

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report

July 2023

1.0 Meeting with John Curry (SBC Director)

The writer met with John Curry (SBC) and Crick Carlton (PCT) on 27/06/23 at SBC HQ. and discussed Place Planning and its wider implications. There was a fair measure of agreement but nothing concrete to report at this time.

The writer informed JC of the continuing concern over the PHS plans and the plans for the school hall in particular. Sam Coe's drawings were used to demonstrate the deficiencies and it was noted that many of the public would like to see the old hall retained. We were informed that this would not happen.

2.0 UCL Cycling World Championships.

No change

3.0 Tweeddale Area Partnership

The meeting was held 13 June in the Burgh Hall. The hall acoustics made hearing very difficult indeed.

PC Carsley did not attend as expected.

NOTE: Our July meeting will still be held in the Burgh Hall. However, due to the acoustics, we need an alternative. The Registry Office is too small. This can hold up to 28 and our largest meeting was 30+. IDEA: If we could get a suitable grant to cover, we could use the Anne Younger Studio at the Eastgate and be charged a suitable rent?

4.0 Police

We have formally endorsed the letter printed in Peeblesshire News 26/05/23 from Mr. Les Turnbull as the PCC position on this subject. Further, as your Chair, I ask our elected councillors the following questions.

- Can you confirm that one of the primary functions of Police Scotland is public safety?
- Assuming that public safety is a primary function, why then festivals. Scotland intend abandoning policing of the Beltane and other festivals.
- Does the presence of hundreds of horses and many hundreds of people in a town present significant potential danger to the public if other members of the public choose to ignore road closure orders?

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- If the police do not put out the necessary signs, who will and under what authority?
- Under what authority can members of the public, i.e., the Beltane committee, stop vehicles from progressing along any street where a road closure order is in place?
- If the police are not present how will enforcement action be taken if offences are committed?
- The dates of our festivals are known years in advance, why has Police Scotland not made adequate preparations to ensure that these events are policed effectively?

5.0 Street Pastors

The writer has been copied with a report written by Borders Street Pastors on their recent trial in Peebles on 24 June. The report is an internal report and not for publication. However, I have been given permission to share some of the content which is very positive, and the trial was deemed a success.

6.0 Town Maintenance (Repeated from the June meeting – Attended only by Tweeddale West Councillors)

Last month we reported on a walk around to review maintenance issues that should be addressed in the town falling under Tweeddale West. The writer suggests a similar exercise would be useful with at least one Tweeddale East Councillor and Neil Pringle from SBC. This may address concerns raised by more than one resident relating to maintenance on that side of the town. Issues raised by the public.

- Wall on the south side of the Tweed adjacent to the Tweed Bridge Eildon Site. This is now 3x the problem as when first reported and is being vandalised. A repair now will be much cheaper than a repair later!
- State of the Kingsmeadows car park, the white lines in carpark need repainted.
- State of the Kingsmeadows car park toilets. The toilet doors look awful.
- The fence next to the steps into Hay Lodge is now collapsing altogether.
- The tourist notices are even more discoloured.

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7.0 Peebles in Bloom

Although the writer has had no hand in these activities this last month, there has been a great deal of activity sighted going on between Gill, Anne, Fiona and Jenny and it is looking very good so far. Please could members remember that we need raffle prizes.

The writer made an application to the Neighbourhood Support fund for a small grant to assist in covering the running costs. Unfortunately, this was probably too late for the last meeting and the next meeting will be too late for a decision to be made. Consequently, I have emailed the Chair of the Parking Committee and the Chair of the Common Good to see if either fund is able to assist. A reply is awaited.

8.0 Public Toilets

The writer received little feedback from members and tabled a response to the request from SBC.

9.0 NHS Borders Executive Board Meeting

This meeting was held in the Burgh Hall as part of a new initiative to engage with the public. The writer considers that this strategic level is too high for the public and that they would appreciate a more operational level. **Two members of the public left saying that due to the poor acoustics** they could not hear anything. The representative of the press made a similar comment afterwards. The meeting was very well chaired and run. The meeting was probably a good forum for information exchange amongst the members, but with few recorded actions was not what the writer would have expected as an output in industry. At least one action from a previous meeting had not been captured on the action tracker. However, there was a half an hour engagement session at the end which allowed the public to ask questions, and this was very satisfactory. The writer recommended to the chair that instead of a roadshow, that they have a non-voting representative from the SBCCN (Scottish Borders Community Councils Network).

10.0 Meetings Attended

13.06.23	Tweeddale area Partnership meeting (Burgh Hall – (Acoustics awful))
14.06.23	South of Scotland Enterprise
26.06.23	Crick Carleton

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Councillors + Kenny Harrow, Hannah Lacon (SBC) + Crick
Carleton
Chambers Institution management meeting
27.06.23 John Curry (SBC)
Rosetta Road Holiday Park proposals
29.06.23 NHS Borders Executive Management meeting (Burgh Hall –
sound and acoustics awful. Members of the public left)
01.07.23 Victoria Park roadshow on lighting and the youth shelter
05.07.23 Jamie Hill (chair of the Eastgate Theatre
PCC Pre-meeting meeting

Peter Maudsley
Chair
Peebles and District Community Council