



Community Council
of the
Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

**Minutes of the 290th Meeting of the Community Council
held on Thursday 9th December 2021 at 7.00pm via Zoom.**

Present: L.Turnbull, S.Rae, A.Snoddy, G.Mackie, P.Maudsley, H.Young, A.Mackenzie, L.Hayworth, M.Bruce, O.Olesheva, J.Shearer, J.Crawley, G.Ramsay, Jennifer Mitchell, S.Hamilton; Cllr Anderson, Cllr Haslam, Cllr Tatler

In attendance: C.Graham, MSP, J.Hislop of the Peeblesshire News, Gareth Wilkinson of Kingsland Primary School Parent Council. Members of the public: Lyndal Bale, Rosemary Hamilton and David Ferguson

Apologies: C.Forsyth, Cllr Bell

A Statement by the Chairman, L.Turnbull

LT: We will be recording this meeting for the purposes of Minute taking and reporting. You will recall that at our last meeting there was a heated discussion about the possible breach of data protection by me. You will also recall that I offered an apology if I had inadvertently broken data protection regulations, but that apology was not accepted. Following on from that there was an article in the Peeblesshire News about the discussion but it did not really reflect what had happened. I then wrote a letter to the Peeblesshire News putting across my point of view to the people of Peebles.

I subsequently received a telephone call from Cllr Tatler speaking on behalf of all six Tweeddale Councillors. He said they were now prepared to accept my apology. I told him I was not impressed with the behaviour of himself and Cllr Haslam at the last meeting because despite me cautioning them that the regulations were not quite as clear as they suggested, those two Councillors kept demanding that I apologise for a categorical breaking of those regulations. I said to Cllr Tatler during that phone call that I considered his and Cllr Haslam's behaviour to be bordering on slanderous; if not slanderous, then bullying. Cllr Tatler apologised to me personally and I have accepted that apology. Not only was it an attack on me personally but also an attack on the Community Council. I have reminded the people of the town and our SBC Councillors that we are all volunteers, giving our time to try to help the people of our town. The behaviour displayed at our last meeting was unacceptable and must not happen again. If it does, I will close the meeting down. Cllr Tatler said, when he called, that he would like to put the matter behind us. I, too, would like to put it behind us and move on to deal with real matters which affect the people in the town.

Cllr Anderson: The breach occurred because the recording was made for one purpose – Minutes – then used for another purpose – reporting. If you put it to this meeting that the recording is for the purposes of Minutes *and* reporting, and everyone agrees, then that is fine.

L.Turnbull: I wrote to the office of the Information Commissioner setting out all the facts. I received a response saying I *may* have breached the regulations, not that I *have*. The only arbiters of whether

or not I breached regulations are the Information Commissioner or the Courts, after a full investigation of all the facts. As that has not happened the situation remains 'as is', that I *may* have breached the Data Protection Act.

All Community Councillors agreed at the last meeting that meetings can be recorded for the purposes of the Minutes and reporting.

Discussion with Christine Grahame MSP

L.Turnbull: We invited you to join our meeting in order to raise two issues. The principle one is policing. Not only do we seem to have a lack of police response in the town but we are also suffering from a paucity in resources for the 101 system. People are either not getting through, abandoning calls, or by the time they get through to someone the incident has passed or the suspects have gone. Regarding the 101 system can you provide reassurance that things will improve?

C.Grahame: I would like you to give me details of specific instances: dates, times, how long people waited, or if they couldn't get through at all. If you give me specifics then I am happy to take this up.

L.Turnbull: We tried giving such specific details to the Police last year and got nowhere.

C.Grahame: When you pass on specifics to me give me the reply you received as well.

L.Turnbull: We are also concerned about the lack of police officers in the town.

C.Grahame: You have got the Community Action Team in the Borders, with two of their officers stationed in Peebles. The CAT team is paid for by SBC, in addition to normal policing numbers. The nature of policing has changed enormously over the past 20 years. A lot of police time is taken up with domestic issues, neighbour disputes, mental health issues, drug addiction and alcohol abuse.

L.Turnbull: Given that the nature of policing has changed, and given that those changes will probably be permanent, is there any prospect of getting more Police Officers?

C.Grahame: Midlothian has an Anti-Social Behaviour Unit whereas there is only one anti-social behaviour officer for the whole of the Borders. I think there should be more intervention at a local level to deal with these various issues rather than the Police. Let's have an anti-social team in the Borders to deal with these, often very complex, issues and let the Police get on with policing.

L.Turnbull: Nevertheless is there any prospect of the Scottish Government increasing the number of Police Officers? We are struggling with a lack of Police Officers in Peebles.

P.Maudsley: At a weekend there can be as few as 10 to 12 Police Officers covering the whole of the Borders. If they arrest someone they have to take them to Edinburgh, Hawick or Dalkeith, and the Police Officers cannot do that on their own. That means losing 2 Officers for an entire shift out of a very small number.

C.Grahame: In these Covid times where everything has to be sanitized perhaps it is more pragmatic to take the arrested person to Edinburgh. I would hope these aspects will improve as we come out of Covid. Covid has made a devastating impact on the justice system. I spoke with the Procurator Fiscal for Lothian and Borders. It will take 5 years to get through all the cases they are dealing with, because of Covid. That's what Covid has done to the justice system, never mind the health service. I suggest you encourage your Councillors to set up alternative arrangements for dealing with the issues I have mentioned, and free up the Police to deal with policing matters. I reiterate, it is more Police *time* that you need, not Police *Officers*.

M.Bruce: You suggest we persuade SBC to use civilian resources to free up some Police Officers' time. Policing is a devolved matter in Scotland. You could ask the Scottish Parliament to introduce legislation to allow civilians to transport people from the point of arrest to the point of detention. Perhaps there should be a review of all police functions to see what could be undertaken by civilians? For example most jailers in prisons are now civilians; that must have required a change of legislation.

C.Grahame: It would be quite complicated. There is the issue of liability should anything happen to the person being transported. It is not a bad idea but would need deep consideration.

L.Turnbull: Can I ask you to discuss the provision of public toilets with your colleagues in the Scottish Government? Earlier this year Peebles Community Trust got some funding to open the public toilets in School Brae as a pilot scheme, to see if they could open them permanently. They can't, and the toilets have had to be closed again. Peebles is a tourist town and yet we just have one set of public toilets open – the ones in Kingsmeadows carpark. SBC have said it is not a legal requirement (*to open more toilet facilities*).

C.Grahame: I don't think this is a governmental matter. I think it is a local authority matter. In Orkney the toilets are plentiful and spotless. I don't think it is appropriate for Trusts to run public toilets, or Community Councils. I think it is something which should be provided by the Council, even if there has to be a charge.

L.Turnbull: I think we need legislation to make the Council provide public toilets.

C.Grahame: The legislative problem for the next five years is very heavy. The Community Council could draft a petition to present to the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee seeking legislation to make the provision of public toilets a statutory requirement. Look at the Petitions part of the Scottish Government's website for guidance. I would be happy to speak with the Petitions Committee. It would be a good idea to see how other Councils deal with the matter of public toilets.

LT: Thank you for coming along and sharing your time with us.

CG: Thank you for all the work you do.

Open Forum: no matters were raised. The Chairman thanked those members of the public present for joining the meeting.

Apologies: C.Forsyth and Cllr Bell.

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2021: proposed by Allan Mackenzie and seconded by Peter Maudsley.

Matters arising: We are still without a Minute Secretary. L.Turnbull encouraged everyone to talk to friends and acquaintances to see if we can find someone.

Police Report: circulated. M.Bruce had a long phone call this month with Sergeant Granger. The reason for the increase in crime of 16% compared to last year is that this year is being compared with the first year of lockdown when there was a real dip in the number of crimes. There were two significant incidents of vandalism last month. The School Brae toilets were badly damaged, and an attempt was made to damage equipment in the new Victoria Park playground. The Police are aware of these incidents but it is very difficult to pursue the perpetrators without evidence. School Brae has been known for anti-social behaviour for some time. There is one mobile CCTV camera in the Borders which can be deployed at the Police's discretion. It is currently deployed elsewhere in the Borders, but following his discussion with Sergeant Granger M.Bruce said it will be moved to School Brae. It

will be able to gather evidence which may be used by the Police to bring perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and vandalism to account.

L.Turnbull: Peebles Community Council could buy its own covert camera to be used by the Police. MB agreed and said that he was sure that Peebles Community Trust would be more than happy to have a CCTV camera mounted on their building in School Brae. However M.Bruce suggested that rather than a *covert* camera it should be an *overt* camera, placed where it cannot be damaged.

G.Mackie wondered about the regulations surrounding the setting up of CCTV cameras? L.Turnbull reassured him that PCC would not be setting them up: the Police would. All PCC would be doing is supplying the hardware.

L.Turnbull asked M.Bruce to speak with the Police, find out what they think of the suggestion, and get some costings. M.Bruce replied that perhaps we should wait to see how useful the Police CCTV in School Brae proves to be and then decide the benefits of more CCTV coverage.

M.Bruce spoke about the incident in Victoria Park. He heard that a member of the public had contacted the police with some relevant information about the young people involved, but the Police had not followed up his call. The attempted vandalism took place last weekend at 1700 hours, was reported at 17.30 hours via 101, and the Police were there by 1800 hours. Although the perpetrators had gone it was an example of a fairly good response time.

There is no update on the recent car keying incident. One of the victims subsequently installed CCTV at the front of his house and filmed someone trying to steal his gate during the night. His gate was not, in fact, stolen but a neighbour's gate was. The footage has been passed to the Police.

Residents at South Parks have expressed their concerns about speeding on that road. M.Bruce raised the matter with Sergeant Granger. Sergeant Granger said he had asked SBC for data and was informed that there is no evidence of speeding on that road on average. M.Bruce suggested to Sergeant Granger that it might be useful to have one or two speed checks in that area but was told that dedicated Traffic Police Officers only tend to do speed checks on main roads outside towns.

Following a recent incident in Edderston Road Police Scotland have offered to set up a 'No Cold callers Zone' there. They need a resident in Edderston Road to administer the scheme, so if anyone knows of someone who would be willing to do that then please contact M.Bruce who will put them in touch with the relevant section at Police Scotland.

Anti-social behaviour: M.Bruce and Dave Hodson of Peeblesshire Youth Action (PYA) have now been joined by Hannah Lacon (SBC Community Engagement Officer) and Lori Lee (Live Borders and Sport Scotland) to find out why anti-social behaviour is so prevalent. Ms Lee's brief is to introduce young people to sport. Examples such as midnight football or midnight basketball have been discussed. There are plenty of facilities in Peebles – e.g. the Community Centre, The Gytes, the new gym at the High School – but they all shut at 9pm whereas the 'boredom factor' often kicks in at 10pm or 11pm. The team also think the town is crying out for a Youth Worker to work alongside these young people at the times when they are out and about. Someone to gain their trust, almost like a street pastor. M.Bruce said that we need to find out the cause of the anti-social behaviour: without understanding the problem we cannot hope to find a solution. M.Bruce and his team plan to put forward a proposal at the next Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting for some community money to be used to fund a 12 month post. Dave Hodson has already said that PYA would be willing to be the host employer for such a role.

The team are also very keen to hear from the young people themselves. They have developed a Survey Monkey and the plan is to put it before each year group at Peebles High School. All 1,300 pupils will be invited to take part, and the data will be gathered anonymously. However the High School are not very happy with some of the questions so the team will meet with the Deputy Rector to establish what questions would be acceptable. The team would like young people to contribute to fixing the problems which result in anti-social behaviour, so the solution is something they want, not something which is imposed upon them. M.Bruce hopes to report back at the next PCC meeting with an update about the Youth Worker and the survey.

L.Turnbull thanked M.Bruce and S.Hamilton for their efforts on behalf of PCC. He added that he thought the idea of a Youth Worker was a very good one.

P.Maudsley said that with reference to average speeds in South Parks, the tapes across the road (used to collect speed data) were very close to his house so they would have picked up him travelling at 12 or 14mph. They were also placed close to the junction which would also have lowered the average speed. There is a minority of people travelling at excessive speeds of 40 and 50mph. It is disappointing to learn that Traffic Police are effectively washing their hands of all but the major roads.

Cllr Anderson said James McMordie is a Modern Studies teacher at Peebles High School. This week the school held elections for the very first Peebles High School Parliament. It might be useful for M.Bruce and his team to make contact with him and Cllr Anderson will send on his contact details.

Chairman's Report

Mr Turnbull attended the Remembrance Sunday service on behalf of PCC and laid a wreath at the War Memorial.

He thanked Peebles Christmas Lights Association for the splendid Switch On Event on 28th November.

Chambers Institution Trust

SBC Officers prepared a report for SBC Councillors regarding lay representation on the Board of the Chambers Institution Trust. Nothing had happened for 5 years and things only seemed to start moving because PCC and Peebles Civic Trust were pushing, and that is why we think community representation is so important. G.Mackie said that surely our democratically elected SBC Councillors are our community representatives? He feels it is a communication problem, rather than an issue about representation. S.Rae said it was a communication, trust and transparency issue because none of those things have been transparent over the past few years. He finds it bizarre that (*current Trustees*) are going out of their way to make it so difficult for the community to be engaged. We can look to get representatives from not just PCC, but Peebles Civic Society as well as those organisations which use the facilities.

P.Maudsley said that prior to 2010 the Institution Trust was moribund. It was reconstituted on legal advice that there should be community representation alongside SBC Councillors. There followed a fully functioning Trusteeship until 2015. Then the community representatives and one SBC Councillor resigned. Prior to that resignation, in 2014 Trustees spent 400 minutes on the management of the Chambers Institution. In 2015 there was 1 meeting for 60 minutes, in 2016 there were 3 meetings totalling 75 minutes, in 2017 there was just one meeting, and 2018 was not any better. It was only in 2019, when we started asking questions, that things began to change. SBC Councillors have a range of expertise but the amount of expertise in the community probably exceeds that and can be utilised.

Cllr Tatler: We are going round in circles. What we want to do is move this whole issue forward. We have got fantastic plans for the building, and we want the community's support. If there were other Trustees, other than SBC Councillors, they would not have a specific role so it would be pointless. Far better that we involve the community in other ways, such as by involving them in the forthcoming consultation. We plan to change the format with the meetings to engage with the community. I take offence....I am a member of this community as well. I have lived in Peebles for 14 years and I do know what Peebles people want as does Cllr Haslam and the other Tweeddale Councillors. The Chambers Institution is not just for the residents of Peebles but also Peeblesshire. We are trying to get community engagement and we want to make it as effective as possible.

Cllr Anderson: There is a suggestion that it is the SBC Councillors who have decided against community representation, but that is not the case. Under the terms of the Deed the Institution was bequeathed to Scottish Borders Council, whose 32 members have delegated the management of it to the 6 SBC Councillors for Tweeddale. Over the next few months we are planning to rapidly increase the number of meetings and engage with the community. We need support to get the millions of pounds we need to renovate this building. It will be a massive capital project.

Cllr Haslam: It is important to hear from other people in the town apart from Peebles Community Council and Peebles Civic Trust. We want to hear from people we have not heard from before which is why I am so excited about the School Parliament because it brings young people into the decision making bodies in the town. Unless we have that pipeline of interested people we are never going to grasp the possibilities that this town has. This group of Councillors since 2017, despite the challenges of Covid, has done a really good job of bringing this forward.

L.Turnbull: The Community Council does want to see the Chambers Institution Trust move on. That is why we have been doing what we have been doing, because it has been moribund, regardless of what you say. Let us hope it does move on now.

H.Young: Perhaps the Trustees could let us know their plans and progress in writing?

Cllr Tatler: the meetings are open to the public who are welcome to listen to the discussions. The agendas and Minutes are posted on the SBC website.

SBC Councillors' Reports

Cllr Anderson: School Sex Survey. There is a perception that by asking questions about certain activities it follows that those activities are being promoted. The surveys have been sent out to local authorities for consideration. There was never any intention to put questions about sex to younger children: it would be an age appropriate survey. It is all about finding what support may be needed and having the right services in place. There will be a report to Councillors in January explaining how SBC plan to administer the survey, which questions will be asked and to which age group.

A petition has been received by the Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Committee about the Flower Pot café at the Victoria Park day Centre. The café was closed because they could not use the building due to Covid restrictions. There is now an agreement that the café can operate from the front of the building and it will re-open in March.

Playgrounds: Councillors for Tweeddale West have agreed that any additional investment should be spent on the playground at Eliots Park.

Cllr Haslam: She confirmed that the School Sex Survey will come before Elected Members for consideration in the New Year. It is supposed to be anonymous but it is not: it has the candidate number on it. It leads to all sorts of Child Protection issues.

The budget consultation is now live on the SBC website so this is your opportunity to say how you want the Council's reduced budget spent. You can also email your local Councillor.

Cllr Tatler. The contractors for the construction of the new Peebles High School have been appointed. All being well the construction programme will commence next year. The next Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting is on the 18th January. Before then there is the Place Making Workshop on the 12th January and Cllr Tatler would encourage everyone to get involved with that.

Cllr Tatler had a meeting with John Dalrymple, Secretary of the Baptist Church. He is also Chairman of their building project committee. Mr Dalrymple would like the opportunity to speak at a Community Council meeting, perhaps in March. They had hoped that the building would be wind and watertight by now. They have bought panels for the roof but plans for cladding have been held up due to the post Grenville Tower incident (*a calamitous fire in 2017, fuelled by inappropriate cladding*). They hope that can be resolved soon and then they can move forward with the project. They are proceeding on a 'stage building warrant' programme.

Treasurer's Report: already circulated. G.Mackie said that following the AGM he submitted the approved Annual Accounts to SBC and they have subsequently sent us our annual grant of £1,365.

Planning Report: already circulated. P.Maudsley informed the meeting that he is now our representative on the Common Good Trust.

Cllr Anderson and P.Maudsley confirmed that there is no update about (*the plot previously used by local residents in*) Ballantyne Place.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network: Report circulated.

Peebles Community Trust: Report circulated. The Directors of PCT will meet for the whole day on Saturday to plan a strategy and the best way forward.

Any Other Business

Public toilets. P.Maudsley pulled together all the responses from other Community Councillors, and the consensus was that they would like to see all public toilets open in Peebles. Cllr Tatler said that the subject will be discussed as part of the budget process. He pointed out that the net income from parking fees is about £10,000 per year. The toilets in the Edinburgh Road toilets cost £12,000 to run in 2019. He thinks the toilets in the Edinburgh Road car park and Kingsmeadows car park should be open. The ones in School Brae have always had problems associated with them.

L.Turnbull said that if anyone is prepared to take on Christine Grahame's suggestion of submitting a petition to the Scottish Government, then please contact him.

Speeding on the Glasgow Road. H.Young said members of the public and parents of children at Kingsland Primary School are very concerned about speeding on the Glasgow Road. It is a 20mph zone and there is a pedestrian crossing. However traffic is speeding both exiting and entering the town, especially big lorries. Cllr Anderson said she will speak with Sergeant Granger and Philippa Gilhooley. She invited H.Young to contact her about the issue.

Gareth Wilkinson from the Parent Council at Kingsland primary School said the matter had been raised at their meeting that week. He has witnessed a vehicle coming down the road at 55mph and almost

hitting one of the school buses. He will liaise with Cllr Anderson. As a Police Officer himself he will also see if anything can be done such as speaking with the Junior Routes Safety Officers at Kingsland Primary School to raise awareness.

Puffin Crossing at the Eastgate. L.Turnbull: After our last meeting I wrote to Ms Gilhooley of SBC pointing out what we, as a Community Council, thought were the issues at this proposed site. PCC is not averse to a crossing at the Eastgate, just not at this location where it would have an impact on the traffic, on businesses, the buses, etc. I asked if SBC could put a halt to the development of this crossing until a whole town consultation had been done. We have Sustrans looking at various walking routes, cycle routes, the Link Path Project going on and the Parking Review going on. Let us talk to all the people in the town including businesses and Border Buses and try to get a holistic impression of what is going on so we can find solutions to suit everybody. The Civic Society have sent in a very similar letter.

I have had a response from Ms Gilhooley who said there has been a consultation, that 51% of respondents thought it was a good idea, and therefore it is going ahead. It was not a full consultation: it was one of a series of questions in a consultation about cycle lanes. We have already been told by several people that they said 'yes' to the crossing without understanding exactly what was being proposed. Had they known, they would have voted against it.

Cllr Anderson said that there was a positive response to the idea of a crossing in that location and it was explicit where the crossing would go. Eighty more people voted in favour of the crossing than voted against. There has been an independent road safety audit undertaken which addressed all the concerns which have been raised. Cllr Anderson said that Borders Buses have been consulted. L.Turnbull said that he had spoken with Borders Buses; there has been no consultation with them.

Cllr Anderson said there is no evidence that puffin crossings are unsafe. There is no evidence that it will lead to congestion. This is a good site for the crossing and will improve safety for pedestrians. SBC is also under pressure to spend this money so if the project is put on hold the result may be that nothing can be done.

Cllr Haslam: I support what Cllr Anderson has said. This proposal came from Sustrans. It is a natural crossing point, very busy with schoolchildren crossing at lunchtime. With regard to Borders Buses there are currently 2 spaces at the bus stop; there will continue to be 2 spaces at the bus stop after the crossing is installed. Borders Buses will be completely unaffected. There are buses which use that stop and shouldn't – SBC will be contacting those contractors.

Cllr Tatler: I am in complete agreement with the other 2 Councillors. Regarding the buses, it is not a terminus but a bus stop. There is no reason for any more than 2 buses to be there at any one time. Sustrans raised a lot of other suggestions with us which I will not go into – some of them were absolutely ludicrous. What we have here is a very sensible safety measure. I remember the concerns when the first light controlled crossing was created in the High Street. We have now all accepted it; it does not cause any issues and neither will the new one. We do not take these decisions by ourselves but base them on the information provided by officers who have many years of experience. The public want this and the public will get it.

Cllr Anderson: The independent audit says it will not increase congestion. It might reduce congestion. If we don't get on and do it we may not have the money and there won't be a crossing at all.

Cllr Haslam: If you had been in the same meetings as we had you would also support the project.

M.Bruce: Much has been made of the experts' report. I have read it. It says there should never be more than 2 buses at the bus stop. We have photographic evidence that there can be 3 buses at the stop. The report is extremely flawed. From memory the only observation time spent by the 2 academics to produce the report was 45 minutes on a week day. That is not long enough to base a sensible survey on. Personally I think the report has been written to support the proposal. I remember Sustrans suggestion some time ago to put cycle lanes in our High Street which was a ridiculous idea. I support L.Turnbull's suggestion that we have a whole town consultation.

A.Snoddy: I think the SBC Councillors are being very paternalistic and *telling* us what we want. I think their job is to represent us and our opinions, not the other way round.

A.Mackenzie: I think it was the same experts who originally put the zebra crossing in the High Street which completely failed. Then we had to replace it with the crossing we have now which works a lot better. Cllr Tatler: you are correct, we did have a zebra crossing and it was not a good idea. A.Mackenzie: experts are not always correct. If we have to have a crossing in the Eastgate, why not have a temporary one to see if it works?

J.Crawley: I agree with L.Turnbull that there should be far more consultation. I am surprised at the tone of the (SBC) Councillors' responses. We are entitled to our opinions and they should not come back to us in such a bad-tempered way. It seems we are going to get the crossing whether we like it or not.

L.Turnbull: This Community Council is not against increasing pedestrian safety, we are not against a puffin crossing. What we are concerned about is the precise location of this one and the impact that it might have on the town. All we are asking for is a proper full consultation to take a holistic view of all the issues which affect the town including parking and speeding.

Cllr Tatler, are you going to pursue that on our behalf? Cllr Tatler: No.

Cllr Anderson, are you going to pursue that on our behalf? Cllr Anderson: No. I don't think we have the option of not doing something. I think we have a site here which works.

Cllr Haslam, are you going support our view? Cllr Haslam: I support what Sustrans and the experts have told us. L.Turnbull: So you're not supporting our view? Cllr Haslam: No, I am supporting the 51% who responded in favour.

L.Turnbull: We have a Community Council here which is representative of the town. Every Community Councillor here is asking for a halt to the project until we have a full consultation. That's all: no more, no less.

Cllr Anderson: I do not think you can spend another 6 months looking at this and expect the money to still be there.

L.Turnbull: The money's irrelevant. We need to get the right answer for the town.

Cllr Haslam: Can I suggest you write to Sustrans from whom the idea came.

L.Turnbull: It's irrelevant where the idea came from. The fact is Scottish Borders Council is implementing this project. We are asking for it to stop so there can be a full consultation. Sustrans can contribute to that, as can the emergency services, hauliers, and Borders Buses.

P.Maudsley: We have heard from our elected Councillors that Sustrans came in with various recommendations, some of which were rubbish. Then to say Sustrans have recommended this project and therefore it is a good thing doesn't stack up. Sustrans is fallible.

L.Turnbull: I will write another letter to SBC on behalf of PCC to say this (*a halt to the project*) is what we want.

Derelict Buildings: A.Snoddy responded to a request from Emma Harper MSP for details of derelict buildings in the vicinity. She notified her about the building at the foot of School Brae and the Old Toll House on the A72. S.Rae said he had also flagged up one at Horsbrugh Ford.

Street names. L.Turnbull said that a street on the new Persimmon housing estate at South Parks is called Neidpath Place, and that is causing confusion for delivery drivers who are directed by their sat navs to Neidpath Road (because Neidpath Place is not yet on their sat navs). He wondered if there could be a prominent street name erected at Neidpath Road? Cllr Haslam asked the PCC Secretary to send her the request in an email. SBC also have contacts with sat nav companies and with Google maps and will contact them.

L.Turnbull: The Tour o' the Borders will take place in 2022 on 4th September.

'Round the Table': J.Shearer supported the earlier suggestion that a trial crossing at the Eastgate would be a sensible idea. J.Crawley would like to commend the young people in the town (prior to the current situation when all youngsters are being urged to get vaccinated) when they turned out en masse for their vaccinations. He was impressed with their public spirited attitude, youngsters getting the vaccination to protect older people. We often criticise young people so it's important to praise them too.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 13th January 2022 by Zoom.

