

# **Peebles & District Community Council**

## **Chairman's Report**

**February 2024**

Like December, January has also been a quiet month.

### **1.0 Tweeddale Area Partnership**

Next meeting 06/02/23

### **2.0 Flood risk**

No further updates currently.

### **3.0 Meetings Attended this Month.**

16/01/24	Community Hospitals Steering Group Meeting
18/01/24	Meeting with Iain Gibson
23/01/24	Place Making meeting. Chambers Beneficiaries Group.
03/02/24	Meeting with Michael Marshall

### **4.0 Scottish Borders Community Council Network (SBCCN).**

No update.

### **5.0 Community Councils Scheme Working Group**

As noted in the January meeting, your core group worked through these documents and commented back to SBC. Also as agreed, the writer wrote directly to the SBC CEO to highlight some concerns and has received a reply.

In relation to Honoraria Payments, the response states that there is no change from the past. This is not correct. The original wording was not clear and consequently was open to interpretation and indeed honoraria payments had been the practice of the PCC historically. SBC had clearly had no difficulty with this practice. The new wording leaves no room for error and could in fact lead to the closure of this community council. We will respond subject to the committee's agreement.

### **6.0 Planning**

Your chair is not available for the March meeting and probably out of action for a few weeks following that. Michael Marshall has volunteered to join us as Co-opted member immediately or as a full member following the AGM in May. This writer proposes that Michael Join us immediately as a Co-opted member and becomes

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Planning Convener for the March meeting and thereafter as a full member if the election process confirms his place.

### **7.0 Tweedbridge Court**

Following discussion between Eildon Housing Association and SBC, it has finally been agreed that Eildon will commission the necessary repairs to the wall below the site and adjacent to the south bank Tweed path.

Although a new planning application has been made relating to Air Sourced Heat Pumps and a Rickshaw Store, there is no evidence that any construction work will happen any time soon.

### **8.0 Web Site**

Historically, the Peebles Community Trust hosted our website and due to a lack of administrative resource this has not proven possible for more than 12 months. Michael Marshall has volunteered to look at resolving this issue. Michael has a strong track record in this field, as the "Save Kingsmeadows" website demonstrates. Members should copy our secretary with what they would like to see our website do.

### **9.0 NHS**

The writer is still a member of the working group on the community hospitals. These working groups are well managed and appear to produce results. It is hoped that some details will become available for dissemination in February.

Following feedback from the public, the writer's NHS report was finalised at Rev 11 and a separate document produced to highlight feedback from the public. These documents have been forwarded to the CEO, a director, and some senior managers of NHS Borders. They have also been shared with the U3A.

### **10.0 Various**

Following representations, the writer has been in contact with councillor Tatler to consider the following.

1. Can we invite an equalities officer for SBC, or whoever is responsible for implementing its equality duties, to address us at a future meeting? Equalities issues pervade all aspects of local authority work so it would be good to get an idea of how they operate.
2. An enquiry about the management/funding of the Library.

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3. The issue of speeding outside Kingsland Primary School has been raised by several parents. This time the concern is about access to the pedestrian crossing from the Haylodge park side. Many children/buggies/parents access it via the metal gate in the wall situated to the west. That gate opens directly onto a narrow stretch of pavement with no barrier to passing traffic which has started to accelerate as it nears the town limits. The parents wonder whether a gate could be installed further east along the wall where the pedestrian crossing is situated. There is a path running along the park side of the wall which would provide access from the park. The pavement is much wider at the pedestrian crossing and it would minimise time spent on that stretch of road.

Councillor Tatler and the writer answered the question relating to the library.

In relation to "Equalities", this is being investigated as to who would be best to talk to us.

On Kingsland School, the subject crosses into the Common Good and SBC roads department. The parents are considering attending a Common Good meeting, but have set this aside for the time being and Councillor Tatler had responded as follows:

In relation to item 3, Haylodge Park is Common Good, so this would have to be raised at a future meeting (I will put an item on the agenda for the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February – Lynne Cuerden copied into this email). I suspect that the wall will be a listed feature and possibly protected – we will need to check with our Conservation Officer.

Peter Maudsley  
Chair  
Peebles and District Community Council