

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report – August / September 2026

1.0 General

Due to our having cancelled the August meeting and having as our guest, Calum Kerr MSP, who we think may need at least an hour, then it is almost certain that some of our usual monthly business may need to be left until our October meeting. Notably, our section on policing will be deferred. A number of other items are worth recording.

1.0 Peebles War Memorial maintenance.

- 1.1 A survey has been carried out on the stonework, but a report is still awaited. Once the report has been received by SBC, then we will know what the next stage is.

2.0 Scottish Forum of Community Councils

- 2.1 We are now a member of the above organisation. This means we will be copied on anything that they generate. However, the amount of effort that we put into it will be governed by a) our interest in supporting them, b) the time available to devote to it. Consequently, at this time we are unlikely to get involved.

3.0 Commemorative Tree for Haylodge Park

- 3.1 A family wishing to commemorate a loved one who has recently passed away have apparently been told that planting a tree to commemorate someone can only be done if they are physically buried in Peebles and that a cremation does not count. In this case the person concerned could go back four generations and all other kith and kin are buried here. Taken this up on their behalf with the Chair of the Common Good.

4.0 Mature trees and shrubs removed at Caledonian court

- 4.1 Following our last meeting, your Chair had meetings with both the affected residents and wrote to Eildon's Chief Executive in support of them. This appeared to have been reasonably successful in starting a reasoned dialogue. However, at the time of writing, the residents are still concerned and have requested assistance from our Planning Convener.

5.0 Dog fouling in the Cemetery

- 5.1 The following is an extract from an email received. It is self-explanatory and this lack of respect is not acceptable.

5.1.1 The first is the increasing incidence of dog fouling on graves. I often pick up mess left by dog owners, some of whom are well-known Peebles residents, so it is not just an issue caused by visitors to the town. I visit every day and, despite the signage, I would say that this has noticeably increased over the past six months. I don't think it helps that the gates no longer close properly. The gate nearest to the Tower has become misaligned and no longer closes. The double gate at Wemyss Place was damaged and was removed last week, but no barrier or semi-barrier has been installed in its place.

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There is also no indication as to whether it is going to be repaired, what the timescale might be, or whether it has been removed permanently. This also means that there is currently no signage at this entrance regarding dogs in the cemetery. Personally, I would prefer dogs not to be allowed in the cemetery, but I appreciate that this would be difficult to enforce and that it could be upsetting for the small number of responsible owners who visit loved ones with a much-loved pet. I know that the Community Council has discussed this issue previously, but I feel it would benefit from being put back on the agenda, particularly given the increase in fouling and the current situation with the gates. I would be interested to know whether there are any plans to address the gates and whether the issue of dogs could be revisited.

Perhaps one of our elected SBC councillors would take this on for us.?

2.0 Police Report

Secretaries email dated 05 September contains some excellent security advice on home security

The last Police report I received (I think) was on 11 July.

3.0 Meetings attended in July, August and September to date

10.07.26	Presentation to the Drill Hall centenary celebrations
14.07.26	Windfarm meeting online
20.07.26	Meeting with 2 members of other CCs
30.07.26	Meeting with constituent concerned about Haylodge
20.08.26	Peebles in Bloom
25.08.26	Community conversations in Burgh Hall
02.09.26	Meeting with Dominic
03.09.26	pre-meeting meeting
08.09.26	community Council Chairs' meeting online
10.09.26	Meeting on CC finance at SBC HQ
	PCC September meeting

4.0 Working party on non-financial support to community councils and the working party on the Community Councils Network.

Process completed. Report being prepared by SBC for a future full council meeting. Nothing new currently. However, a community council Chair's meeting in person has taken place at SBC HQ. Your Chair could not attend but, there is an online version scheduled for 08 September which will be attended.

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5.0 Working party on financial support to community councils

The next meeting is at 10:00 on Thursday, 10 September in SBC HQ and the writer intends to attend having missed the previous meeting due to the holidays. Unfortunately, my deputy for Tweeddale also missed the meeting due to a traffic accident that closed the road she was on. From Thursday's agenda, it appears there is much discussion still needed.

6.0 Place Making – Town Team

Nothing new to report.

7.0 The Fish Fountain

Nothing new to report.

8.0 Actions outstanding (Roads)

Your Chair has written to Callum Kerr MSP to express our concern and request his assistance. Awaiting a response.

9.0 Minor Injuries and First Aid at Haylodge Hospital

Your Chair has written to Callum Kerr MSP to express our concern and request his assistance. Calum has passed on a response from the CEO of NHS Borders, to which we should have commented by the time of our meeting. At the time of writing, my draft out to our team for feedback.

10.0 Windfarms, Grid Infrastructure and Data Centres

Calum Kerr MSP to discuss at our September meeting.

11.0 Peebles in Bloom

Not much to say that has not already been said! A tremendous success thanks to all those who helped and particularly Gill and Anne who put in so much effort over some months to make it an occasion to remember. It is one of the highlights of the Peebles year and is not an easy event to organise. Almost everyone who can has had some involvement and my thanks to all who played a part.

12.0 Community Conversations (SBC at the Burgh Hall)

Your Chair attended the above event and was at a table with Councillors Euan Jardine and Julie Pirone. Also present was John Fallah. A lot of useful discussion took place, although these events are Borders wide and our input is therefore fairly small. Whether anything useful comes out of it only time will tell.

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Peter Maudsley

Chair - Peebles and District Community Council