

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report – July 2026

1.0 General

Congratulations to our Tweeddale Citizen of the Year – Malcolm Bruce

A big thank you to the Beltane team. Once again Beltane was a great success due to their efforts. It really is impressive that the team turn out at 04:00 in the morning and that by 08:30 on Sunday, the town is clean, tidy and most of the kit is away. Well done. The town owes you.

We also need to record the efforts put in by Michael and Cat to pursue Kingsmeadows woodland for the benefit of the town. The writer has spotted them twice now staking out the High Street and, on another occasion, Tesco to obtain signatures in support of the Kingsmeadows SCIO and its objectives. This work is also impressive.

Additionally, this last month has seen the PCT open the doors for the first time on the new premises which were purchased from the Bank of Scotland. PCT are to be congratulated, and it won't surprise anyone, considering the first item, that Malcolm was in the thick of things, amongst other work, bolting IKEA shelving together.

Those in the town who benefit from all the activities that are on the go should note that there are many people who multi-task with various groups and organisations, some with several in Peebles. Many of our members in PCC also volunteer on the Beltane, Christmas Lights, Callants, Gutterbluids, Drill Hall, Street Pastors, etc.

2.0 Tourist Signs

The Chair has no information with which to update

3.0 Police Report (June)

Awaiting report

4.0 Meetings attended in April and May

10.06.26	Foundation Scotland meeting
11.06.26	Monthly PCC meeting
26.06.26	Tweeddale Citizen of the Year
29.06.26	SBC on Teams (Community Council funding)
02.07.26	pre-meeting meeting
05.07.26	Peebles in Bloom Garden vetting
07.07.26	Review new path extension proposals (the hump)
09.07.26	PCC Meeting
10.07.26	Attending the 125-year celebration at the Drill Hall

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5.0 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

6.0 Working party on financial support to community councils

The second meeting has taken place. Your Chair produced a PowerPoint of information to present to the meeting. PPT attached as appendix. Of course, at this stage it is difficult to determine if the process will produce results that we, PCC would consider satisfactory. However, at this time there may be positive signs. In addition to the information presented in the PPT, the writer conducted some additional analysis to share with the group which members may find of interest.

Out of 68 community councils the worst funded in per capita terms of population is Galashiels with £0.14.3 pence per head. We are 2nd from the bottom with £0.15.7 pence per head. The theoretical best funded community council is Tweedsmuir with £5.034 per head. Tweedsmuir only has a population of 118 compared to our 9,500. There may well be room for some re-balancing.

Three more meetings of the working group planned with a view to a report going to council in November.

7.0 Place Making – Town Team

Nothing new to report.

8.0 The Fish Fountain

Nothing new to report.

9.0 Actions outstanding (Roads)

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

10.0 Minor Injuries and First Aid at Haylodge Hospital

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

Additional documentation is appended to this report.

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11.0 Peebles in Bloom

It is necessary to thank Gill, Anne and the team for the work done so far to make Peebles in Bloom a success again this year. This is always a substantial undertaking and there is much work to be completed. Thanks to everyone who has contributed raffle prizes. Last year, the raffle was a great success and contributed successfully to helping fund the event. Gill & Co still have a lot of work to do and please could members complete their tasks of vetting gardens and providing the feedback to the team. As we go forward, we start to run out of time for the logistics and the odd person who forgets to tell Gill that they are away or in some very unusual cases just doesn't assist the team but makes everything more difficult and of course someone has to take on additional work to cover.

Peter Maudsley
Chair - Peebles and District Community Council