

# **Peebles & District Community Council**

## **Chairman's Report – May / June 2026**

### **1.0 General**

Due to the AGM in May, there was no Chairman's report that month. Consequently, the June report also covers May

### **2.0 Tourist Signs**

The Chair has no information with which to update

### **3.0 Police Report (May)**

Looking solely at Assaults (3), Vandalism (4) and ASB which was mainly neighbour disputes and disturbances, the report raises few concerns. However, three reports of suspicious behaviour were reported on the same day in different streets which is just too much of a coincidence and this is coupled with a mass of thefts (23) over a three-week period. This appears to be by far the worst crime we have seen since this writer joined the community council. Unfortunately, the police report still does not provide any information to assist in our gauging police success in identifying and charging perpetrators.

### **4.0 Meetings attended in April and May**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 09.04.26 | Monthly PCC meeting                             |
| 10.04.26 | ?? Meeting                                      |
| 14.04.26 | Town Team meeting                               |
| 16.04.26 | Parliamentary Hustings                          |
| 21.04.26 | Teams with SBC on Non-financial Support for CCs |
| 07.05.26 | PCC Pre-meeting meeting                         |
| 12.05.26 | Walk around the town with councillors           |
| 13.05.26 | Chambers Institution consultation day           |
| 14.05.26 | PCC AGM and monthly meeting                     |
| 16.05.26 | PCT AGM   |
| 16.05.26 | Chambers Institution consultation day           |
| 21.05.26 | Tackling poverty conference 09:30 – 14:00       |
| 27.05.26 | Gypsy Glen hill race                            |

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

The last meeting of this working group took place on Tuesday 02.06.26 at SBC HQ in Newton St Boswells. A questionnaire has now gone out to all community council members in the Borders and once the responses have been collated, a report will be published for council to consider. The most important recommendation should be for a general community council meeting to be held

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twice a year to include working parties on subjects of interest. A reintroduction of the Scottish Borders community council Network (SBCCN) was not considered practical. With a volunteer organisation trying to work with 69 community councils, herding cats comes to mind!

### **6.0 Working party on financial support to community councils**

The first meeting of this new working group took place on Monday 01.06.26 on Teams. It was disappointing that on the SBC side, there was not sufficient attendance to form a quorum. However, the meeting was well attended by CC representatives and as such several markers were put down that will form a basis for discussion going forward. Your Chair will produce a report for the working group based upon past history and the needs of PCC going forward.

### **7.0 Place Making – Town Team**

Nothing new to report.

### **8.0 Hustings**

The hustings arranged for 16 April were a noted success.

### **9.0 Caledonian Court Signage**

As previously reported your Chair met management on two occasions and walked them around the paths to show the erroneous signage, the destroyed signage, the silly signage and the signs that now appear as rubbish on our paths. At the time of the April report there had been no remedial action. Clearly, this was disappointing. However, finally, this month, we resolved 90% of the issues only to have a new process of path closure and silly signage appear. To preserve the writer's sanity, I must throw in the towel!!

### **10.0 The Fish Fountain**

Most parties agree on the future progress required. However, the sculptors were apparently extremely busy at the last report and so we will just have to keep the subject live.

### **11.0 Callants, PCT and John Fallah's Safari**

On Sunday last, 07 June, the writer was out and about and noted a large working party of Callants cleaning up the town. This was impressive. The amount of work being done and attention to detail was excellent. Your Chair considers that they deserve full recognition for everything that they are doing. Peebles would be the poorer without volunteers like them.

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The PCT AGM show cased the work that the organisation does, which is wide ranging. Again, we should recognise the amount of work that this voluntary organisation does and its undoubted benefit to our town.

Lastly, in this vein, many of us have seen the various animals hiding in South Parks woods and elsewhere. Again, they take a great deal of unpaid effort to produce and most persons who know about them or run across them by accident gain great enjoyment from them, particularly the children. They also will bring more tourists to our town and consequently more trade for our shops. Again, a thanks to John for this. Well worthwhile.

### **12.0 Actions outstanding (Roads)**

At the time of writing, your Chair is still required to write to MSPs on the state of our roads. This was delayed until the new MSPs were elected and in place.

### **13.0 Minor Injuries and First Aid at Haylodge Hospital**

We have been asked to look again at the Haylodge Hospital and the lack of a minor injuries' unit. Members may recall that we covered this in a Peebles Life article back in April 2024. We are told that minor injuries cannot be treated there unless there is a radiology department and that is too expensive. Whilst this is understood, there are multiple stories of those in need of first aid being turned away. You Chair considers this a wholly different matter and that a refusal to provide basic first aid is inexcusable. This appears to be a Scotland wide issue rather than a UK wide one and evidence exists to demonstrate that first aid is covered in at least some English cottage hospitals, and that even in some English cottage hospitals without radiology, minor injuries are treated. This is seen and documented as taking pressure off the larger hospital A&E departments. Do members wish this subject to be raised with MSPs?

Peter Maudsley  
Chair - Peebles and District Community Council