

Peebles & District Community Council

Chairman's Report

May 2023

1.0 Holistic Transport Review

The writer has emailed John Curry at SBC for an update.

2.0 Peebles Town Action Plan (Place Planning)

The information gathering exercises have been completed and the team is now drafting sections of the plan. For example, the writer has been giving responsibility for drafting the "housing" section. This entails bringing the original document up to date utilising the many hundreds of comments received back from the public. A large piece of work.

3.0 UCL Cycling World Championships.

No change

4.0 Developing the Young Workforce

The writer assisted Helen Phillips in taking a class of 5 boys to discuss work and lessons learned by the writer over the years. Subjects touched upon

- Employer expectations
- Drugs and alcohol
- Inability to pass exams doesn't have to be a disaster.
- Gender and equal opportunities
- How courage is a variable thing
- Marine industry

The boys seemed engaged and hopefully found it a useful exercise.

5.0 Coronation Event

Approximately 40 persons including our own volunteers had a very enjoyable experience in the Eastgate Theatre and feedback from guests was very positive.

6.0 Volunteers Fair

The writer will be present for the whole of the event in the Burgh Hall on 27 May but wishes to have some support from members throughout the day in a rota. Volunteers please!

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7.0 Tweeddale Area Partnership

Next meeting is 13 June in the Burgh Hall

8.0 Police

On 02 May the writer sent the following email.

Dear PC Carsley and PC Moody

Peebles Community Council have recognised your valuable contribution in assisting with the setting up of the young peoples' evenings at Costa Coffee in Peebles. Feedback suggest that this has been very successful and of course we all hope that this and the other initiatives will have a positive effect going forward. Our Malcolm Bruce does a sterling job keeping our members informed through his liaison with the various interested parties, but we would be very pleased to meet you sometime to hear your own views and to get to know you better. Our next meeting is 19:00 on 11 May at the Burgh Hall and every second Thursday in the month.

Once again, you have our thanks for your efforts.

9.0 Town Maintenance

On 18 April, the writer, Councillor Drummond Begg, and Neil Pringle from SBC walked the town inspecting to identify maintenance issues that should be addressed in the area of the town falling under Tweeddale west. The list below gives a flavour for the items identified.

- Loose / missing paving
- Bollards by Cuddy – for painting
- Bollards outside Costa – Neil to explore with roads team.
- Pavement by Brown brothers – Access panel request for ramp
- Damaged rail outside Cocoa Black
- Signage - clear signage for toilets
- Signage – paint heritage/ tourist signs + update signs (i.e., remove Cornice museum + craft centre and add John Buchan museum / Chambers Institution / Tweed Green as appropriate)
- Signage – repair / replace tourist signs.
- Idea of 'Polite' notices for retailers to put on cars who park for over an hour on the main street in the absence of any policing – consider funding to support production / printing. (seek feedback from Retailers Association)
- Move bin from in front of John Buchan museum.

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- Consider moving temporary sign for John Buchan museum on the wrought iron work in front of the window to above the window. (for John Buchan museum to ask Chambers Institution)
- BT phone box – I will contact BT repainting.
- Path by swimming pool – will be sorted as part of larger Tweed path project.
- Additional toilets during UCI World Championships – Neil will raise with organisers.

The damaged wall on the Tweed path adjacent to Tweedbridge Court was also raised again although strictly speaking it is Tweeddale East. It is thought this is an Eildon responsibility, but it is getting worse and the longer it takes to repair, the more it will cost.

10.0 Peebles in Bloom

Peebles in Bloom is an annual event that many of the town's gardeners love. It has of course been affected by the Covid outbreak over the last two years but now that normality has returned it would be nice to see it return to prominence. I am sure that, as in previous years, the initial vetting will not prove a problem as we can all share the task as we have done before. However, we need the event coordinated. Anne, our Secretary did it for several years and it is unrealistic to expect her to add it to her present workload. However, Anne could advise. Also, our volunteer from last year is unavailable this year. Consequently, we need one or two volunteers to step forward please.

Peter Maudsley
Chair
Peebles and District Community Council