

TUESDAY 5TH JULY HAWICK & DENHOLM - DENHOLM VILLAGE HALL 5/7/2022

No. in attendance: 15

Overall summary of Issues
Positive Feedback from the event indicated the Council is clearly trying to develop the Place Making agenda. The work being undertaken on climate change is welcomed as is the attempt to engage with communities through these sessions and address the challenges they face.
There are however a number of challenging issues raised as part of the community conservation in Hawick and Denholm Ward. A number of these are thought to be opinions expressed for which no specific action is required e.g. SOSE not forgetting its commitment to projects, or isolated fault issues e.g. street lighting during the day. There are also a number of issues which are subjective individual perceptions e.g. Denholm school a mess.

You said	We Propose To
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Social Work under stress	A review of the capacity of Social Work to support communities is underway. New information systems are being implemented to provide better information management re case load. Programmes are in place to grow our own social workers, 5 recently qualified and new intake are in training. Front line staff are being empowered with hand held technology to reduce admin burden.
Planning permission required to change colour of door as in conservation area	The Chief Planning Officer will undertake a review of planning policy with respect to conservation areas
Drivers not adhering to 20 mph speed limit in Denholm	The Council is currently consulting on the future pilot arrangements re 20mph. The scheme has recently won a national road safety award and there has been a significant reduction in accidents of around 34% since the introduction of the scheme.
Street sweepers in Denholm once in a blue moon	The Council will review the adequacy of street sweeping arrangements and publish the frequency of road sweeping.
Weeds on paths	To raise awareness of policy re. weed spraying which is costly and damaging to the environment. Community groups to be assisted with grants to buy tools to help with weed control.
Send biggest bin lorry to streets built in mid 40s	Council will review vehicles on routes to ensure they are appropriate to the physical layout of streets. It may be however, that a replacement vehicle was deployed due to the breakdown of a regular collection vehicle
Potholes	Council has purchased a pot master pro and is looking to source another. Three jet patchers are now active on the network. The council will publish its planned roads maintenance programme in the future highlighting to the community when maintenance is planned.
Hawick Youth Rugby & Lindean - in Feb John Curry/Mark Rowley met at the pitch at new high school. SRU have a time limited grant of 50k time of which there is two and half years left. Volunteer park previously raised.	There are issues with the pitch at the volunteer park and the stand will be examined as part of the Hawick High School Replacement project.
Application to buy a bike shed on Denholm primary school car park by the community hall (reg charity and SCIO) still not resolved after 4 years. When will it be finalised? Funding coming from non SBC sources.	A review of the efficiency of the community asset transfer policy is to be undertaken
Access: transportation - linkage on the pathway system from Denholm to Hawick. Clear need to link Denholm in to the active travel network. Public transport inadequate. No bus after 6pm in the evening. There is an existing pathway but 1 mile is on the road (Hassendean Bank) comes out at the CRC	Council is developing its strategy re. path networks and seeking to encourage active travel and healthy lifestyles. The Hawick active travel network was funded by Sustrans and they and SOSE will be engaged to assess the potential for extending the scheme to Denholm, subject to funding.
Building Control - In recognising the difficulties that the construction industry continue to experience, why are building control so rigid in their enforcement of deadlines. Need for more flexibility in timelines. Discussion to be had re making this easier for construction professionals. No flexibility. Pressure on everyone.	Review of approach to development deadlines.
Ability to access applications, online and comment via a link has died. Now a Word document attached to an email is required. When a Word doc is submitted there is no guarantee that the doc is available to those viewing. Consultees lose certainty, why was this necessary.	Review of approach to the way in which the community council can access the planning portal and comment on individual applications
Denholm CC - has happened coincidental with Covid, the CC previously always informed via email and letter when a planning application was submitted to permit comment. CC no longer seem to be notified, expected to access weekly list to find applications. CC should have an automatic notification, can this be looked at? List has to be opened - is it not spendable?	The reinstatement of the previous system whereby the community were notified of a planning application to be explored
Live Borders no provision for secondary age pupils.	Review of sports and activity strategy to be undertaken with Live Borders.

No. in attendance: 14

Overall summary of Issues

General issues of town maintenance, roads, public toilets, parking, Saltgreens - meals, Safe Place scheme, old Eyemouth High School, need for affordable housing

You said	We Propose To
General maintenance around swimming pool, bottle banks, bins, pilot "big belly bins". Make waste bins seagull proof. There are weeds everywhere, footpaths overgrown, inadequate lighting at Deanhead Drive and Road	We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, painting railings etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot (regrettably) do everything we would like to and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. The suggestions re new types of bins that are gull proof will be looked at.
Roads - some need resurfacing, Home Arms car park, whole length at back of Murrayfield needs tarmac. Lack of drop down kerbs	We are currently developing a new approach to roads maintenance which allows communities to determine planned road maintenance priorities in their areas. The Council now has 3 jet patchers and one pot master pro active on the road network filling in pot holes but it is recognised more needs to be done to address larger sections of roads which require resurfacing.
Warner Park - nets and fencing needs repaired, parking issues	We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, railing etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot regrettably do everything and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance.
Food supply at Saltgreens	The Council wants to ensure residents in all our care homes have access to the best quality food and continually review the quality and affordability of products provided by our suppliers. A recent pilot arrangement in schools using local supplier to provide butcher meat has proved to be very successful and we are looking at ways in which this approach can be rolled out.
Safe place scheme - not just for LD cases	We are in agreement for the need of safe places and we are exploring how we can become part of the Safe Place Scheme.
No public toilets at Reston car park	We have delivered multi million pound upgrades to parks in a number of our communities in recent years. If a park for Reston is a priority then this should be raised via local councillors so that it can be added to the list of future schemes that may be undertaken.
More money should be spent on tourism in Berwickshire	We would love to spend more money on tourism, regrettably this has to be prioritised against other issues. There is a community fund and a Coastal maritime fund which may be able to provide some support. We are also engaging with SOSE and the Gunsgreen house trust to look at investment requirements at Eyemouth harbour.
Eyemouth HS - what is happening with old High School and play park and tennis courts	A plan for the redevelopment of the old High school site is being prepared by Council officers and will be subject to future community consultation.
Toilets in Eyemouth in poor condition	A report on the future provision of toilets is being developed for consideration by members. This may involve rationalising the number of public toilets we have across the region. We have too many and cannot afford to operate and upgrade them all. This is a non statutory service and we need to prioritise where we can invest and sustain services. In the future we may have fewer but better facilities.
Social enterprise - gluten free bakery at risk of losing grant, needs a property	This issue has been resolved and the bakery is now occupying alternative premises.
Allanton - 20mph - concerns over speeding, parking on pavements, school bus safety. Speed on New Harbour road Eyemouth	The Council has introduced a trial 20mph speed limit scheme in many communities and is currently consulting on the future of this scheme. If there is a desire to see more roads included as part of this scheme then this could be looked at, subject to the outcome of the consultation.
Continued partnership with Harbour Trust	The Council has an excellent relationship with the Harbour trust and supports their ongoing activities both financially and in kind. We wish to see this relationship develop in future, building on the success of the EDF investment in the harbour and the expansion of the marine servicing base.
Number of holiday lets stopping local residents finding affordable housing	The Council is working with local RSL partners through the Strategic Housing Improvement Plan to enhance the number of local affordable houses. We recognise this is a major issue for local people. We can use powers under council tax legislation to levy an additional tax on second homes, however is a private decision for individuals if they wish to own and let out a second home in an area. We will discuss this further with Scottish Government to see if there are ways we could acquire more homes for public ownership when they come onto the open market.
Healthcare provision, GPs and dentists - not good	Not a responsibility of SBC. Will be raised with NHS Borders and the IJB.

GALASHIELS AND DISTRICT 21/7/2022

No. in attendance:

15

Overall summary of Issues

Main topic was the new Campus, plus general issues of buses, maintenance, Gala Resource Centre, dialogue with community, working conditions for teachers, Burgh Yard, Mountain Bike trails, cheap rents for students, college graduates, history of area

You said	We Propose To
Why are bus timetables no longer in print	Online access to bus timetables is considered to be more environmentally friendly and easier to update
General maintenance and upkeep of Galashiels; Volunteer Hall signage, bins in Lintburn street, rubbish lying on Channel Street, weeds everywhere, general poor standard of cleanliness and poor upkeep of cemeteries	We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget, which can be used to address issues such as benches, painting railings etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot (regrettably) do everything we would like to and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance.
Status of Gala Resource Centre	The building is not currently in use and we are awaiting for the building to be transferred to Estates. This will then be available for any interested parties.
More dialogue with community in regards to what projects are happening/on-going	Agreed. The council is currently considering ways in which we can engage, inform and consult with communities more effectively
New Academy - campus	The Council is progressing the delivery of the new campus as quickly as possible using Hub South East . Planning permission for the new facility is now in place and the project is progressing. We believe the proposed location of the school within Scott Park provides the optimum solution which will allow the building to be constructed with minimum impact on the delivery of the curriculum.
Improve working conditions for teachers	The working conditions for teachers are regularly discussed in meetings between the council and the trades union to ensure all workers have the best possible terms and conditions and the best possible working environment
Would like the Council to lead the green agenda	The council is doing everything it can to reduce our carbon footprint; green council fleet, reducing our energy consumption and encouraging bio diversity. We have declared a climate emergency and are actively pursuing a net zero agenda for 2045.
Mountain bike trails for Galashiels	Active cycling network throughout the Borders including Gala is being developed using a network of multi use paths. The Council's ambition is for the Borders to develop its status as a top destination of cycling and mountain biking. The region will host the Enduro World mountain biking championships in 2023 and the council is one of the sponsors of the event.
Cheap rents and grants to keep college graduates in area	This is not something, regrettably, that current resources will allow. The council is however a living wage employer and encourages all its partners and suppliers to also sign up to the scheme.
Recording history of area, re-use old buildings	The council is working with SOSE to undertake the development of place plans which will examine a range of issues facing communities including the need to regenerate high streets, improve the appearance of the public realm and adopt a more interventionist approach to dealing with problem buildings. The first 4 sessions are planned for Hawick, Galashiels, Jedburgh and Eyemouth in November and it is proposed that more sessions, including Selkirk will follow.

HAWICK AND HERMITAGE ISSUES - 28/7/2022

No. in attendance:

12

Overall summary of Issues

Main issues were CARS, Teviot Wind Farm, Eskdale Muir Rifle Range, general maintenance, roads etc., issues re money to town

You said	We Propose To
Roads - cold tar filling, idling vehicles - emissions	The council recognise that the use of cold tar is problematic and we only use this for emergency pothole repairs. We are currently developing a new approach to roads maintenance which allows communities to determine planned road maintenance priorities in their areas. The Council now has 3 jet patchers and one pot master pro active on the road network filling in pot holes but it is recognised more needs to be done to address larger sections of roads which require re surfacing.
McDonalds - bringing more rubbish	Noted. This could only be solved by people changing their behaviour and attitude to litter.
CARS is a façade, prohibitive costs	The Council believe that the CARS scheme provide a valuable boost to the appearance of town centres and the scheme that have been delivered to date have provided significant benefits for communities.
Use 3D to show what new HS may look like	Thank you this will be explored
Teviot wind farm	These issues will be addressed with planning colleagues.
Biodiversity issues in the Borders	The Council has declared a climate emergency and is encouraging wild flowers and bio diversity through reprioritising its grass cutting regime. This is not proving popular with all sections of the community The Biodiversity of environments along the Tweed has been the subject of action following council reports and the use of weed killer and salt is being managed more carefully.
Eskdale Muir rifle range	These issues will be addressed with planning colleagues.
Impact of walls for flooding, maintenance	The flood protection scheme will provide 1 in 75 flood protection to the town and protect over 900 properties for the blight of flooding. The scheme is being delivered to a very high standard of design and finish.
Community hospital - 7 gardens - friends maintain	Community hospitals are operated by NHS Borders
General maintenance - weeds, cemeteries, gaps in pavements, litter bins in laybys never emptied, lack of dog poo and litter bins at Acre Know	We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, railing etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot regrettably do everything and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance.

KELSO ISSUES 16/8/2022

No. in attendance:

10

Overall summary of Issues

There was only one attendee, Provost Gavin Horsburgh who raised various issues from maintenance, Gypsy Travellers, Public toilets, bus shelter, Maxmill Park, council systems, community and taxi transport

You said	We Propose To
Glebe Wall Bridge Street, owned by Church of Scotland, can CoS give third of land for car parking	Need to explore this with the Church of Scotland. Maybe something the community council could discuss with the Church.
General maintenance issues, install lighting to footpath between Bridge St and Mayfield Gdn Centre, no precinct sweeper in Kelso	We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, railing etc. The council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot regrettably do everything and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance. The issue of the precinct sweeper in Kelso will be looked at.
Prevent Gypsy travellers camping in Kelso	Gypsy travellers are a recognised equalities group and SBC cannot take legal steps to prevent people camping in Kelso. Where any illegal traveller encampments occur on council owned land we will take steps to ensure their duration is minimised. The council has no legal powers to evict Gypsy travellers from private land but can provide advice to landowners.
Public toilets, provide tap and go access	In line with many areas across the UK, the council is having to charge for this non statutory service; however, the development of cashless tap and go facility can be looked at. The initial capital outlay and complexity of providing wi-fi connected cashless infrastructure across the Borders may prove to be ineffective in cost terms given take up and other logistical challenges.
Home to school transport	The logistics of providing home to school transport across such a large area in the Scottish Borders are significantly challenging and complex. Nevertheless, we are keen to hear of ways in which this could be improved and would suggest this be the subject of further review.
Bus shelter in town a poor environment, buses mounting kerbs	The council is keen to examine ways in which rural transport can be boosted. Perhaps this is something the community council could take forward in partnership with SBC?
Potential purchaser of the Maxmill site (owner of the old gasworks on Sprouston Road/ Station Road. This is currently temporary/ homelessness accommodation to support homelessness services and now the Ukraine crisis. Willing to pay the DV value	This will be subject to further investigation
Community and Taxi transport does not seem joined up particularly in supporting patients travelling to and from BGH.	The council recognises the importance of transport connectivity to rural communities in particular in accessing employment, education and health appointments. Regrettably given the geography of the Borders and the significant travel distances involved, transport is a huge issue. We are piloting a rural demand responsive transport service in Berwickshire which is providing encouraging early feedback, but any ideas as to how transport services could be improved for the Cheviot area and Kelso would be welcome.
Council systems can be laborious for members of the community. CC tends to get information manually by secretary, planning portal and social media.	Thank you for the feedback. We are trying to develop more immediate forms of information dissemination including Twitter, Facebook, yammer and via the council's website. Any ideas you have in terms of how we could communicate more effectively will be gratefully considered.

LEADERDALE AND MELROSE ISSUES 14/7/2022

No. in attendance:

5

Overall summary of Issues

Road conditions, better interaction with CC's, cemeteries, Council phone system

You said	We Propose To
Road conditions - potholes and white lining, roads narrow due to lack of verge cleaning	We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, painting railings etc. The Council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot (regrettably) do everything we would like to and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance.
Want to see better interaction with CC's	We agree and the council will explore how we can engage more effectively with community councils.
cemetery conditions	This is a significant issue for many people and we are currently reviewing the approach to cemetery maintenance and grave stones in cemeteries that are still being used.
Council phone system - being cut off after being on hold for 30 mins - told will get a call back but never does	We recognise this is currently a problem. Many people are frustrated by problems accessing council services using the 0300 number. We are urgently looking at ways in which this can be improved including ways of accessing council services using the councils website are being developed. The capacity of systems underpinning the 0300 number is a known problem which is being addressed with CGI.

MID BERWICKSHIRE ISSUES 26/7/2022

No. in attendance: 6

Overall summary of Issues

Reston station, platform at Berwick station, roads, CC's, signage

You said	We Propose To
Reston Station - inconsistent train timings, to and from Reston to Edinburgh. Platform gap north end of Berwick Station.	This is not an issue where the council has any direct locus. The council leader has recently written to Scottish Ministers expressing frustration and concern at the lack of a Scotrail operated service to the new station.
approaching Duns from Berwick, roads - resurfaced but not renewed all white lining	This will be prioritised within the white lining programme and addressed as quickly as possible.
Community Council working group - how to see what other CC's are doing	This is an issue that community councils could seek to resolve
Signs for the original caravan site on the green still in place in Coldstream	This will be looked at to remove the sign asap.

SELKIRKSHIRE ISSUES 7/7/2022

No. in attendance:

10

Overall summary of Issues

David Deacon emailed a list of issues but didn't approach anyone at the meeting. Main concerns were general maintenance, ECH needed for LD, Roads, council 0300 number, re-generation of high street and old Sainsbury's building, gypsy travellers, CAT Team, closure of banks and ATM's, new school - will it be a campus.

You said	We Propose To
General issues, garden waste collections, no pavement sweeper, maintenance of cycle paths, state of pavements in town, Salt bins - lid missing, cemeteries, state of kingsland avenue, Pringle park - dog mess and grass, choked drains, stones down in cemeteries,	We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, railing etc. The council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot regrettably do everything and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance.
ECH housing needed for LD	The council is exploring the development of new facilities for LD clients with Cornerstone, trying to replicate the facility the currently operate in the West of Scotland.
General road issues; one way system Yarrow Terrace & Buccleuch Road, speed limits, 20 mph limit. Provision of a taxi rank? Not enough parking	These issues will be passed on to the roads team to address. A consultation over the 20mph limit is currently underway.
Council 0300 number, difficulty getting right person	Ways of accessing council services using the councils website are being developed. The capacity of systems underpinning the 0300 number is a known problem which is being addressed with CGI.
Re-generation of high street; need an affordable supermarket and housing	The council is working with South Of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) to undertake the development of place plans which will examine a range of issues facing communities including the need to regenerate high streets, improve the appearance of the public realm and adopt a more interventionist approach to dealing with problem buildings. The first 4 sessions are planned for Hawick, Galashiels, Jedburgh and Eyemouth and it is proposed that more sessions, including Selkirk will follow.
Gypsy Travellers	The council is trying to look at ways in which the needs of the travelling community can be better met in the Borders and a report is coming to council on this issue in November/ December. It is recognised the caravan site at Victoria Park is not the best location for services for travellers and alternative arrangements need to be planned and provided. The site is operated by Live Borders and was made available to travellers during COVID lockdown in response to COVID legislation. There are no plans to compensate local businesses, this would not be an appropriate response to the way in which this equalities group have been accommodated.
CAT Team	A review of the CAT team is currently underway. The council currently funds 14 police officer in the Borders to address issues of community concern.
Selkirk High School - will new school be a campus, any proposed location	There are currently no plans to replace Selkirk High School. The council is currently replacing Galashiels and Peebles High schools assisted by Scottish Government Funding. The replacement of Hawick High school is also being planned and Selkirk will require the identification of additional resource. If proposals emerge they will be the subject on extensive community consultation.
Closure of Banks, ATM's	This is a commercialisation for the banking sector and reflects the move to online banking and cashless transactions. While the council can express concern we have no powers to legislate in this area.

Overall summary of Issues

Concerns re prescriptions, venues for workshops for art groups etc., CAT team, public toilets, roads, Puffin Crossing, cyclists, need housing for locals - being bought for Air BnBs, Council contact system, affordable office space, Walkerburn village hall, should swimming be mandatory

You said	We Propose To
Concerns about length of time to get prescriptions at Chemists, Haylodge HC	This is not an issue that is within the remit of the council. Suggest this be raised directly with the NHS Borders by the community.
Opps to support art groups, venues for workshops, use of St Ronans Well Centre	Such opportunities will have to be developed by the community themselves but may be eligible for a community grant.
CAT Team, breakdown in relationship with CC's	The ongoing provision of the CAT team is currently under review and will be considered to be part of the budget process for 23/24.
Public toilets - not enough in Innerleithen	The council is struggling with available resources to maintain all services and a number of non statutory service such as toilets in some communities are currently closed. We need to prioritise the facilities we can sustain and invest in improving the condition of fewer remaining facilities. A strategy on public toilet provision is being developed and will be brought to Council shortly
Roads - Nursery park road conditions, lack of EV Chargers, parking, Puffin Crossing	The council is developing a new strategy of community enablement so that we can assist communities to undertake more of these types of activities and improvements themselves using the community grants scheme. We want to help communities with start up grants, equipment and expertise to improve the appearance of local areas. The council does not have the resources to fund all the infrastructure required or desired by communities and the roll out of EV charging points must involve the private sector and an understanding that this infrastructure will be on pay to use basis. A strategy is coming forward to council to develop the Regions' approach to EV charging.
Concerns re cyclists on road, more could be done on safety	Agreed and with limited resources the council must prioritise its investment in the road network. Safety of cyclists is a priority and the councils' investing through Borderlands and other funding in active travel networks, multi use paths and road safety measures e.g. the 20mph zones to assist with the safety of cyclists.
Council contact system	The council is actively working to address the current performance of the council contact system including the number of dropped calls
Affordable office space	The council is currently considering how we can work with SOSE to improve the stock of small units and offices for start up businesses and on going activity throughout the region.
Village hall in Walkerburn struggling financially	A number of village halls are struggling financially and we need to consider in the current climate whether the total number of halls can be sustained in communities or whether building based service need to be rationalised e.g. into the local school.
Area partnerships need to change	Agreed. This needs further discussion with communities.
Should swimming lessons be mandatory	The Director of Education is actively considering whether swimming lessons should be provided to pupils in all borders schools. There are significant logistical implications concerning teaching time, tavel and pool availbaility to be considered and addressed.

TUESDAY 12TH JULY - TWEEDDALE WEST

No. in attendance:

8

Overall summary of Issues

The main concern raised was the Bus Service 101/102, community willing to host Ukraine's, volunteers interested in helping with maintenance of cemeteries etc., roads, Graham Inst

You said	We Propose To
Bus Service 101/102, not enough seats on buses	This is the subject of an ongoing process to sustain service 101/102. Funding partners have agreed to fund the service to the 31st March and discussions with the community over the future service delivery model are currently underway.
Good waste collection service, recycling guidance	Very useful feedback thank you.
Hosting Ukraine's - many willing to host	There is a comprehensive process in place to assist Ukrainian refugees arriving in Scotland coordinated by the Director of Social Work and under the guidance of the Scottish Government. The contribution of individuals and communities to the vital relief effort is greatly appreciated. It is up to village groups to work together if they feel there are better ways of coordinating local support activities. Information is available on the Council Website or by contacting the relief team
Volunteers interested in helping with grass cutting, care of cemetery, war memorial - resilient communities, work closer with Community Councils, devolved budget	The Council is developing a new strategy of community enablement so that we can assist communities to undertake more of these types of activities themselves using the community grants scheme. We want to help communities with start up grants, equipment and expertise to improve the appearance of local areas.
Roads - potholes, 20 mph speed limit, EV Chargers, parking at Drummond Knows	The Council is developing an approach to planned roads maintenance whereby communities will be consulted over priority road repairs in their areas. The 20mph trial is currently the subject of an ongoing public consultation and the results of this will be reported to Council before a final decision is taken.
Start up business units	The Council is currently considering how we can work with SOSE to improve the stock of small units and offices for start up businesses and ongoing activity throughout the region.
EV Charges	The council does not have the resources to fund all the infrastructure required or desired by communities and the roll out of EV charging points must involve the private sector and an understanding that this infrastructure will be on pay to use basis. A strategy is coming forward to Council to develop the Regions' approach to EV charging.

JEDBURGH AND DISTRICT ISSUES 9/8/2022

No. in attendance: 11

Overall summary of Issues
The main issues in Jed were consultation for old high school bldgs, scaffolding, library in campus, bus service 51, general maintenance, sea gulls, Live Borders charges, info re staff working at home, ground near St Johns church

You said	We Propose To
Standard of maintenance, lack of dialogue with communities, SBC ownership doesn't allow volunteers, vandalism to benches, grass cutting, foot paths not maintained	We are currently reviewing the approach we are taking to neighbourhood management. Each ward area has a small schemes budget which can be used to address issues such as benches, painting railings etc. The council is trying to develop new approaches to neighbourhood maintenance recognising SBC cannot (regrettably) do everything we would like to and there is huge untapped capacity in localities for volunteers etc. to help with the general upkeep of neighbourhoods. We want to develop a new approach to community engagement and involvement and explore ways in which we can help local people to improve their environment through grants, advice and assistance.
Development of Old Grammar school buildings/site	Plans are being developed for the old grammar school site
Concerns re scaffolding	The redevelopment of the unsafe building at exchange square is progressing and scaffolding will be removed shortly
Live Borders charging too much for use of buildings	The charging for sport and leisure facility access is currently being examined to ensure prices are sustainable, fair and consistent across the council's estate.
Seagulls are becoming a concern	Gull nuisance is a problem in many communities. The Council will explore the potential for introducing gull proof bins and the public can assist by using gull proof food waste recycling receptacles, where these are provided and by not putting out rubbish which will attract gulls and other animals.
Jedburgh not mentioned on Scotrail advertising in Tweedbank	This is perhaps an issue the community council could raise directly with Scotrail.
Library in new campus - not accessible for all	We are speaking to community representatives about a community run facility in the town centre
Medical centre - issues getting in to centre, is centre closing	This is an issue for NHS Borders
Jedburgh Trust - swimming pool expanding	The council is currently looking at ways in which it can support the Jed Leisure Trust along with Live Borders and BREST. All three organisations are finding the current operating environment with increased fuel costs and reduced footfall very difficult. A report setting out a proposed support package will be brought to the council for approval in December following discussion
Lots of empty shops	The council is working with SOSE to undertake the development of place plans which will examine a range of issues facing communities including the need to regenerate high streets, improve the appearance of the public realm and adopt a more interventionist approach to dealing with problem buildings. The first 4 sessions are planned for Hawick, Galashiels, Jedburgh and Eyemouth in November and it is proposed that more sessions will follow
Council offices at the Council buildings, would like to see report on effectiveness of working from home, outputs, appraisals, as a taxpayer.	The council is keeping this under review. Working from home has significant benefits for staff and the environment through reduced travel to work journeys etc.