

Mr. Peter Maudsley
Chair
Peebles and District Community Council
By email:
Peter-mariner@hotmail.co.uk

**Please ask
for:
Our Ref:
Your Ref:
E-Mail:
Date:**

Jenni Craig

JC/CM/FC

13 February 2024

Dear Mr Maudsley

Thank you for your email of 9 February and for highlighting the errors in the response to your previous email; please accept my apologies for the oversight.

The proposed amendment in section 11.2 of the Community Council Scheme aims to clarify the existing wording which, we agree, is open to misinterpretation. The proposed changes, and a suite of accompanying documents, were put together and discussed, over a period of time, by the Community Council Scheme Working Group. We appreciate that the Working Group is small, with one Community Councillor and one Scottish Borders Councillor per locality, and accept that the views and situations of all Community Councils may not be reflected in the draft documents.

Please be assured that the new and revised documents will be subject to full consultation. I would welcome Peebles Community Council taking the opportunity to raise the points made in your email as part of that consultation.

I would like to stress that it is not the intention to stop payments that are being made to Peebles Community Council's secretary.

You correctly state that the next formal review of financial support to Community Councils is scheduled to take place in 2026, however we will be keeping a check on the situation and will respond to any issues that arise between now and then. Support with any operational matters should be raised with the Democratic Services Team at communitycouncils@scotborders.gov.uk, and any financial ones with the Communities and Partnerships Team at communitygrants@scotborders.gov.uk.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know, if you aren't already aware, that we are looking at the wider support available to Community Councils in the Borders. To assist us in this we are engaged in discussions with the Improvement Service to understand what is working well in other areas and how we can replicate it locally to best suit the Scottish Borders.

I cannot emphasise enough the value that we put on the huge amount of work that Community Councillors, as volunteers, carry out in their communities. Volunteering is very much part of the Borders ethos and we are a stronger society for it.

Financially, these are very difficult times for organisations and individuals alike, Community Councils are no different to anyone else and face the same financial challenges. We are committed to funding Community Councils although, with the current constraints on public sector finances, we are limited to the amount of financial support we can provide at this time.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any further comments or questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Jenni Craig'.

Jenni Craig
Director – Resilient Communities
Scottish Borders Council