

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report

August 2023

1.0 General

Generally quiet until the last week in July.

2.0 Tweeddale Area Partnership (TAP)

Next meeting 22/08/23. See SBCCN.

3.0 Police

- The writer has published an article in Peebles Life.

4.0 Street Pastors

Street Pastors are still running trials in Peebles and the following is an extract from an email received from them.

“We would welcome an observer with the Peebles patrol on Friday 11 August. It was great to have someone with us last time I've changed the time slightly to 7.30pm - 11.30pm. On the last patrol, we encountered several young people in the early part of the evening, but also engaged with folks later on who were out in the night-time economy of the town. The slight time change will hopefully reflect on that. It's very much a work in progress and see how it goes! I'd hope to have another trial patrol in early September, possibly on a Saturday to see if there are any differences to a Friday”.

5.0 Peebles in Bloom

A great deal of work has been done to have us almost reaching the finishing line. Thanks to all who have taken part and especial thanks to our team of professional judges who have spent hours with us touring the town.

6.0 Scottish Borders Community Council Network (SBCCN)

The writer was contacted by Fiona Benton of “Borders Community Action”, previously the “Bridge” who took over the secretariat of the SBCCN. There is currently a hiatus in this organisation, and it appears to be stalled. The original Chair, Colin McGrath stood down in favour of James Anderson of Eyemouth more than a year ago. However, James then stood as a councillor and was elected. A new Chair took over, but this does not appear to have been successful.

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The writer briefed Fiona on his view of the SBCCN, his involvement with it and suggested as to how the SBCCN could be revitalised. The following bullets provide some information as to how the writer sees it.

- The SBCCN makes perfect sense and if it could be made to work would provide a strong voice between the community of the Borders and SBC.
- However, it is like “herding cats”! there are 69 community councils and one volunteer, unpaid, part time, Chair has no chance of pulling it together overall.
- James Anderson attempted to have regional focal points such as the PCC representative pulling Tweeddale together. However, an email to all other Tweeddale CCs elicited a poor response and then James left anyway.
- The writer's suggestion is to strengthen the Tweeddale Area Partnership and others in the Borders along the lines of the East Lothian Area Partnership, put the CCs in the driving seat rather than the councillors and provide a larger balance for disbursement to the community.
 - This would encourage CCs to take a more active role.
 - Therefore, pull them together.
 - The TAP could then appoint a representative who could go forward to the SBCCN Core Group.

7.0 Meetings Attended this month

25/07/23	Place Making team meeting.
29/07/23	Peebles in Bloom meeting
31/07/23	Live Borders engagement in Burgh Hall (bad acoustics again)
01/08/23	Pre-meeting meeting
02/08/23	Chambers Institution meeting (observed)
03/08/23	Meeting new team member, Lennox Lovell-Henderson
04/08/23	Chair of the Eastgate
06/08/23	Taxiing Heather Mackay around judging gardens
07/08/23	Meeting regarding the Eastgate.
08/08/23	Councillor Tatler @ Victoria Park Centre

Peter Maudsley
Chair
Peebles and District Community Council