

# Peebles & District Community Council

## Chairman's Report - October 2024

### 1.0 Peebles Town Action Plan (Place Planning)

**No change** - The draft place plan and town action plan is almost complete and ready to issue to PCC members. Members will have a month to digest it, and we will vote to accept or reject it in its entirety. A great deal of work has gone into this as led by Crick Carleton of the Peebles Community Trust (PCT). It reflects the feedback gained from circa 300+ members of the public and input from representatives of PCT, PCC, Peebles Civic Society (PCS), Citizens Advice and others. As such, PCC members are not voting on individual items of content, there will be few if any, who agree with everything, we are voting on the quality of the document and on its suitability as an overall plan going forward.

### 2.0 NHS – Community Hospitals Review

Anne was informed by Campbell Johnstone of SBC that the Children's Cemetery is owned by NHS. The writer has been in touch and the NHS doesn't think so but is investigating.

The writer received no reply to the email sent to the NHS director as copied in last month's report. Consequently, a follow up was sent to two NHS senior managers. Following this on 23/09 we received.

[Apologies around the lack of updates - I can advise that there is a piece of work underway around this at present and we expect to be able to inform our communities across the Borders of the outcomes of this by the end of 2024.](#)

One year ago, NHS borders convened a working party on which your Chair was a member. The extract of an email below was the start of the project. The project was scheduled to take 6 months.

[As part of NHS Borders Annual Delivery Plan the Primary and Community Services Team is currently reviewing the arrangements for how medical \(GP\) cover is provided to patients in our four Community Hospitals. Arrangements currently differ in the four sites which are in Hawick, Kelso, Duns \(Knoll Community Hospital\) and Peebles \(Haylodge Community Hospital\). It is important to do this work to ensure that we have a sustainable model for the future.](#)

Also, the project was to identify and implement a consistent and equitable medical model across all Community Hospitals and explore and develop alternative strategies that optimise the use of Community Hospital resources, making sure they are sustainable in the long-term.

We have now been updated as follows.

# **Peebles & District Community Council**

## **Chairman's Report - October 2024**

Dear Stakeholders

I write to provide an update on the Community Hospitals Review Programme. As you are aware, the previously established Delivery Group meetings stopped over the summer period to allow for a complete review of the scope, objectives and timeline of this significant piece of work.

A revised programme description and timeline was presented to and approved by NHS Borders Quality & Sustainability Board on 10 September 2024 and endorsed by the Health and Social Care Partnership Joint Executive Team on 17 September.

The Community Hospitals Review will be undertaken over a period of 18 months up until 1 April 2026. A copy of the final programme description and timeline are attached for your information.

The former 'Delivery Group,' of which you were a valued member, has been renamed the 'Stakeholder Reference Group.' This group will now meet quarterly, and relevant updates from the programme will be circulated via email. Further details of meeting dates and reporting timetables will be confirmed and circulated shortly. We will also be expanding the membership of the Stakeholder Reference Group and will provide more details in due course.

The review will follow an options appraisal process. The options appraisal carried out 12 months ago for the interim medical model identified a long list of options, which has been agreed to serve as the basis for the wider Community Hospitals review.

The first meeting of the new group is 13 November.

This important NHS work was originally supposed to be concluded in 6 months. We are now informed that from the process start it will have been two years, if indeed a conclusion is ever reached. A failed process may often be consigned to history with a change of name and responsibility for a failed process may often be side stepped if a process is long enough for responsibilities to change before the scheduled end time is reached. Further, such a time frame does not appear to accord with the supposed urgency of a spending review.

### **3.0 Tweeddale Area Partnership**

The next meeting is 29 October

# **Peebles & District Community Council**

## **Chairman's Report - October 2024**

### **4.0 Baptist Church Hall – Cleland Site**

No new information.

### **5.0 Meetings Attended This Month**

01.10.24 Retirement of Sir Huw Strachan  
03.10.24 Pre-meeting meeting

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

No change – Are SBC are still working on it?

### **7.0 Peebles Youth**

No change

### **8.0 Live Borders**

No change

### **9.0 Trade waste**

Following the meeting with members of the public we received the email below.

I have just received an e-mail reply from the Fire Service which confirms that the storage of trade waste at the post office is a fire risk. Accordingly, the fire officer has secured an agreement with the owners that this practice will stop. A notice will be served on the owners to this effect.

Whilst this development resolves the original complaint to the Council, it does not address the manner in which the Council dealt with my complaint.

### **10.0 Street Pastors**

Email for street Pastors –

At yesterday's conference, we were introduced to the new style observer jackets. These are unique to Scotland but are pale blue instead of yellow. The reason for this is that, on occasion, someone wearing a yellow hi viz has been mistaken for Police or a steward. There are limited numbers, so I was only able to purchase two, a large (L) and an extra-large (XL). Considering that the jacket would normally be over a coat, the XL does seem the more suitable. Ideally, I'd like two for each of our main areas (Galashiels, Hawick & Peebles), but we'll

# **Peebles & District Community Council**

## **Chairman's Report - October 2024**

see as they become more available, so in the meantime, we can still use the yellow ones if the new blue ones aren't available.

Your chair proposes that we help with the cost of this and donate £50 to help them fund this.

Peter Maudsley  
Chair  
Peebles and District Community Council