

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report

February 2023

1.0 General

Some concern has been raised about social media and some of the posts being rude, aggressive, and defamatory against individuals or indeed organisations. This writer doesn't use social media and consequently cannot comment directly. However, whilst it is wholly acceptable to produce a forceful case to support one's argument, it is never acceptable to attack an individual and always reflects badly on the perpetrator.

2.0 Voluntary Organisations

We are all aware that voluntary organisations of all descriptions tend to have difficulty finding enough volunteers to cover their workload. Some require nothing more than someone to help with lifting and carrying and some such as the Peebles Community Trust (PCT), require serious management skills.

As a suggestion, when the Burgh Hall opens again to show the newly opened-up roof in all its glory, could we use the footfall and host a volunteers' fair and thus advertise the various groups, what they do and what support they need?

This could perhaps also be used to promote the Common Good to the public as thought necessary by some in the community.

3.0 Holistic Transport Review

The writer has begun mind-mapping the issues surrounding the review. At a meeting with John Curry, Director Infrastructure and Environment at SBC this was discussed and John considered it a good foundation to work on. The draft as it stands at present is circulated with this report.

4.0 Public Toilets

Something to consider – we all know that the provision of public conveniences in Peebles seems to give us a problem. Just a thought –

- Does repair costs of broken locking mechanisms outweigh the revenue provided? If so, should toilets be provided free of charge and securely locked at night with vandal proof systems?

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report

February 2023

5.0 Common Good

The writer has now emailed the common Good Chair three times to request that the incumbent PCC representative be replaced by Community Councillor George Ramsay. Please could this be facilitated ASAP?

6.0 Meeting with John Curry, Director Infrastructure and Environment at SBC

The writer had a very useful meeting with John on 03 February. SBC understands that it is not communicating well, not just on the High School but on many subjects. The council appears hard pressed on resources both in terms of finance and staff; and stress levels have still not returned to normal from Covid. There is a feeling that the public do not understand the complexity of a council. The writer agrees on the last point. I never gave it a thought prior to joining PCC. When one considers the wide variety of services, the high cost of repairs across many areas and the constraints that affect them, no one can say that SBC has an easy task. However, the poor communications are a self-inflicted injury that increase workloads and stress levels and increase costs.

The writer also identified to John that public frustration in some areas has its roots in history and a more open style from SBC with demonstrable listening will help to resolve this over time.

Peter Maudsley
Chair
Peebles and District Community Council

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report

February 2023