

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report

March 2023

1.0 General

N/A

2.0 March Street Mill

The first of the two events has been held at the Eastgate Theatre to give some indication of the developers' (Whiteburn) draft plans for the site. Crick Carlton has circulated his comments and we have constructed a work-in-progress draft that is currently under consideration. After the second event, we will agree our position, complete our comments and table them. This is a pre-planning stage, and it is only when a formal planning application has been made that we will either endorse them, object to them or table recommendations.

3.0 Holistic Transport Review

Mind-map draft completed and circulated. John Curry, Director of Infrastructure and Environment at SBC is holding internal discussions to consider the best way forward and will revert.

4.0 Peebles Town Action Plan (Place Planning)

Crick Carlton is leading on this. The original plan was developed by the PCT and this is the update which will also incorporate the Scottish Government initiative on Place Planning. Crick is also the facilitator for Tweeddale for SBC assisting other community councils with their own plans. The core team for Peebles, as led by Crick is this writer for the PCC, Sam Coe for the Civic Society and Steve Dube. The following extracts from an email from Crick should be of interest.

I have set up a Peebles Placemaking HQ in the Meeting Room at The School Brae Hub, taking the opportunity to use it for the period of two or three months before the builders come in. The idea is to use it to collate all the background material and feedback that we have from community engagement events, etc., and have space to meet, discuss and draft Action Plan and Whole Town Plan updates, and get our head around the Peebles Place Plan. On top of that I have booked for an Open Forum event to take place on 1st April in the MacFarlane Hall from 10am till 4pm. I am also setting up Eventbrite bookings for three discussion roundtable events – 12 people each session – focused on establishing priorities and supporting arguments. These are scheduled for Wednesday 8th March, 22nd March and 12th April, 6.30 till 8.00 in The School Brae Meeting Room.

The writer intends to assist Crick on the days shown.

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report

March 2023

5.0 Common Good

The Common Good Committee held a regular meeting, followed by a public question and answer session on Tuesday 28 February. This was a robust meeting, and this writer considers it to have been a success. The public raised numerous suggestions, issues, and concerns and the response from councillors and SBC were generally positive. George Ramsay was confirmed as the PCC representative on the Common Good going forward and the next scheduled meeting is 24 May. The link below is to the SBC Common Good agenda page.

[Agenda for Peebles Common Good Fund Sub-Committee on Tuesday, 28th February, 2023, 5.00 pm - Scottish Borders Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/2023/02/28/agenda-for-peebles-common-good-fund-sub-committee-on-tuesday-28th-february-2023-5.00-pm-scottish-borders-council/)

Selection of extracts from issues/questions raised at the meeting.

- Most residents of Peebles have little or no knowledge of the Common Good
- Can we be reassured that investments made on behalf of the CG are “Green” in view of the climate emergency?
- Some CG assets could be used for generating “green” energy
- Could there be a publicly attended AGM for the CG?
- Website is not easy to navigate, and some people have no access to the internet.
- CG requires to publish an annual report.
- CG should port copies of minutes on notice boards
- CG register of assets may be incomplete or have errors.
- Why is there a large depreciation on some assets.
- Who ensures SBC environmental protection policies in relation to CG are followed?
- Questions raised relating to charging for lock ups owned by the CG.
- Who pays fees and who doesn't pay fees for use of CG assets?
- How are rental incomes reviewed?
- Who is responsible for checking safety of areas such as Haylodge Park.
- Concerns over possible damage to benches from portable BBQs.
- Shipping container in Haylodge Park placed directly in front of a bench seat.

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report

March 2023

6.0 Peebles Parking Working group

The writer notes that recent meetings have been held on 30 November 2022 and 21 February 2023 and of course earlier. The link below connects with the SBC web page. Our PCC representatives are George Ramsay and Scott Watson. The writer suggests that we table 15 minutes into our April meeting for discussion to see where we are, what is proposed and to agree a position. This may not be easy. Parking is affected by holistic issues as demonstrated on the transport mind-map, it crosses over between SBC and Common Good and there will be a range of conflicting opinion.

[Browse meetings - Peebles Parking Working Group - Scottish Borders Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/peebles-parking-working-group)

7.0 UCL Cycling World Championships.

It is likely that elected representatives will have been able to give us a briefing on this from the SBC viewpoint. John Curry at SBC is responsible for oversight. There is a suggestion that this is the biggest cycling event ever held with venues across Scotland. There may be 20,000 visitors over the week and possibly 10,000 on 12 August. This will provide a boost to some businesses in the town and create challenges, predominantly in relation to parking and congestion across the region. It is essential that potential issues are identified and ameliorated so far as possible.

Peter Maudsley
Chair
Peebles and District Community Council