

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of Meeting of the TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP held in Lesser Hall, Hawick Town Hall, Hawick on Tuesday, 13 September 2022 at 6.00 pm

Present:- Councillors C. Ramage (Chair), N. Richards and A. Smart.

Other organisations attendees: Ms H. Batsch (The Bridge), Mr S. Beck, Mr W. Fletcher (Burnfoot CC); Mr C. Knox, Mr J. Adams, Mr J. Campbell, Mr W. George and Mr E. Welsh (Hawick CC), Mr R. Swinton (Hobkirk CC), Mr D. Ploughman (Denholm CC), Mr A. Warburton (Upper Liddesdale & Hermitage CC).

Apologies:- Councillors J. Cox, S. Marshall and W. McAteer.

In Attendance:- Community Co-ordinator (G. Jardine), Community Engagement Officer (S. McKail), Projects Manager (S. Renwick), Democratic Services Officer (W. Mohieddeen).

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair began the meeting with a minute's silence to commemorate the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair varied the order of business as shown on the agenda and the Minute reflects the order in which the items were considered at the meeting.

1. WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOLS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and to Hawick Town Hall.

2. FEEDBACK FROM MEETING OF 21 JUNE 2022

There had been circulated copies of the Minute of the Meeting held on 21 June 2022. The Chair provided feedback on the meeting and advised that an update was anticipated from Neighbourhood Services regarding community councils arranging for weeding and grass cutting, that feedback was received on their being more attendance from representatives of the third sector to Area Partnership meetings and that Burnfoot Community Council was consulting on ideas for their remembrance garden.

3. PLACE MAKING UPDATE

3.1 The Chair introduced the update on Place Making and brought to the attention of attendees of work undertaken in Hawick on the Vision 2024 project undertaken in 2014. The project involved all schools in the Teviot and Liddesdale Learning Community and was managed by key staff from all Hawick nursery, primary schools, the secondary school as well as from the community. The project was designed to inspire young people to think about contributions to the excellence of their local community. The project took place over four years leading to 2014 with a different theme on each year; arts, sport, industry, and heritage. A graphic facilitator was obtained by Cllr Ramage while working at Hawick High School in 2008 who

listened to pupils discuss what they liked, didn't like and wanted to see happen in the town. The Graphic Facilitator produced a mural based on these discussions which was presented for the Area Partnership to reflect on as part of considerations on Place Making.

- 3.2 The Community Engagement Officer advised that five expressions of interest had been obtained and there had been interest raised in other communities. The consultation for Southdean closed on Saturday 10 September 2022 and approximately 50 responses had been obtained which were to be analysed. The Community Co-ordinator advised that framework for Place Planning was being prepared with funding to be made available which was intended to support community engagement activities. Attendees considered the work of SCDC in relation to Place Planning and potential overlap in community development work. It was advised that SCDC were not funded to do Place Plans and that they worked to facilitate community networks.
- 3.3 The Community Engagement Officer led attendees in table discussions using the Place Planning toolkit.
- 3.4 At the conclusion of discussions of the Place Planning toolkits, the Chair thanked pupil representatives of Hawick High School for attending the meeting of the Area Partnership for participating in the table discussions.

4. **ALMSTRONG'S REDEVELOPMENT**

The Chair introduced Steven Renwick, SBC Projects Manager to present an update on works related to the Hawick Business Centre at the site of the Almstrong's building. Mr Renwick advised that he was responsible for larger-scale projects, which included the Hawick Business Centre, flood prevention scheme, new Hawick High School and the Sustrans way. Mr Renwick advised that Scottish Borders Council bought and demolished the Almstrong's building in 2008 and that the Covid-19 pandemic had interrupted works. Works were due to finish in May 2023 and that the redevelopment would see small and medium-sized businesses working alongside each other. It was initially considered to have cellular business, however it had since been decided to have the business space open-planned. The Hawick Business Centre would also be open for community use. Mr Renwick further advised that the Hawick Business Centre would be a community facility owned by SBC and might fit alongside Place Making work. Expressions of interest had not yet been received, and that promotion of the space could include photographs and a fly-through animation of the available space.

DECISION

NOTED the update.

5. **TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE FUNDING TABLE 2022-23**

There had been circulated copies of the Teviot and Liddesdale Funding Table which showed available funding for funds in the Teviot and Liddesdale area. The Neighbourhood Support Fund had £87,826.02 available. The funding table showed that if all applications to the Neighbourhood Support Fund at the meeting were successful, there would be funds of £41,597.34 remaining however the Community Co-ordinator advised that the Roxburghshire and Berwickshire Citizen's Advice Bureau had withdrawn their application following their unsuccessful application to the Berwickshire Neighbourhood Support Fund.

6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND – POT A FUND HAWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

There had been circulated copies of a report by the Hawick Community Council Neighbourhood Support Fund Pot A Assessment Panel which detailed recommendations for two applications for funding. Mr Cameron Knox of Hawick Community Council presented the report. A Fast Track application was received from Future Hawick which the panel agreed to recommend not to fund as accounts provided indicated that Future Hawick could afford the

costs, there was no specific breakdown for what the application would cover and that the application lacked detail. An application was received from Hawick Youth Football Club for £3,280 which was recommended for approval by the panel.

DECISION

AGREED to grant Hawick Youth Football Club an award of £3,280.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FUND – POT B FUND

There had been circulated copies of a report from the Teviot and Liddesdale Neighbourhood Support Fund Pot B Assessment Panel which detailed recommendations for five applications for funding. The Assessment Panel recommended that ArtBeat Studios be awarded a grant of £4,240 and wished to add that the £10 participant charge may be seen as a barrier to participation and service user numbers at ArtBeat Studios should be monitored and that the organisation should consider their charging policy and whether discounted facilities could be provided. It was advised that Roxburghshire and Berwickshire Citizens' Advice Bureau had withdrawn their application. Mr Ploughman advised that a detailed discussion had taken place regarding the application from Campaign for Borders Rail however a majority decision was taken to approve the application as the Campaign for Border Rail study may provide an additional opportunity to involve communities and to promote the potential benefits of a railway.

DECISION

AGREED:

- (a) To award Stable Life the sum of £5,000;**
- (b) To award Burnfoot Community Futures the sum £4,960;**
- (c) To award ArtBeat Studios the sum of £4,240; and,**
- (d) To award Campaign for Borders Rail the sum of £2,600.**

8. COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

8.1 The Chair invited representatives from community councils to share updates on activities in their area and use the opportunity at Area Partnership meetings to share best practice.

8.2 Burnfoot Community Council

Mr William Fletcher, Chair of Burnfoot Community Council, advised that arrangements for a remembrance garden were progressing, that a carnival was held on 9 July 2022 with attendees from across Hawick, and that arrangements were taking place in advance of events of marking Christmas.

8.3 Hawick Community Council

Mr Cameron Knox, Chair of Hawick Community Council advised that a programme of events at Wilton Lodge Park bandstand had successfully taken place through August 2022, grant funding had been awarded for the 176th anniversary of a speech being delivered in Hawick by Frederick Douglass which included the funding of education packs for Hawick schoolchildren and that events were being prepared for events in advance of Christmas.

8.4 Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council

Mr Andrew Warburton of Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council, advised that discussions were taking place with the Duke of Buccleuch regarding the use of local land to be established as a park.

9. COST OF LIVING

The Chair invited the Community Co-ordinator to lead a discussion with attendees on the Scottish Borders Council planning and response on issues related to the rising cost of living. With regards to enquiries about support for businesses to access information, the Community Co-ordinator advised that a first meeting of Strategic Response which would handle that particular question had taken place. Attendees advised that consideration should be given to how information from Scottish Borders Council on support available related to the rising cost of living was reached by vulnerable people living alone. Suggestions were made including the role of pharmacies and Fareshare may have by enclosing SBC information with their deliveries to customers. Neighbours were encouraged to check on the welfare of vulnerable people.

10. **NEXT MEETING OF THE TEVIOT AND LIDDESDALE AREA PARTNERSHIP**

The Chair advised that information regarding the next meeting of the Teviot and Liddesdale Area Partnership would follow in due course.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Andrew Warburton of Upper Liddesdale and Hermitage Community Council commented on his positive experience with community involvement in Teviot and Liddesdale.

12. **MEETING EVALUATION**

The Chair encouraged attendees to complete meeting evaluation forms.

The meeting concluded at 7.40 pm.