

## **Hornshole**

### **Background**

Hornshole and surrounding landscaped area is now within the ownership of Hawick Common Good per Scottish Borders Council. The Monument plays a significant role in the history of Hawick and especially at Common Ridings each year.

### **Current situation**

It is understood that whilst this area is now within the ownership of the Common Good, there are no firm arrangements in place for any improvement works or more particularly ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the area.

This site has suffered from a lack of upkeep over the last year, with some sporadic work carried out by a small group of volunteers ahead of the Common Riding, but no concentrated efforts, due in part to the pandemic and the inability to carry out required upkeep by anyone, means that the area is now badly overgrown, untidy and in need of improvement.

A new group of volunteers from various organisations and clubs throughout the town has been set up to assist with projects within the Hawick area, and are willing to take responsibility for progressing the required improvement and maintenance works and ongoing upkeep.

An approach has been made to Paul Hogarth a Landscape Architect, whom it had been learned was interested in being involved in this type of project within Hawick, his hometown. He has prepared a draft Plan of proposed works, which is attached. At this stage, this Plan is yet to be further developed and costs associated with the planting requirements provided. All labour will be carried out by the group of volunteers.

### **Financial implications:**

Costs of required planting will be outlined in the finalised proposal from the Landscape Architect, with free labour to remove some of the existing bushes and ground preparation works, ready for planting. There will be costs associated however with removal and tipping and any necessary ground machinery requirements.

### **Recommendations:**

In principle approval is requested on the proposals for the Hornshole area and for the Volunteers Group to maintain this area going forward.

In principle approval is also requested that Hawick Common Good fund the costs of initial improvement works required, and approve an annual or regular budget for ongoing costs associated with the upkeep of this area, all subject to the finalised costs to be provided. This is to allow progress of finalisation of the Proposal and costings.

**HAWICK VOLUNTEERS GROUP:** (Bright-Eyed Daughters; Reivers Festival; Archaeological Society; Callants Club; 1514 Club; Mosstroopers Club; Ex-Cornets & A/Fathers Association; Ex-Cornets Lasses & A/Mothers Association; Anvil Crew; Gallant Few and Hawick Common Riding Committee.

11th August 2020