**

Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council strongly back the petition from residents at Cove regarding:

- Speed control
- No through road signage
- Residents' parking areas
- Limitation on size of vehicles entering the Cove (other than service/emergency vehicles)

Cove Harbour has become a massive tourist attraction in the area, and whilst in previous years, the Harbour was "protected" as a "hidden gem", now, due to social media etc it is very busy, particularly during the summer months.

Parking in Cove has always been problematic, as all twelve of the homes at the West End have no parking whatsoever. This means that the residents are reliant on spaces being available in the public car park adjacent to them.

Cove has a high proportion of older residents, who are reliant on their cars, there being no public transport, and the unofficial "residents only" signs have been highly effective in curtailing parking by visitors, thus allowing residents to off load shopping etc closer to their properties. Whilst in the past, many of the homes were of a holiday nature, having only occasional usage, this is no longer the case, with twenty-five of the thirty-three homes being permanent residences.

At many times during the summer months, residents are subjected to camper vans, tour buses and mini buses arriving and off-loading large numbers of tourists. There is not sufficient turning area for vehicles of this size – hence the desire to see "no through road" and a limitation on vehicle size. At times, not infrequently, it would be impossible for emergency vehicles to gain access close to someone's home in the event of fire, or medical emergency, purely because of the number of inappropriately parked vehicles. The current "Cove Only" signage does not clearly indicate that it is a no through road.

There is no speed restriction sign at the entrance to Cove despite it being single lane, and having a blind corner. Additionally, there is no pavement along any section of the road. The road is frequently used by local walkers and dog walkers of all ages from both Cockburnspath and Cove, and pedestrian safety is a big concern. Although there are street lights on the coastal section of the road, suggesting a speed limit of 30mph, in fact a much lower limit would be appropriate to afford protection to pedestrians and traffic. Whilst we understand that the Council's policy is not to use 20mph restrictions, these are now common place in nearby Dunbar, Haddington and East Linton, as well as widely used in Edinburgh.



It should also be noted that extensive work was done on the sea front road some time ago, at great expense, and the ever increasing amount and size of traffic is going to accelerate the deterioration of this vulnerable road, to a point where it may no longer be viable to repair it.

We would appreciate the Council's assistance with this petition.

Pauline M Hood (chair)  
Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council

## Email/leaflet sent out 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Dear Neighbours.

26/07/2018

It has come to our attention that Scottish Borders Council are contemplating removing the 'Residents Only' signs from Kevin and Yvonne's fence along the east side of the car park. If you live at that end of the village you will know that the 'unofficial' signs have been quite effective during the busy periods in keeping parking places free of visitor traffic. The removal of these signs will leave residents with the possibility of going out only to find there are no spaces when they get back later. If you see the pictures attached you will see what kind of 'stramash' the car park gets into.

Our intention is to petition SBC's 'Audit and Scrutiny Committee' for official '**RESIDENTS PARKING**' signs in place of the existing. There is an official SBC petition form in which a statement and presentation has to be made by a 'Principal Petitioner' and signed and accompanied by at least 10 signatures in support. It is most likely that the residents to the East of the car park will be in favour of this but it would also be good if the rest of the village would sign in support. We would also like the council to erect a '**NO THROUGH ROAD**' sign and a '**20mph**' limit sign on the outskirts of the village.

The petition when completed will be sent to the Clerk to the Council at SBC and we will look for 100% backing from the community council as well as lobbying our local SBC councillors to support us.

Overleaf there is a list of concerns and observations about traffic and parking as well as a few pictures (email only) and would be appreciative if you have anything to add.

We will come to your door in the next week and ask if you are willing to support this petition.

Many thanks.

*Neil F. Simpson (Kittiwake Cottage Cove,†*

*Karen Nelson*

*David Bouchard*

*Community Councillors, Cockburnspath and Cove Community Council.*

**Replies to email and leaflet sent out 26/07/18 to all Cove residents.**

Hi Neil,

I'd support it. If we can also get people (i know who they are) to stop honking at my house corner! Just slow down, people. Oh, And we need to get rid of the horrible street lights. Please!

Hi Neil, and I are both Very happy to support all these initiatives re parking and access, and to add to your petition.  
Let us know if you want any other support.  
regards

Hi Neil

All in favour of keeping the the unofficial parking and getting them made legal it certainly does deter parking at busy times .but that brings it s problems as large mostly foreign camper vans etc park right at the foot of the car park making it (yesterday Friday there where 4 at two o clock when I left for the doctors ) difficult for people who have to reverse back down the car park . I've seen one or two near ones on a Sunday two weekends ago there where two cars parked right a foot blocking the road up to the houses and also proper access to the harbour road if there had been an incident at the harbour or a medical emergency at the houses.Perhaps the sign for the on overnight camping could be moved to and fixed to the finger post which is then easily seen when entering the car park as it will be lit by the light at night .

I can't remember any double yellow lines at the car park the only yellow lines where along at the Corpse which was no parking .

At one time the car park had a one way system but as usual the council in there wisdom done away with it when they redesigned the car park a few years back which allowed driving right round and out .

I would not support private ownership of the road and car park as I have been here long enough to see to much cliff slippage and if it it goes again I think it would go where you would least expect it.as there is still to many hidden drains leading of the fields and to much run off from the fields and a new road access would have to be found . Also there is the upkeep ,insurance ,electric .As I think it would fall latterly on all those who would benefit ie the East end of the village as the population changes over the future years .

Have A Nice Day



Hi Neil, Karen and David,

I'm 100% in support of the petition and am more than happy to sign.

I have concerns about the traffic situation too - my own two pence worth would be to find a way to stop people from parking directly on the track leading to our end of the village. I'm pretty sure a fire engine or ambulance wouldn't be able to pass if they were needed. It could be a concern at the house next to [redacted] and [redacted]'s too - parking there narrows the road considerably.

I'd also like to ask the council if they are going to take measures to stop massive tour buses from coming into the village and parking next to the cliff edge (there's nowhere else to park a bus!). We all know how vulnerable it is!

Thanks for taking action!

Kind regards,

All excellent points Neil - so glad you are on the case. Obviously very willing to sign a petition - presumably a single one for all Cove residents? I only ask because you left a blank form with us ... what should I do with it?!

Best,

Dear Neil,

Thank you for getting in touch about this. We would be happy to sign the petition. I attach my further thoughts.

All best wishes,

## COVE CAR PARK

Comments from Ben Tindall

Historically the whole area, the houses, the car park and the harbour was part of Dunglass Estate and the car park was once the gardens for the Estate's tenants. There are historic views of these gardens. I don't have detailed information but I presume the Estate transferred car park area to Berwickshire County Council, perhaps when they adopted the road? Essentially, the car park the houses and the harbour are all together.

Cove Harbour is the area's principal amenity and is managed by Cove Harbour Conservation Ltd to:

1. Support the fishing. Without the harbour being a working harbour much of the amenity of area is lost.
2. Preserve its character. This has involved almost 30 years work restoring the harbour and its surroundings including major work on its track and the current efforts to raise £250k for the repair of the Boyne Pier.
3. Welcome visitors who find it. This requires constant effort with regard to dog & human poo, litter, fires, etc..

With regards to the car park this means:

- We view the car park as an important part of the area; the number of people who appreciate its East Coast Fishing Disaster memorial is proof of this. It is a public facility that is a lot more than parking. This is a lot to do with use and design. The historic barometer is hidden from view by cars. The car park is used by George for his boat in winter which seems highly appropriate. It is also used by Neil for the collection of his catch and delivery of bait. Again this seems highly appropriate. The bins are overflowing. The interpretation board is out of date and SBC have not progressed the design of its replacement since 2008.
- Visitors give generous donations at the gate but a huge proportion of people don't bother giving anything. Preserving the harbour's character costs a lot more money than donations provide. Filming and Photoshoots provide occasional useful fees and these activities can fill the car park, usually with advance warning and during the day, a few times a year. In addition, the harbour has an annual crab party when we go out of our way to ask visitors not to block residents' entrances etc.. These activities help maintain the harbour. We have found visitors respectful of the resident notices and unable to park, even though they were residents of SBC. In the past the SBC looked into charging for parking at Cove to support the harbour, as at St Abbs. This would be very welcome and a good way of adding the harbour's minimal income stream.
- We are well aware that the car park is at capacity and this is another reason for the harbour not being publicised. In starting to ask for official support for the repair of the Boyne Pier we are under pressure to increase visitor numbers. Possibly against our financial interest we have no intention of doing this. We have always deliberately avoided official publicity and attempt to limit unofficial publicity too. People appreciate the harbour's unique qualities and how easily they can be spoilt.

So, with regard to suggested petition, our main suggestions are:

- Proper residents parking should be instituted, with allowances for boats/fishing. With Jean and David Arnott no longer being with us the layout should be reviewed.
- Visitors car parking should be payable (and policed), with the benefits going to the harbour. The costs for installing this should be considered as a small contribution by SBC to the major amenity in the area that they have not contributed to for now almost 30 years.

Ben Tindall

Cove Harbour Conservation Ltd

[www.CoveHarbour.co.uk](http://www.CoveHarbour.co.uk)

Hello Neil

Fully support a petition to SBC to ask for its assistance in mitigating the impact increased traffic and visitor numbers are having on Cove and its residents.

Having known Cove for more than 60 years as my Grandmother lived here and my Father grew up here and I am now resident here, I can attest that the volume of traffic is now far, far greater than ever before. The past 5 years has seen a significant increase

Cars travel too fast, there is noise pollution such as revving engines and banging car doors as well as attendant dangers for people walking. We now have mini buses, buses, and huge campervans using the road - it is a narrow road- and they take up even more of the available parking area.

So perhaps a be considerate notice would be helpful.

Residents have had to modify their behaviour because if they leave Cove by car on busy days there is no guarantee that they will be able to park on their return so they tend to remain at home.

Designated residents' parking would definitely alleviate the situation and where the "unofficial" signs are seems the ideal place for them. However there are times when these signs are ignored. So perhaps each residence could have a designated slot?

Parking charges for visitors could be considered.

A 20mph speed limit- even with speed bumps- should also be considered as well as the dead end sign to be reinstated. Also a sign that says the road is unsuitable for buses and large vehicles.

So far the unofficial signs have helped so why not let the status quo continue?

Hi Neil,

>

> I got your letter about the Cove traffic issues and I think it's got really good points. I would definitely agree with imposing a 20mph limit, with the speeds some people go down that road. Another thing I might suggest though, and I believe you've raised it before, is the car that sits outside the Coastguard Cottages - it's a dangerous place for someone to park all the time.

> On Friday John Lamont MP and Rachael Hamilton MSP are doing a surgery in Co'Path village hall at 9AM, so I thought it might be a good idea to go along and raise your concerns with them. I would come along as well, however I start work at 7:30 on Friday, so won't be able to.

>

> Thanks for pursuing this and I hope it all gets sorted,

~





Sunday 22/07/18



Sunday 22/07/18



7/18



Monday 30/07/18