

MINUTES of Meeting of the
CHEVIOT AREA PARTNERSHIP
held on Wednesday, 29 March 2023
at 6.30 pm. Via Microsoft Teams.

Present:- Councillors P. Brown, (Chairman), S. Hamilton, S. Mountford, E. Robson, S. Scott, T. Weatherston, together with Representatives of the following Community Councils and Partner Organisations:-

Graeme Hayward and John Taylor - Jedburgh Community Council
Gavin Horsburgh and Colin McGrath – Kelso Community Council
Carol Spalton, Crailing Nisbet and Eckford Community Council
Brian Burton - Sprouston Community Council
Fiona Benton – The Bridge
Hazel Woodsell – Kelso Heritage
Louise Rawlins – CLDS Worker
Dean Weatherston - Chair of Cheviot Assessment Panel
Alison Grainger – Police Scotland

Apologies:- Ian Rendall-Reid – Cheviot Youth
Susan Oliver – Headteacher, Jedburgh Campus
Jill Lothian – Headteacher Kelso High School

In attendance: - Community Co-ordinator – Gillian Jardine, Community Engagement Officer – Emma Husband, Democratic Services Officer (F. Henderson).

1. **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the in person meeting, which included Elected Members, Community Council representatives, Community Organisations and guests attending within the meeting. She outlined how the meeting would be conducted.

2.0 **FEEDBACK FROM THE MEETING ON 1 FEBRUARY 2023**

2.1 The minute of the meeting of the Cheviot Area Partnership held on 1 February 2023 had been circulated with the Agenda. A response to questions raised on the Scottish Borders 2018 Community Plan and National Planning Framework 4 had been provided through the additional information document which was circulated with the papers.

2.2 Following a request that all those in attendance be recorded in the Minute, it was agreed that those present and apologies received would be recorded individually.

2.3 With regards to the comments raised on climate change: SBC was working in partnership with the Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI) to establish a carbon emissions baseline for the Council as an organisation. This would inform where to focus efforts for carbon reduction and allow the setting of targets and monitoring of progress for key carbon emissions sources (in line with requirements for reporting under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009). Like most other Scottish local authorities the two key areas identified were those relating to the decarbonisation of buildings and transport related emissions.

2.4 Work had also just commenced on the setting of a carbon baseline for the Scottish Borders geographical area. As an organisation SBC's footprint was a small percentage of the total footprint of the wider area but the Council had a key role to play in developing policy and strategy, supporting a Place-based approach and communicating key climate change messaging etc.

- 2.6 The link below to the Community Carbon Calculator [Tool](#) which had been created by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) and supports communities to consider change in their area and activities that would make the biggest difference.

Would the Area Partnership be interested in having a discussion or workshop on climate change at a future meeting?

- 2.7 During discussion a request was made to receive information on the impact on the Scottish Borders specifically rather than for Scotland as a whole.

SECTION 1: SERVICE & PARTNER UPDATE AND CONSULTATIONS

- 3.0 Draft Health and Social Care Strategic Framework discussion - Carol Hayden, National Team for Development and Inclusion (NDTI)
- 3.1 The Chairman welcome Carol Hayden to the meeting who was in attendance to provide an update on the development of a Health and Social Care Strategic Framework for Scottish Borders. Carol represented the National Team for Development and Inclusion who were gathering feedback and comments on the framework. It was explained that the aim of the public engagement and involvement was to update on work undertaken to date in the development of the strategic framework; to outline the framework in the planning, design and monitoring of the framework which had been informed by engaging and listening to communities to understand their expressed needs – published in the ‘We have listened report’, understanding the public health needs of the population – published in the ‘Needs of Our Communities report’; reviewing performance against the National Health and Wellbeing Outcome and considering current and future challenges.

The key challenges were highlighted as :-

- Working with the impacts of Covid-19
 - A population with increasing levels of health and wellbeing needs
 - The need to support transitions from children’s to adult’s services
 - Significant workforce pressures
 - National and International economic pressures impacting on Communities i.e. cost of living, fuel poverty
 - Significant financial pressures for the Health and Social Care Partnership
 - Access to affordable housing in our rural context and the associated impact on health and wellbeing
 - Unpaid carers need more support
 - Pressures in our Communities and in our Hospitals
 - Climate Change
 - More People living alone
 - National Care Service
- 3.2 During discussion, matters raised included local transport links, postcode lottery regarding the level of service received, locality working groups and their re-introduction although there was no timescale. Also discussed was the concept around Community and Locality and getting local voices heard and acted upon and Ms Hayden explained that discussion at Area Partnerships and Locality Working Groups would feed into to SBC and into the Health and Social Care Strategic Framework for Scottish Borders. The ageing demographic in the Borders and specifically within Cheviot was highlighted and it was explained that although there was not a specific plan this fed into other plans and it must be recognised that some targets were challenging.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

POLICE REPORT

- 4.0 The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Alison Grainger to the meeting to give an update on policing in the Cheviot Area. There were currently Police Officers in Jedburgh and Kelso and one Community Liaison Officer for both secondary schools within Cheviot. There were issues with resources, however Police would attend the Area Partnerships whenever possible. In terms of rural crime, there had been an increase in sheep worrying and SBC would be reminding the public via social media about keeping dogs on leads. Work with partners was ongoing in terms of cross border crimes and the event season was approaching with 180 events in the Calendar. There had been 136 events resourced by Police Scotland last year. Police Scotland happy to advise and work with Organisers of Community Events with regard to them providing Marshalls with support from the Police. Mr Horsburgh thanked Police Scotland for everything they did to support local events.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

5.0 **SECTION 2: COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY FUNDING
Cheviot Funding Tables 2022/23**

There had been circulated copies of the Cheviot Funding for 2022/2023 which detailed the funding available together with information on the allocation of the Neighbourhood Support Fund in 2022/23. The opening balance at 1 April 2022 was £80,268.39 plus underspend from the Community Fund in 2021/22 of £28,640.65, underspend in the Local Festival Grant in 2021/22 of £2,953.00 and underspend in the Community Fund 2019/20 of £2,175, which resulted in an overall budget of £114,037.04. Other sources of funding included Local Festival Grant Budget totalling £16,675.00, Annual Support Grant to Community Councils totalling £10,470.00, Common Goods, SBC Enhancement Grant, SBC Welfare Grant and SBC Small Schemes totalled £202,419.69. Neighbourhood Support Fund applications awarded since April 2022 totalled £39,880.84 and applications assessed and awaiting decision totalled £71,690.79.

**DECISION
NOTED.**

Neighbourhood Support Fund

- 6.0 There had been 20 applications received for the Cheviot Neighbourhood Support Fund which was a significant increase on previous rounds and very encouraging that more community organisations were coming forward. There had been circulated copies of a report which detailed the recommendations of the Cheviot Community Fund Assessment Panel. The report provided a brief description of each application received and a recommendation on the sum to be awarded to each project. As previously reported, projects with a mean score of 80+ in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore would be recommended for approval and those were detailed below :-
- 6.1 **Interest Links**
An application had been received from Interest Links requesting £4,805 to offer 25 members with learning disabilities, aged 8-80 with age-based befriending. The aim was to nurture friendships, provide new opportunities and improve wellbeing, confidence & social skills. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended that £4,805 be awarded.
- 6.2 **One Step Borders**
An application had been received from One Step Borders in the sum of £3,150 to carry out volunteer recruitment and training throughout the Cheviot locality to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of 35 young people. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended that £3,150 be awarded.
- 6.3 **2nd Kelso Guides**

An application had been received from 2nd Kelso Guides in the sum of £1,440.00 for the purchase of four tents to allow the group to attend a UK-wide Girlguiding camp. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended that £1,440 be awarded.

6.4 Kelso Orchard Tennis Club

An application was submitted by Kelso Orchard Tennis Club in the sum of £4,005.00 to provide activities for those 65+, in partnership with local care homes and sheltered housing. These activities would improve participants mental and physical wellbeing and the Panel were supportive of the project and recommended that £4,005 be awarded.

6.5 Jed Lunch Club

Jed Lunch Club had submitted an Application in the sum of £360.00 to reopen its' doors post-covid. This monthly club was held within Jed Thistle Club Rooms for older adults, offering a hot meal at an affordable cost, socialisation and reduced isolation. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended that £360 be awarded.

6.6 Borders Union Agricultural Society

An application was submitted for £3,688.00 for the provision of educational tote bags for each child present at their Countryside Day. These bags offered a memento, as well as education on exhibitors and UN Sustainability goals, and a biodegradable water bottle. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended that £3,688 be awarded.

6.7 Kelso Wheelers Cycling Club

An application had been received from Kelso Wheelers Cycling Club in the sum of £5,000.00 to make improvements on the bike trails in Angraflat, Kelso. These improvements would allow the trails to reopen for the public. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended that £5,000 be awarded.

6.8 Jedburgh Tourism Alliance

There had been submitted an application from Jedburgh Tourism Alliance in the sum of £5,000.00 to commission a feasibility study by Land Use Consultants to explore what streetscape developments would enhance the appeal of the town. The Panel were supportive of the project and recommended that £5,000 be awarded.

Further Applications received had been discussed by the Assessment Panel and therefore recommendations were as follows:-

6.9 St Boswells Village Hall

An application for £3,335.36 was submitted by St Boswells Village Hall for the replacement of their water boiler and dishwasher, which would allow the Hall to continue supporting vulnerable people within their community. Though funding remained available for Village Halls, the panel agreed that support from the Neighbourhood Support Fund would allow the group to improve their current services, encouraging future financial sustainability. The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore the Panel were supportive of the project and recommended that £3,335.36 be awarded.

6.10 Kelso Cricket Club

An application for £3,393.84 was submitted by Kelso Cricket Club for the refurbishment of their kitchen facilities. This work would support the club to host events for the local community. The panel agreed that support from the Neighbourhood Support Fund would allow this group to improve their current services, encouraging future financial sustainability. The panel further agreed they had produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore the Panel were supportive of the project and recommended £3,393.84.

6.11 Kelso Cricket Club

An application for £1,916.46 was submitted by Kelso Cricket Club for the purchase of table and chairs for their marquee. These facilities would be available for use by the community. The panel agreed that the project would not provide as great a community benefit as application ref.CFA000117, and alongside a high-volume of applications from this particular group, they would not recommend this project for funding. The panel wished to encourage Kelso Cricket Club to look at ways of becoming more financially sustainable, e.g. fundraising endeavours.

6.12 Green St Boswells

An application for £3,000.88 was submitted by Green St Boswells to establish a community food-growing and community wildlife gardens. The gardens aimed to improve community cohesion for all ages, as well as education. The panel agreed that food-growing projects such as this were assets to the communities they worked within and had produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability. The Panel were supportive, however as the project stood without permissions SBC Estates & Planning, the project was ineligible for funding. However, on the condition that the project was approved by SBC Estates & Planning, the panel recommended a grant of £3,000.88.

6.13 Jedforest Instrumental Band

An application for £5,000.00 was submitted by Jedforest Instrumental Band to support the implementation of an improved, energy-efficient, heating and lighting system to support the bands who practice within the hall as well as the community use. The panel praised the group for their provision of free music tuition within the community and agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore recommended a grant of £5,000.00.

6.14 St Boswells OAP Social Club

An application for £1,662.75 was submitted by St Boswells OAP Social Club for their Community Activity Day which would offer a trip to a location agreed amongst the group, socialisation and refreshments. The group was open to any members of the community. The panel agreed that this project did not provide enough wide-spread benefit to the Cheviot Community, and were not persuaded the proposed project produced an adequate case for funding. The panel, however, understood the benefit which the club provided to older people in the area. As a result, the panel's recommendation was not fund the proposed project, but to award the sum of £500.00 towards ongoing costs.

6.15 Borders Media CIC

An application for £4,475.50 was submitted by Borders Media CIC to establish, 'Explore the Borders', a bi-monthly magazine promoting tourism in the Scottish Borders. The magazine would be supported through membership packages and advertising and available online and in print. The panel were not persuaded that the proposed project produced an adequate case for funding on the basis that there were multiple bodies, already in existence, who had the responsibility of promoting tourism throughout The Borders. The panel encouraged the group to work with those existing bodies in the development of their project, with the understanding that this group wished to tackle a more local approach to tourism throughout The Borders. The panel encouraged SBC Councillors to encourage these existing bodies to develop their local approach. Should approaching these bodies in partnership be unsuccessful, the panel would welcome a more carefully considered application at a later date.

6.16 Borders Group Of Riding For The Disabled Association

An application for £4,158.00 was submitted by Borders Group of RDA for the purchase of a replacement quad bike to support the maintenance and safety of their riding arena. The purchase would benefit both children, adults and horses using their centre. The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence

of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability and therefore is recommended a grant of £4,158.00.

6.17 Borders Group Of Riding For The Disabled Association

An application for £4,050.00 was submitted by Borders Group of RDA for the establishment of a 'sensory garden' for disabled children and young adults. The panel were not persuaded the proposed project produced an adequate case for funding, as the group were unable to provide all supporting documentation required. The panel would welcome a more carefully considered application at a later date.

6.18 Kelso Football Club

An application for £10,050.00 was submitted by Kelso Football Club for the refurbishment of the club rooms. The panel were not persuaded the proposed project produced an adequate case for funding. The group exceeded the maximum ask of the fund and were unable to provide the supporting documentation required. As the application did not meet the criteria of the Neighbourhood Support Fund, the panel were unable to support but would welcome a more carefully considered application at a later date.

6.19 Tweed Valley Railway Campaign

An application for £3,750.00 was submitted by Tweed Valley Railway Campaign, a group who aimed to restore rail services between the East Coast Mainline and Borders Railway via Kelso. The group wished to create promotional materials for stakeholder engagement both in person and online. The panel agreed that support from the Neighbourhood Support Fund would allow this group to educate and drive an important campaign forward and agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainable therefore recommended a grant of £3,750.00.

6.20 Jedburgh Legacy Group

An application for £4,500.00 was submitted by the Jedburgh Legacy Group to support the heating costs of the public library. The group were in the process of taking over management to reopen the space for reading, warm and safe spaces. The panel agreed that support from the Neighbourhood Support Fund would allow the group to establish an important asset within the Jedburgh community. The panel agreed they produced an adequate case in terms of their ability to deliver, clear evidence of need, potential impact, use of public money, innovation and sustainability. As the group were in discussions with SBC with regard to an appropriate lease and management agreement with SBC, the panel recommended a grant of £4,500.00 on the condition of the group reaching agreement with SBC.

6.21 Mr D Weatherston further advised that The Cheviot Neighbourhood Support Fund base budget for 2023/24 was £46,352 and it was likely there would be an underspend from 2022/23 and grants which had not been drawn down from other Cheviot funds to add to the NSF total for 2023/24. The Cheviot Neighbourhood Support Fund Assessment Panel had considered this and made the following recommendations for the 2023/24 NSF:

- An application limit of £5,000 be kept in place
- A limit of one application per year per community group be applied
- A limit of one application per Community Council and one application for each of the Community Council's subgroups be applied.

Within the scoring matrix, the assessment panel made the following recommendations:

- Remove the Innovation category
- Add two questions to the sustainability category:
 - Is the project piloting new ways of working?
 - If successful, how could these innovations be more widely adopted?

- Increase the scoring of 'Ability to Deliver' and 'Sustainability' to 20 points each, which would create a scoring matrix with 5 categories in total, all worth 20 points.

Finally, Mr Weatherston raised the matter of recruitment to the following positions were available within the Cheviot Assessment Panel :-

- Member of the Public (Jedburgh & District)
- Community Councillor (Jedburgh & District)
- SBC Councillor (Kelso & District)
- SBC Councillor (Jedburgh & District)

**DECISION
AGREED:-**

(a) that the following sums be awarded to each of those listed:-

- **Interest Link Borders - £4,805**
- **One Step Borders - £3,150**
- **2nd Kelso Guides - £1,440**
- **Kelso Orchard Tennis Club - £4,005**
- **Jed Lunch Club - £360**
- **Borders Union Agricultural Society £3,688**
- **Kelso Wheelers Cycling Club - £5,000**
- **Jedburgh Tourism Alliance - £5,000**
- **St Boswells Village Hall - £3,335.36**
- **Kelso Cricket Club (CFA000117) - £3,393.84**
- **Jedforest Instrumental Band - £5,000**
- **St Boswells OAP Social Club - £500**
- **Borders Group of Riding for the Disabled Association**
- **Tweed Valley Railway Campaign**

(b) that the following sums be awarded with conditions:-

- **Green St Boswells - £3,000.88**
- **Jedburgh Legacy Group - £4,50**

(c) that no award be made to the following:-

- **Kelso Cricket Club (CFA000118)**
- **Borders Media CIC**
- **Borders Group of RDA (CFA000126)**
- **Kelso Football Club**

(d) that the following recommendations by the Cheviot Assessment Panel be accepted :-

- the application limit of £5,000 remain;
- a limit of one application per year per community group be applied;
- a limit of one application per Community Council and one application for each of the Community Council's subgroups be applied.

(e) that in terms of the scoring, the recommendation by the Cheviot Assessment Panel be accepted:-

- that the Innovation category be removed;
- two questions be added to the sustainability category:
 - Is the project piloting new ways of working?
 - If successful, how could these innovations be more widely adopted?
- The scoring of 'Ability to Deliver' and 'Sustainability' be increased to 20 points each, creating a scoring matrix with 5 categories in total, all worth 20 points.

(f) that the Assessment Panel work with SBC Officers to recruit into the vacant positions.

7.0 SECTION 3: PLACE MAKING

7.1 It was reported that the Cheviot Place Making Working Group had recently met with Sarah McDonald, Selkirk BIDS to hear about the two community engagement events which had been delivered in Selkirk. This was in anticipation of Cheviot communities planning their community engagement activities. It had been agreed that Alison Grainger, Police Scotland be invited to attend the Jedburgh Place Making workshop scheduled for March 2023.

7.2 Community Council Updates:-

Jedburgh CC -

- Town Library Up and running again
- Hydro Pool being fitted in Swimming Pool
- Working Group established to look at Hydro Power from the Cauld
- Progress on Grammar School Site
- Good Meeting held about establishing a Town Team
- Traffic Flow

Kelso CC - Update

- Time Capsule underneath the Bull Ring in Kelso Square to be lifted on 28 April in conjunction with the Coronation
- Trinity Church

DECISION NOTED.

8.0 SECTION 4: Other

8.1 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

The Chairman advised that additional information was included in the agenda pack which contained information on current consultations and links to useful information.

DECISION NOTED.

8.2 DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future Meetings of the Cheviot Area Partnership would be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, 20 September 2023

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

Wednesday, 31 January 2024

Wednesday, 27 March 2024

The next meeting would be held on **Wednesday, 31 May 2023** via Microsoft Teams.

8.3 **MEETING EVALUATION**

Ms Jardine reminded those present about the meeting evaluation form which could be accessed via the link <https://forms.office.com/r/HHH1dEcmz3>. She added that feedback about the Area Partnership meetings was really helpful and always appreciated.

The meeting concluded at 8.00 pm