



June 4th, 2024.

Dear Peter,

I am writing on behalf of Peebles Youth Voice to request that the Community Council take the lead in a matter which we consider to be of importance to our young people and the community as a whole.

In Peebles, we have both a number of existing facilities used for community purposes and also plans and aspirations afoot at this time to invest in both augmenting some of these and providing further facilities. When I mention "existing facilities" I think of such places as the Drill Hall, the Burgh Hall, the ex-servicemen's club, the Victoria Park Day Centre; when I mention "plans and aspirations afoot", I think of the Chambers Institute, the ex-servicemen's club refurbishment/replacement and the initiative launched to complete the Baptist church building to provide a community facility.

When Peebles Youth Voice was launched, a major reason for doing so was the perceived need to create safe place(s) for youth. This remains a key objective. With the multi- million pound initiatives being discussed at this time the need for some joined up thinking about how we develop, use and manage our facilities for the benefit of the community seems to be imperative. Peebles Youth Voice would be delighted to work with the Community Council in providing an input as to what young people seek to meet their needs.

We are blessed in Peebles both with facilities and individuals committed to developing these, but leadership - even control - of these appears somewhat diffuse and can be focused upon and led by quite small groups; it can even be difficult to find out who is in control of a building and its intended purpose. If the Community Council can pull an overview together and establish a plan - is it too late for this to be a key element of the Town Plan? - for the use and development of our community assets this will be a most constructive step forward.

Thank you very much for giving this your – and the Community Council's - consideration.

On behalf of Peebles Youth Voice,

Iain A. Gibson