

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TWEEDDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTE of Meeting of the TWEEDDALE
AREA PARTNERSHIP held in St. Ronan's
Primary School Hall, Innerleithen on
Tuesday, 27 August 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman), H. Anderson, S. Bell, K. Chapman, S. Haslam, E. Small, together with 23 representatives from Partner Organisations, Community Councils and members of the public.

In Attendance:- Communities and Partnerships Manager, Locality Development Co-ordinators (G. Jardine and J. Pringle), Passenger Transport Manager, Transport Services Team Leader, Democratic Services Team Leader.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. LOCALITY BID FUND 1

The Chairman welcomed Julie Smith, Cook at Clovenfords Primary School and Anne Wilson the Chair of the Parent Council. They had been successful in obtaining funding in round 1 of the Locality Bid Fund for the "Julie's Kitchen Garden" project at the school. Julie had developed the idea of getting the children involved in growing vegetables. They had started with potatoes but the project had gone from strength to strength when the funding had been received. Donations had also been received from local businesses and a Tutor from Borders College had provided advice. Community involvement was also imported and a "Friends of the Garden" had been set up. Julie and Anne answered questions and in response to a question about the future it was noted that further funding would be achieved from the sale of pickles, jams and chutneys.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SCHEMES AND QUALITY OF LIFE PROJECTS

There had been circulated copies of a paper by the Service Director Assets and Infrastructure seeking approval for the proposals detailed in the Appendix to the report and that delegated powers be given to officers to approve future applications when a decision was required between meetings of the Area Partnership, subject to certain qualifying criteria. The Councillors present approved the list of Schemes and the proposed delegated approval process.

4. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 12 JUNE 2019

The Minute of the meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership held on 12 June 2019 had been circulated along with a summary of the discussion attached as an appendix to the Minute and the Chairman highlighted the main points which had been raised.

5. TWEEDDALE LOCALITY PLAN: ECONOMY SKILLS AND LEARNING

Transport Networks and Connections within Tweeddale

- 5.1 Councillor Tatler introduced Tim Stephenson and John Dellow who were responsible for the Council's involvement in public transport across the region. Shona Smith explained that following the identification of public transport being identified as a key priority actions now needed to be agreed. Tim Stephenson gave a presentation on bus services in the Tweeddale Area. He advised that local bus services were not a statutory requirement and were currently subsidised at a cost to the Council of £1.5m per annum. £200k of savings had been made in 2018 and a further £85k in 2019 without further cuts to bus services. However, a budget saving of £165k was needed in 2020 so some innovative thinking was

required so that rather than cut services alternative models could be identified. He identified under-performing routes in the area and advised that some tough decisions would be needed. He was attending all area partnerships to talk about transport and later in the year Bus Users Scotland would be holding a large public consultation and work closely with communities to form a transport plan. He highlighted some schemes in other areas which were working well and mentioned other non-bus related options.

- 5.2 Tim answered questions on his presentation and concerns regarding the level of savings were expressed. Information on how services were tendered for was provided. Shona Smith outlined how the round table discussions would be conducted with a template for each table to complete. Tim and John would move round the tables and participate in the discussions. At the conclusion of the discussion Shona advised that a summary of the information gathered would be circulated with the Minute and Tim encouraged everyone to engage with Bus User Scotland.

6. **TWEEDDALE INTERIM COMMUNITY FUND**

- 6.1 There had been circulated for information copies of the interim Community Fund overview map and the internal and external funding maps for Tweeddale. It was reported that a fast track application for the sum of £275 had been approved for Walkerburn Bowling and Petanque Club.
- 6.2 There had been circulated an application from the Tweedsmuir Community Company seeking funding of £6,750 towards the design, production and erection of a series of 5 interpretation boards at the site of the Crook Inn, Tweedsmuir and 4 heritage talks/events. This was part of a larger application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It was agreed to approve the application.

7. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Chairman advised that he was looking for ideas on how future meetings could be improved and what agenda items people might like included. Various suggestions were discussed including an early budget briefing, the Local Development Plan and a presentation on SoSEP. Ways to publicise meetings were also discussed.

8. **OPEN FORUM**

- 8.1 Laura Preston from Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels advised that Peebles was the latest target area and a public meeting would be held on 4 September in Peebles which she encouraged everyone to attend.
- 8.2 Tweedsmuir Community Council advised that they were not receiving Police reports and it was confirmed that other areas were having similar problems. The Chairman advised that this was the responsibility of the Local Area Commander but he would also raise this with the Community Action Team. Information on the work of the Community Action Team was available on the Councils website at https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/6753/q1_201920_community_action_team_summary
- 8.3 Joh Falla commented on the success of the "Tweedies" project and thanked Councillors for their assistance in allowing this to be set up. He also raised the issue of flower planting for "Bonnie Peebles" next season. Councillor Haslam advised that the Council would be planting sustainable species but Community could do something different if they wished. Councillor Anderson suggested that a funding application could be submitted.
- 8.4 Chris Lewin asked how he could be sure that the Locality Bid Fund was fair for the more rural areas. Shona Smith advised that an evaluation was being prepared for Council and she would arrange for the full results to be circulated.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership would be held on Tuesday, 7 November 2019. The venue would be confirmed before the meeting. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting concluded at 8.55 p.m.

Appendix

Tweeddale Locality Plan – Community Transport: solutions and actions

Locality suggested transport solutions	Would this work in your community?	Who would take this forward – we need key champions/organisations	What support would be needed (financial, time, resources etc), and what would this look like?
Electric solar information panels at key locations	Melrose tourist point, post offices - direct correlation between usage	Where is this working already? Where are points/ locations	Identification of locations
Display all Border transport in one app	Improving access to 'live' information would be really helpful as it would let people know if buses are delayed or aren't running. Would work in Gala but not where bus is the only option Critical is location tracking	Bus providers Look at Highland for case studies Who can pull all the organisations together – is Travel Line already doing this ?	Bus sizing issue for timings.
Expand volunteer driver schemes + social car share schemes	This has potential – can we pilot schemes – but volunteer capacity may be an issue Do away with bus and get a taxi £3 / + Subsidiary. Kinloch Rannock/Perth and Kinross council ?	Bridge & expertise at DTA consortia Learn lessons from Graham Tulloch	Leaflets, finance/ volunteers to deliver the service
E-bikes scheme (Energy Trust)	Stobo- Broughton- John Buchan way Good trial points Innerleithen and Peebles	Distances across the Tweeddale area may prove too large Expansion of Bike Punks	E-bikes already in place- marketing of current offer bringing operators together. Safe routes need to be considered

SBC e-car scheme	<p>Would like to find out more about the scheme and how it could work as a solution for rural communities – would you be allowed to set up a transport scheme using the e-car service and how could fair and consistent charges be established</p> <p>Need to undertake rural mapping</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>Not sufficient vehicles correctly located</p> <p>Pilot to determine what is a success/ fail</p> <p>Needs to be in place in rural areas ?</p>	<p>Only 5 on a bus isn't a failure, j</p> <p>Investment required</p>
Maximise the use of Borders College /SBC /NHS/Post Office/Third Sector minibuses	<p>Need to make the process of hiring existing minibuses easier so more people can make use of them</p> <p>Could book a seat on a minibus in advance so that it's a demand led service that is run</p> <p>Would like to pilot this</p> <p>Tweed Wheels expand & incorporate some of the points raised above?</p>	<p>Service providers need to address barriers to hiring minibuses and using a minibus as a regular community transport offer</p>	<p>Tweedwheels - require funding/money and volunteers</p> <p>DI licensing</p>
Extended Rail Connections/Accessibility	<p>Tweeddale Valley – Glentress tourist route could be developed</p>		
Remove need for Travel i.e. Extended delivery of outreach services, localised delivery or enhanced use of modern communications technology.	<p>No – isolation creation</p> <p>Better Broadband</p> <p>Root and branch review of tender packages, consider more and different ways to provide flexible and demand led transport</p>		
Demand responsive transport scheme	<p>Appropriate bus size for market (14/16/18 instead of 40)</p>		

Improve support for the tender process	<p>More small businesses would be encouraged to tender for transport contracts if supported to use the public contacts portal</p> <p>Bulk/ route mapping</p>	<p>SBC procurement</p> <p>Different way of delivering public transport</p>	Zoning route for community tendering route and brand review of the range of providers
Community residents could access school transport	Some school buses transporting rural children and young people aren't full. Local residents could also use the buses to travel in to town	Follow up with SBC transport to see what arrangements could be put in place for different communities	
Further consultation on passenger travel to help with transport planning	Need a detailed picture of the reasons why people are travelling ie work, studying, leisure etc and when they need to travel	Bus Users Scotland public consultation	
Case Studies – where are some of these ideas working already ?	Description	Could this work in your Community?	Who would be able to take this forward?
UBER type scheme ?	<p>Taxi style approach, unlicensed but approved. Access via smart phone technology/apps.</p> <p>Drivers screened – criminal checks undertaken</p> <p>Safety features built-in, tracking customer reviews, driver profiles</p> <p>Vehicle safety inspections</p>	<p>Yes/probably.</p> <p>Mobile phone coverage could be an issue and would depend on number of cars involved.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bo'ness and Area Community Bus Association – reintroduction of bus links between Bo'ness and Edinburgh 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruited 2 Full Time drivers and 1 Part time driver and 1 Volunteer driver Recruited an Operations Consultant Recruited an Administration Assistant 	Need to find a route that is profitable and that people will use	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered 10,235 passenger journeys since February 2018 Make 58 journeys a week to and from Edinburgh Covered over 120,000 miles 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEED Ltd (Alnwick) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largely self-financing model Range of services – car scheme / dial-a-ride / family vehicle / group transport Contracts for Council and NHS Entrepreneurial 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chariotts (Wrexham) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branded fleet of accessible vehicles Paid co-ordinator but all volunteer drivers In 2015 provided 12,645 trips, of which 6,642 were for wheelchair users 		Paid co-ordinator is key thing. Similar to the men's shed co-ordinator with funding pulled in from other partners and NHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Access People (Cornwall) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer car scheme for non-emergency healthcare appointments Journeys to and from the hospitals in Truro and Plymouth Door to door transport for people who find difficulty accessing transport 	Tweedwheels struggle to find volunteers.	Good model but third sector would need support to deliver. Legislation involved