

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TWEEDDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTE of Meeting of the TWEEDDALE
AREA PARTNERSHIP held via Microsoft
Team on Tuesday, 3 November 2020 at 7.00
p.m.

Present:- Councillors R. Tatler (Chairman), H. Anderson, S. Bell, S. Haslam, together with 19 representatives from Partner Organisations, Community Councils and members of the public.

Apologies:- Councillor E. Small

In Attendance:- Service Director Customer & Communities, Communities and Partnerships Manager, Locality Development Co-ordinator (K. Harrow), Democratic Services Team Leader.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership held via Microsoft Teams and outlined how the meeting would be conducted and how those both in the meeting and watching via the Live Stream could take part.

2. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING ON 14 JANUARY 2020**

The Minute of the meeting of the Tweeddale Area Partnership held on 14 January 2020 had been circulated along with a summary of the discussion attached as an appendix to the Minute and this was noted.

3. **TWEEDDALE COMMUNITY FUND**

3.1 Funding requests requiring consideration by the Partnership had been received from:-

- (a) Peebles Railway Heritage;
- (b) Tweed Theatre; and
- (c) Live, Learn, Earn

Copies of the assessments relating to each application had been circulated.

3.2 Peebles Railway Heritage had applied for funding of £4,500 to allow them to appoint a consultant to assist in taking forward a project around a former railway building situated in the East Station Car Park, Peebles. Kenny Harrow advised that at the time of assessment for Peebles Railway Heritage the application didn't meet the Community Fund Criteria. He outlined the application and advised that the required 3 quotes had now been provided. Mr Les Turnbull, a member of the Group spoke in support of the application and advised that it was proposed, with the use of IT, to provide an educational tool for both residents and visitors and there had been early talks with Tweed Valley BID regarding the sharing of facilities. Both Mr Harrow and Mr Turnbull answered questions regarding funding, the involvement of Tweed Valley BID and the level of community involvement to date. Mr Fernand commented on the success of a Railway weekend held in Newlands. Following discussion of the proposal there was no consensus reached. However, it was agreed that, while there was general support for the proposal, it was premature to agree funding at this stage and the Group were asked to do more work with Tweed Valley BID, look at other sources of funds, provide more information on the management of the project and carry out some further community engagement.

- 3.3 Tweed Theatre had applied for funding of £5,900 to support a series of short performances which would be filmed and then streamed to an audience. Kenny Harrow explained that the funding application would support 12 performers plus a director and producer to support rehearsals, providing costumes and props, access to Zoom to allow for editing and recording functions and some specialized skills in production and editing. Unfortunately a representative of the Group was not present to answer questions regarding the funds currently held by the Group. Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Haslam, moved that a grant of 50% of the amount requested be approved and this was supported.
- 3.4 Live, Learn, Earn had applied for funding of £4,950. This was a new group which had been set up to provide learning and training opportunities for young people from Tweeddale. Training opportunities would include bike building, repair and metalwork. Kenny Harrow advised that Scottish Borders Chamber of Trade would act as banker for the Group. Aegir MacIver spoke in support of the application and answered questions. Those present were fully supportive of the application and the request for funding was approved.

4. **OTHER INFORMATION AND NEWS FOR NOTING**

The agenda detailed the following updates since the last meeting:-

- Outstanding Community Fund Applications for 2019/20 - these had been dealt with as per the report that went to Council on 27 08 20 which also contained the evaluation of Localities Bid Fund 1&2 and Participatory Budgeting:
- The Tweeddale Community Fund for 2020/21 was now open - guidance and application form were on SBC website:
https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20076/community_grants_and_funding/261/community_fund
- Community Councils - grants were being paid as normal for 2020/21
- Festival Grant Scheme – commitments re public liability and insurance were being met for 2020
- Federation of Village Halls – grants were being paid as normal for 2020/21
- VE Celebration Fund – this fund was now closed and commitments re expenses were being met
- Tweeddale Locality Plan & Action Plans - these plans were now published and outlined the priorities of the Tweeddale area and could be the focus of a future Area Partnership meeting:
https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/download/1310/locality_plans
- Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Currently, there were no formal Participation Requests and 2 formal Asset Transfer requests being considered within Tweeddale

The updates were noted.

5. **FIT FOR 2024: REVIEW OF AREA PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY FUND AND ACTIONS FOR TWEEDDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

- 5.1 There had been circulated summaries of the Council reports. Jenni Craig, Service Director Customer & Communities gave a presentation on the review and outlined the actions and next steps. A series of questions of the future of the Area Partnership and how the community fund might work were shared to aid the discussion. The Chairman commented on the small number present at the meeting but asked if they would share their views.

- 5.2 The following points were made:-

- Need to involve a wider audience

- With regards to the community fund and ring fenced grants there was a widespread desire to keep those funds for Festivals, Village Halls etc. but perhaps with a greater degree of oversight of bank accounts
- The importance of making Area Partnership meetings accessible to all was highlighted. Although a BSL interpreter had been provided the lack of amplification and poor acoustics in Halls was an issue. The use of the Hearing Access Protocol provided by “Ideas for Ears” was recommended. With regard to MS Teams meetings it was difficult to lip read and the use of close captions was suggested.
- A preference for virtual meetings was expressed as it was felt that the format worked better than live meetings
- The Partnership needed to look at how good ideas could be spread across the whole of Tweeddale
- A vision for what an Area Partnership could do was needed including how it could feed into the Council and taking account of statutory requirements
- The Partnership needed to agree what it would do next now that the Locality Plan had been prepared.
- The proposal to set up a small working group was welcomed by a number of attendees
- Area Partnerships needed to set the criteria for the community fund to make it community rather than Council centric
- The need to encourage more people to attend was highlighted

The Chairman advised that he intended to set up a number of “drop-in” sessions via Zoom between now and the next meeting in January to obtain community views. It was agreed that officers would do more work to encourage attendance at the next meeting with clearer guidance provided about the difference between attending the meeting and watching the Live Stream

6. **DATE OF NEXT TWEEDDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

The next meeting was scheduled for 19 January 2021 and following a discussion it was agreed that the meeting would go ahead.

7. **ANY OTHER FORMAL BUSINESS**

The Chairman advised that the Peebles Parking Working Group was currently on hold but it was hoped that it could resume its work early in 2021.

8. **OPEN FORUM**

No items were raised.

The meeting concluded at 8.25 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	<p>Improving access to 'live' information would be really helpful as it would let people know if buses are delayed or aren't running.</p> <p>Would work in Gala but not where bus is the only option</p> <p>Critical is location tracking</p>	<p>Bus providers</p> <p>Look at Highland for case studies</p> <p>Who can pull all the organisations together – is Travel Line already doing this ?</p>	Bus sizing issue for timings.
Expand volunteer driver schemes + social car share schemes	<p>This has potential – can we pilot schemes – but volunteer capacity may be an issue</p> <p>Do away with bus and get a taxi £3 / + Subsidiary. Kinloch Rannock/Perth and Kinross council ?</p>	<p>Bridge & expertise at DTA consortia</p> <p>Learn lessons from Graham Tulloch</p>	Leaflets, finance/ volunteers to deliver the service
E-bikes scheme (Energy Trust)	Stobo- Broughton- John Buchan way Good trial points Innerleithen and Peebles	<p>Distances across the Tweeddale area may prove too large</p> <p>Expansion of Bike Punks</p>	<p>E-bikes already in place- marketing of current offer bringing operators together.</p> <p>Safe routes need to be considered</p>

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	More small businesses would be encouraged to tender for transport contracts if supported to use the public contacts portal Bulk/ route mapping	SBC procurement Different way of delivering public transport	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 ?	Taxi style approach, unlicensed but approved. Access via smart phone technology/apps. Drivers screened – criminal checks undertaken Safety features built-in, tracking customer reviews, driver profiles Vehicle safety inspections	Yes/probably. Mobile phone coverage could be an issue and would depend on number of cars involved.	
<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