

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report – October 2025

1.0 General

Tourist Signs

There have been a number of emails that relate to the signage in the town and in particular that provided for tourists. There is some signage for tourists, but it is getting old, some is a bit old fashioned compared to modern standards and it doesn't all have the same theme. Apparently, there is a window in which some grant monies may be available.

How important is it? Your Chair considers it essential. Peebles is very much a tourist town and depends upon visitors for a lot of its income. The income to an extent helps maintain a vibrant High Street and supports our cafes and hotels. We can all see what is happening to many similar towns across Scotland and anything that helps avoid the same happening to Peebles has to be important. Further, some places such as Dornoch have great signage and this demonstrates just what can be achieved. I sent out the following email just to put a marker down:

I agree with Viv. There are plenty of tourist towns that have excellent signage that describes, history, architecture, etc. Generally, these all have a specific style. We should have the same. **Go Tweed Valley** is our local tourist organisation and **Civic Society** are likely to have the best handle on architecture and history. It would make sense to me that they worked closely together and perhaps PCC could work with them over grant applications, etc. A swift consideration gives me the following bullets

- What is our history and what is worth highlighting by signage?
 - Railways
 - Mills
 - Witches
 - Royal Burgh
 - Chambers Institution
 - Border wars
 - Etc
- Sign style
 - Must have the 3 fishes
 - Need photos and text
 - And layout
 - Location
 - Quality and durability
 - Cost of signage
 - Cost of placement
 - Perhaps numbered for a tour of the town

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In addition to the Civic Society and Go Tweed Valley, it has been suggested that the Archaeological Society may have an interest and perhaps the Museum, Railway Group and Tweeddale Society?

George Ramsay has raised the question of QR Codes and a Braille Link. A valid question and should be included in any thinking on the issue.

Anyway, this provides a starting point. The Question now, who is to lead on this and pull it all together? Due to time constraints on funding, this needs to be done fairly quickly. Who would like to be involved?

Peebles Community Council Signage

We often have to have a table at an event and have produced some homemade posters. It is probably time that we had a couple of extending posters made professionally to unroll at events.

2.0 Further comment on meeting with SBC CEO

As indicated previously, it is difficult to know if the meeting has achieved anything tangible, although the writer has a perception that it may have. However, tangible is one thing, and long lasting is very much another. There is now to be an online meeting of community council Chairs and perhaps this may have resulted from the meeting. It will be interesting to see how many Chairs actually attend.

3.0 Illegal Vapes and Tobacco

Nothing new to report

4.0 Meetings attended since September Meeting

09.09.25	Live Borders consultation meeting
23.09.25	Non-financial support working group meeting
02.10.25	PCC Pre-meeting meeting

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

At the meeting with SBC's CEO, your Chair had highlighted that the SBCCN project had not been heard from for circa 18 months and the Non-financial support projects was similar. Also, that SBC documentation showed that these were not separate projects, even though it appeared that they were being run in isolation. At the meeting on 23 September SBC formally apologised for the inertia and indicated that resource issues were to blame. In this respect, the meeting was informed that in this writer's views, if SBC were serious about

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working with the communities, then adequate resource had to be provided. Also, that this was probably SBC's last opportunity to make the interface with community councils' work. The project has potential, it was considered positive, and we will have to see if something useful can come from the process. It is important to recognise that this meeting has been expanded to consider not only non-financial support issues, but also the SBCCN and indeed anything that the meeting members consider relevant.

6.0 Place Making – Town Action Plan

No tangible change at this time.

7.0 Live Borders

On 09 September Michael Marshall and your Chair attended a Live Borders consultation meeting in the Burgh Hall. Clare Swan from the Drill Hall and PCCs former Chair, Les Turnbull were also there. Also present were representatives from "Schools Out", and Councillors Marshall Douglas and Robin Tatler, and some SBC support staff. The meeting was led by the new Live Borders CEO, Catriona McAllister. The members of the community made their points and formerly presented their documented submissions . It was a good meeting. However, what the outcome will be remains to be seen; anyway, we have probably done all that we were able to do for now. The new CEO made a favourable impression. SBC/LB issued a meeting note that we and Clare have responded to with suggested amendments. At the time of writing, we have not had a response, but then our submission was not too many days ago and SBC are not known for a fast reaction time on strategic issues. The meeting note, with our amendments in red is appended to this report.

Peter Maudsley
Chair
Peebles and District Community Council