



Community Council
of the
Royal Burgh of Peebles and District

Minutes of the 301st Meeting of the Community Council which was held on Thursday 8th December 2022 at 7pm in the Burgh Hall. The meeting was recorded for the purposes of Minuting and Reporting.

Present: A Mackenzie, A Snoddy, C Forsyth, F Richardson, G MacDonald, G Mackie, G Ramsay, H Young, J Crawley, J Shearer, J Wilson, M Bruce, P Maudsley, S Coe, S Watson, Cllr Douglas, Cllr Pirone, Cllr Small, Cllr Tatler, Cllr Thomson

In attendance: M Davey of the Peeblesshire News

Members of the Public: T Compton, C McLeod, M Mitchell

Apologies: A Mackenzie, J Mitchell, S Hamilton, Cllr Begg

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting which would be recorded for the purposes of minuting and reporting, and that by taking part in the meeting everyone was agreeing to this. Additionally, he set down some rules for all meetings because there is always a very full agenda, and we need to keep things moving in an orderly fashion. We should listen to each other, keep our comments brief and have only one conversation at a time. If there are several voices involved at any one time, the chair will endeavour to intervene and keep things in order. The Chairman asked that members do not carry-on independent conversations during the meeting. Separate seating areas have been provided for the press and public.

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public.

Presentation from Belltown Power

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Doug Wilson of Smithy House Associates and Pete Thomas from Belltown Power on Leithenwater Wind Energy Hub. A copy of the presentation and/or an information leaflet is available from secretary@ccrbpeebles.co.uk

The main points were:

Proposed Development Site, Community Engagement, Community Benefit, Community Ownership, and Project Timeline.

A discussion took place, and the following points were raised:

The Chairman remarked that this is the third development which is close to Peebles and asked when putting together the viewpoint data, will they include the other two windfarms? The answer was, yes, it is important to include them. Nature Scot, as the main stakeholder, will require this to be done. The Chairman said it remains to be seen how visible they will be. P Thomas said the impact will need to be scoped. The height and number may be compromised. S Coe asked if they had done

any visual impacts yet and when would those be available? P Thomas said, no not yet it's too early. Peebles is fortunate in that the area is set back, there is steep terrain between the main Peebles' area and the proposed area blocking the view of most of the turbines. S Coe asked, what is the target area for community benefits? P Thomas said this had not been decided yet as they will need to work with all communities. They will need an idea where it will be most beneficial and effective and try to be as fair as they can be. If too diluted, it will be of no real use to anyone, so it will be a balance. They will need to factor in what the site looks like in numbers and the capacity to make sure it is right for all parties in the community and those in the vicinity.

H Young said there's been a lot of government money paid to windfarms not to run because the National Grid cannot cope with supply and although she supports renewables, she does not want to see windfarms simply sitting doing nothing. Does this affect Belltown? P Thomson said that these are sometimes called constraint payments managed by National Grid. National Grid, at times, have surplus generation. They must pay for generators to switch off, and it depends on how easy it is to switch off these generators. Renewables are an easier target because it's cheaper for them to be switched off, versus more conventional powerplants. There is a correlation that onshore wind is cheapest form of generation and therefore is the cheapest way for the National Grid to manage the grid constraint payments.

S Watson asked about the battery storage? P Thomas said this was typically based on a percentage of the size of windfarm. They would look at constraint payments and charges for the battery. So if they are producing a lot when there is not a need for a lot of generation then they could charge the battery.

G Mackie said that people would be interested to hear about the discount scheme. P Thomas said their intention would be that the consumer will not have to change supplier. They will work with the suppliers and work out the discounts with them. Belltown will then deduct the amount off the bill on an annual basis.

D Wilson thanked everyone for listening and asked should anyone have further questions to direct them to the Secretary who will pass them on.

Open Forum:

The Chairman invited the two members of the public to raise their issues:

M Mitchell said that he was here to update us regarding the heavy goods vehicles that had been driving to the depot in George Street, discussed in the previous PCC meeting. He has been in touch with the transport manager from one of the companies and he is trying his hardest to stop the vehicles going down those routes. M Mitchell has also spoken to a safety officer. The problem is the garage that owns the depot is letting the lorries drive down the residential roads.

The Chairman said since the last meeting there had been conversations with the owners of the garage and some of our SBC Cllrs had been involved with some of those conversations. Cllr Thomson said that Cllr Begg has a meeting arranged with the garage owners.

M Mitchell said that SBC road safety officers agreed there is a safety issue because of the damaged gates. A wall has been damaged too and one of the telecoms boxes. The vehicles are doing three-point turns; however, Police Scotland say this is not a road safety issue. M Mitchell has video-recordings of the vehicles and offered to show the committee members. J Shearer asked to see the video.

There were no other matters from the Open Forum.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 November 2022 were proposed by Malcolm Bruce and seconded by Chris Forsyth.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Litter weeds and moss on Cuddyside. The Chairman had been in touch with the Cllrs, and this is in the hands of Cllr Begg who will update at the next meeting.

Plain Clothed Police Officers: The Chairman had asked Cllr Pirone to find out if it was possible to put plain clothes police officers into Victoria Park to deal with the ASB perpetrators. Cllr Pirone, did mention it but these types of officers are only deployed for covert operations. They prefer their officers to be seen as uniformed officers.

Peebles High School new building design: T Compton from the PHS Parent Council was in attendance with an update. A month had passed and there had been some progress. T Compton has taken the lead to represent the parents' views. He and other parents had had a productive meeting with SBC where they were shown some revisions in the plans, some of which went some way to addressing some of their concerns and they appreciated and recognised that. However, there were still areas of significant concern including the proposed school hall. Also, the open plan spaces proposal is still an issue, mainly because of noise around the open classrooms and the acoustics. As a group they have not had the input of the education department of SBC. They plan to invite Leslie Munro to speak to them, as Director of Education, but had received feedback that there is a brief already in place for the school. They are trying to understand why some things are being requested by education but, at the same time, not being asked for by parents or pupils. In terms of a consultation, he was disappointed to report that there was no great advance on consultation, nor on the sharing of information. Following the last PCC meeting T Compton had put forward a proposal to all the Cllrs that they would share information, but many people had still not seen the plans. The plans are not online and, despite multiple requests to the project team, they won't publish them which seems strange. They need to be in the public domain. Information sharing is a gap. We need to reach a stage of satisfaction. T Compton knows the Cllrs have been working on it, but no news yet and everyone is concerned we are running out of time. One month has passed already and now we are looking at Christmas, the holidays, prelims, etc and it will be difficult to engage with pupils. We are also all aware of the building costs rising because of inflation. We don't want to find ourselves in a position where we are told that there is no time for a consultation to be held because of costs issues. We need to get it arranged as soon as possible.

The Chairman had a meeting with Cllr Tatler recently where this topic had been touched upon. There were three issues concerning the Chairman. First, it is unacceptable that there is a threat that time is running out and that the plans will just have to be accepted. Secondly, there is the difficulty in gaining information. At the last meeting there was a discussion regarding the £350k for consultation and no one understands how it has been spent. We are hoping to get feedback on that. Thirdly, there is information that says a lot of the concern is because of misapprehension as to what is planned. That may or may not be true but as outsiders it is difficult to see what's going on. What is required is a spreadsheet with the old plans alongside the new plans for direct comparison, the spreadsheet should include all comments from the public, the decision from SBC and the reasoning behind it. T Compton agreed there is a lot of misinformation around and although some issues have been recognised, without publication, it is difficult for people to know what's going on.

S Coe said at the last meeting a visit to Jedburgh school was suggested to the PCC. He had since spoken to teachers from Jedburgh where there was a considerable body of dissatisfaction, for example, no staff rooms and the staff must share pupil toilets. The space for concerts is not satisfactory and the space for exams is difficult. The teachers feel they are unable to speak up because it's seen as a conflict of interest with employer. We need to get this information, of what does not work, fed back to Peebles.

T Compton recently went into PHS with teachers and architects and heard some of the teachers' concerns, but they are limited to what they can say, but T Compton felt the teachers were candid and it was constructive. Teachers said changes had been made. T Compton had also heard concerns from Jedburgh, again these had been off the record. Since the last PCC meeting, because of the publicity, and having been on BBC News, T Compton has had approaches from several people, anonymously, with many concerns and worries, so it is important to get the plans out into the public domain. He has also been promised a visit to Jedburgh during school hours.

Cllr Tatler: The Cllrs have emailed T Compton. T Compton said that he has not checked his emails today so has not seen that yet. Cllr Tatler said he is pleased to hear that T Compton is making progress. This is difficult, because he and some of the present Cllrs have been involved since the early days and they are confident that the design meets the requirements. It is difficult to match it with the issues being raised. There is a mismatch between the two. They want to try and get the engagement with the stakeholders that will allow people to know what is in the design. The problem with just putting a design out without explanation is that people cannot interpret what they are seeing. The Cllrs are not oblivious to the concerns, they are picking them up. What they are going to be doing in the new year is hosting at least one engagement session, which will not be one person standing up talking, it will be held café style. They will be logging the issues and logging solutions. There may not be solutions to everything, and we need to accept that. There is a limited budget and a limited envelope, but we are going to get something that is far better than what we have without question. Cllr Tatler wanted to respond to the references to open plan. The plans are not open plan; it is called a flexible learning solution. Some rooms are enclosed, and some will have a side open, and some can be moved around. There is assembly space, and they know there are issues with it, and they are working on that. There are other spaces within Peebles that can be used if a larger space is needed. They will be having this engagement. One final point is that they absolutely cannot delay this project, they would never be forgiven. There are three high schools being built in Borders and they cannot possibly delay it, but we need to make sure it is fit for purpose.

Cllr Pirone confirmed they had sent T Compton an email today and confirmed they had had a meeting this week with senior SBC officers, it was a robust and productive conversation. The engagement session will be a café style workshop with parent councillors, teachers, senior officials and representatives from the community to go through the issues. The Cllrs have been clear about improving communication and how people are informed about what they are doing. This needs a full review; what they tell people and items, as Cllr Tatler says, such as the plan needs to be delivered with an explanation, and SBC needs to be better at that. Reference to the consultation money is included in the email. Cllr Pirone asked that the Chairman take a look at that and come back to them. The Cllrs want some buy in because as far as she is concerned the SBC Cllrs have achieved something by obtaining the workshop. Then we can take look at what's been done and what the solutions are, if there are solutions. Cllr Pirone hopes that we realise the Cllrs are all committed to this project. The Education Department and the Infrastructure Department are driven

and are behind it. We all need to work together for the benefit of the children and the community and let's work together and move forward. If there are any issues, please get back to the Cllrs, their doors are open. They want the best for Peebles and Tweeddale and all the Cllrs and officers agree.

Cllr Thomson understands if information is not in a place to access it, then of course this will create rumours. She supported having visitors to Jedburgh. People should record their visits so it can be seen. Sometimes the language that is being used isn't what's being said or offered, it's what's being heard, e.g., "no doors". We need to be careful. Also, the consultation monies: it's not just all going on speaking to public, it's about all the other correspondence that has been part of the project such as from consultant to consultant. She agreed SBC don't always explain things and there is not enough communication, and she has asked time and time again that this gets better and that they also start to use the same terminology.

Cllr Douglas said he had not much to add to what his colleagues have said. The directors of the education and infrastructure departments are absolutely convinced this school is a good design that meets educational requirements. This may not have come across in current consultation but is very much the case. The professionals believe it is right. We will now have this workshop, one in Peebles and one other possibly, but we need to move on it. He encouraged everyone to go to Jedburgh, take a look around and record it. The open spaces are not as open as people think, they are flexible spaces. The Chairman pointed out that it is difficult to envisage with the information provided.

T Compton thanked all the Cllrs for progressing the topic and that he appreciated their efforts. He has not seen the email but as he represents a group, he would need to share the email with the group first before any feedback was given. He wants to work with SBC on the design with proper consultation. There is a difference between consultation and communication. He acknowledges this is not a case of having everything they want, but they need to place priorities on things like the hall space. In the plan, as it stands, it is not suitable. There is also no space for exams. The Chairman agreed that what is clear here is that this needs speed in the new year. There is a lot of work to be done and a short time to do it.

T Compton wanted to come back to the Cllrs about whether it is open plan. Out of 41 traditional classrooms, 17 have doors. Of those, a number between 6-9 are double classrooms. These are facts. The flexibility of this space is important.

H Young thanked everyone for the feedback and information and asked if the workshop will be in January and will it be advertised? The Cllrs confirmed, yes. H Young asked how they are going to organise feedback? After the previous event no feedback was available, and it needs to be written down so it can be catalogued. Cllr Pirone confirmed there will be a system. Cllr Thomson said that it will be done café style, so visitors can write directly on the tablecloths so that everything is captured.

S Coe: Could you consider keep the existing hall as a standalone hall? Leave it as part of the campus?

Cllr Tatler: no, we're building a brand-new school. The word traditional has been mentioned: the new school is for the future. We are not replacing the school with what we have now, it is going to be fit for the future.

J Wilson said the key issue is that the brief that the architects were given does not seem to be visible. There has been, at whatever level, consultation where some people have had their say in what they would like in the new build but where does that tally with the brief? Until you have the

brief in front of you, and what people want in front of you, and the architects' drawings in front of you, only then can you have an informed conversation and consultation. Talking about moveable walls at this stage is not sensible. We need to get a hold of what is important. What were the architects asked to do? Then there's the threat of, if we don't get it done, we will miss out. Kingsland Primary School was severely reduced in price three times, the school had to shrink, but there were no surrenders about what was really important. For Kingsland, that was the size of the classrooms. Classrooms were as big as possible as that was what was important to the teachers, parents and children. We need to see the architects' brief.

Cllr Small: What people need to understand is that we are getting brand new school. We can't look back and must move forward. If we dither, we could lose the High school, so think long and hard. Every time you take these officers away from their job it is delaying moving forward. We know what happened with the 3G pitch a few years back, so we need to be careful we don't lose this High school. The Chairman agreed we cannot lose the High school, but we cannot end up with a High school that can't do what it is presently able to do. We will have failed. Cllr Small said the SBC officers have got good history, they know what they're doing, we must move on it.

H Young: We have one chance to get it right. There is plenty of evidence in other local authorities where they have not got it right and they end up not fit for purpose. Local authorities then undertake great expense retrofitting them.

Cllr Thomson said they are mindful of timeframe and had considered doing the workshop in December but because of holidays, etc, they thought it would be better to do it in January. T Compton said the date should be published now, to allow people to plan for January.

S Watson asked when are they breaking ground? Cllrs confirmed that is scheduled for April.

T Compton said we have been planning this for two years and if we are not sure at this stage what the brief is, then that is a failure of consultation and a failure of the process to this point. We cannot now start saying we are going to lose the school and that he disagreed with Cllr Small. We have got to get it right; this is a school for many generations to come and it falls to us to get it right.

Police Report: M Bruce has circulated the police report. The Chairman said his perception was that things have settled down. M Bruce agreed, although there are still some issues. He was disappointed that Police Scotland had not sent a police officer to the meeting. He had not received an apology either. He did say it would be easier for him to make a judgment on the multi-ward reports if he could do a side-by-side analysis. He has another ASB meeting planned but what is clear at this stage is that there is no need for new space for young people, space exists. The Chairman said that M Bruce is doing an excellent and vital job. Cllr Pirone will raise the missing police presence and report.

SBC Councillors' Reports

Cllr Douglas: There have been complaints regarding the gritting on Priorsford footbridge. The issue is that it has a non-slip metal surface which you cannot use ordinary salt on. The surface requires special salt that is extremely expensive. It is being gritted; however, it is melting and then condensation is forming which in turn is re-freezing. The taxi fare increase has been put on hold as there have been two appeals. The taxis companies want a bigger increase, but by appealing it puts the process on hold. We have until 14 December to see how many appeals are received. Regarding short term lets, there is a scheme now in existence where new businesses doing short

term lets have to be registered. Existing businesses have until October to register. The Warm Space and Well Fund is now available for community groups to provide warm space, and some local groups are looking at that.

Cllr Pirone: SBC has been looking at leaf clearing. They have been working hard to clear them. Kingsmeadows Road is bad. Parents from Kingsland Primary should be congratulated for pulling together activities over the Christmas period for the children in our Ukrainian community. There is a crowdfunding page raising money which Cllr Pirone will share with the Secretary. All help is appreciated. There will be some difficult decisions with the budgetary process which is commencing.

Cllr Small: The planning is quiet in Peebles. Otherwise, there's not much happening. Nothing else to add.

Cllr Tatler: Victoria Park Group, we are still trying to get Green Flag status and that is moving forward. There is a lot going on in the park including the skate park, improved lighting and paths. Lots of positive feedback about the wildflower planting and other areas are planned. As mentioned, the budget process is beginning and that is going to be a difficult process. There are so many unknowns, inflation, cost of fuel for example. We don't know what will be available from government. There had been a meeting of the parking issues group. They are looking at bringing Kingsmeadows car park into discussion. There is a proposal to move buses into the East Station car park and they also looked at the surveying being commissioned in the new year. The officers are under pressure of work and will get to some sort of resolution next year.

S Watson: The [parking issues] meeting was constructive. However to get it moving would only have taken a couple of emails. It's almost a year on from last meeting and nothing's been done. Cllr Tatler said it is moving, but S Watson believes not fast enough. The Chairman said that if the parking group come up with a report it still needs to be looked at holistically. Cllr Tatler knows there is frustration. Cllr Tatler spoke about the Peebles Resilience Group who will be looking at things in the new year, including flooding and winter weather issues. One issue may be power outages so we will need to buy generators. Whitestone Park: we have got work back from the consultants which will be shared in new year. This is Cllr Tatler's last report for this year and it's easy to find doom and gloom, but he is looking forward to 2023, with the new skate park, the new school being built with 3G pitch, new sports facilities, fully accessible paths, and moving forward with the Chambers Institution.

Cllr Thomson: Tweeddale West Cllrs met recently with Craig Blackie to talk about the parking funds from car parks. It was a good meeting, and she has some ideas about what can be done for Peebles. On behalf of the Chambers Institution Trust, she thanked A Snoddy for allowing them to work alongside the Peebles Christmas Lights switch on day, for their event in the Burgh Hall, which had been well attended that afternoon. The Live Borders staff had also given up their own time to coordinate the event, for which thanks. Cllr Thomson also thanked A Snoddy, M Bruce and the other members of the Christmas Lights team for the Christmas lights. Cllr Thomson had spoken to John Curry to see where things are at with the Peebles Charitable Trust. We need temporary premises for the Reuse Hub. The Tweeddale West three Cllrs are going to put together one report, to save time on the agenda for the new year.

Treasurer's Report

G Mackie has sent round the report for last month. We have now received the annual support grant from SBC which is essential to our survival.

Planning report

The Planning Report has been circulated and the Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Chambers Institution Trust:

S Coe delivered his report to the PCC which is copied below:

As this is my first report under this heading I thought I should note that there have been four meetings of the Chambers Institution Beneficiaries Group since it was set up in August of this year, with the stated purpose of ensuring that the views of stakeholders and beneficiaries on the management and future development of the Chambers Institution are understood and properly considered. In discussion with the Trustees and Live Borders representatives, community groups represented to date have included The Bridge, the Pensioners Association, Renew Crew, Schools Out Peebles, John Buchan Museum, Citizens Advice Bureau, Peebles Civic Society and this Community Council. It is hoped that more will get involved in future. It is fair to say that the experience of the Group so far is all positive.

The main topics of discussion have been ongoing issues with the condition and management of the Burgh Hall, the impending removal of the suspended ceiling in the Burgh Hall, and the shared vision for the future of the Chambers Institution.

Of these, the principal issue is the vision for the future, and it has been agreed that the Trust and the Beneficiaries Group will work "as one" to achieve this objective. Building on the public consultation that was held in 2016, further consultation events were held during November with the aim of gathering updated views on what needs to be taken into account in the development plans. On 15th November a guided tour of the Chambers Institution was conducted by Live Borders followed by a presentation of updated sketch proposals by architects Page/Park, in two sessions. This was followed by an open exhibition day held on 27th November, apparently with William Chambers in attendance. These events were well received, although less well attended than had been hoped. It has been generally agreed that the architects' proposals for creating a new and welcoming public entrance via the street frontage, and for improving access within the building with a new strategically placed lift, are on the right track for the front part of the building complex. However, it was noted that other than the removal of the existing suspended ceiling, the overall plans currently do not include options to realise the full potential of the Burgh Hall and kitchen area, as had been raised in the 2016 consultation, including the possibility of introducing a mid-floor to create a new hall at first floor level, which would release useful additional floor space at ground floor level while providing the opportunity for improvements in acoustics, heating and energy efficiency. It has been agreed that the architect's sketch study will be extended to test the feasibility of these ideas, along with any others that may arise from current consultation feedback, before the next stage in the consultation, which will include a facilitated workshop to review and agree how the shared vision should look. Looking ahead to the next stage, efforts are being made by the Trustees to find ways to engage the wider community, and to ensure that as many people as possible are aware of the project and have the opportunity to contribute their views.

Meanwhile, the programme for the removal of the suspended ceiling in the Burgh Hall, to include decorative plaster repairs, new lighting, heating recirculation fans and redecoration, has now been confirmed. The works are due to commence on 9th January 2023, and are expected to take 16 weeks, until the end of April. The hall will be closed during this period, and Live Borders is working with current users to make arrangements for alternative accommodation wherever possible. We look forward to seeing the original ceiling that has been hidden from view for decades.

While the removal of the present suspended ceiling is generally welcomed, some concern has been expressed in the Beneficiaries Group, and in feedback to the recent consultations, about potential problems for users in terms of acoustics, heating and energy performance, when the hall space is opened up. SBC Estates officers have explained that the capital grant only covers a limited scope of works directly associated with the removal of the suspended ceiling, but it has been agreed that the issues of acoustics and energy performance will be addressed thereafter, along with the necessary building condition surveys as part of the next stage of development plans.

In addition to the suspended ceiling removal works, it is planned that new w-fi points will be installed in the Burgh Hall. Discussions are on-going with the proposed service provider, and decisions will be made by the CIT shortly to enable this work to follow on at the end of the construction period.

Cllr Tatler thanked S Coe for his report. There is someone who will do the administration for the beneficiaries' group, and they have had four meetings. Everything that has been asked to be done, is being looked at. The Chairman said that it would be helpful to have a representative on CIT. Cllr Tatler said that is now on the agenda for next meeting.

J Shearer asked what is happening with the stage? S Coe confirmed it is just the ceiling being looked at, but ultimately everything will need to be looked at. As it stands the kitchen is not functioning.

G Macdonald: On planning, there are concerns re the sale of Cross Keys pub. Does Historic Environment Scotland have any involvement? Is this something for PCC? The Chairman: No. It's just a sale of property which would only come to planning if they did have to re-roof it, when applications would be made through normal channels. S Coe: As it is a listed building, Historic Environment Scotland would have a say in planning permission. G Macdonald: the main reason for the sale is the high cost of roof repairs. Cllr Pirone said also the footfall is a factor, there are not enough customers.

G Macdonald: what is happening with Baptist Church? The Chairman said there is no money. Cllr Tatler is working with the team, and it may be repurposed.

The Chairman noted that the Foodbank needs new premises too and asked if Victoria Park Centre might be an option? Cllr Tatler said that it is being looked at for a whole variety of ways for the centre to be used by the community.

Peebles Community Trust

M Bruce had circulated his report. Things are looking rosier on the heating solution. They are investigating their own alternative ground source heating system. SBC Executive met and have authorised a grant of £45k to the Trust for building refurbishment. A match funding opportunity has been lined up which gives them £90k to use in the future. Firstly they will look at replacement windows and doors to make the building better insulated. £90k is a lot of money, but not the few million pounds that it needs. Cllr Tatler: this has come from something called place-based investment. The Chairman pointed out that all the PCT members are volunteers and should be

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applauded for all their hard work and dedication, not to mention the achievement thus far. Cllr Pirone said they should apply for the funding again next year and for other groups too. Cllr Douglas said the SBC will be announcing all the schemes available to communities.

AOB:

Swimming pool. Cllr Pirone said that some work has started and hopefully it will be open in Spring.

Road Sweeper: F Richardson said that a member of the public had pointed out that when the road sweeper drives through the High Street and along the Glasgow Road during the morning when people were commuting and taking their children to school, it often backed up the traffic right through town and across the bridge and held everyone up. There may be a logistical reason it needs to be done at that time but, if not, could the sweeper consider avoiding the main routes during the morning rush hour? Cllr Pirone agreed to ask SBC.

Fishing Station: The Chairman confirmed the fishing station area has been repaired and is no longer roped off.

Transport in Peebles Report: The Chairman has had an update from John Curry regarding the transport in Peebles report. J Curry has discussed transport in Peebles with our SBC Cllrs, and they are all in agreement that it be beneficial to have a holistic review of most transport issues. It was also agreed that there should be engagement with the community and that there should be representation from the community. Then a plan can be drawn as to how it should be addressed and with outside consultants coming in to assist and it has been agreed that some of the funding will come from SBC sources. One concern was an article in the Peebleshire News where an SBC Officer was quoted that there was intention to reinvigorate Edinburgh Road car park but that doesn't fit with the holistic report. Looking at what John Curry proposes, we should support it.

Cycling World Championships: This is going to involve a serious impact on traffic, and we need to start looking at it. No one is sure what is being done. We can start discussion at the next meeting and take a view. Cllr Tatler said we must look at the positives as this is going to mean lots of visitors to the area. The Chairman agreed that the hotels should see a significant uplift but that the benefit to shops was less clear, particularly if the parking for shoppers was swamped by the spectator parking.

Bus Survey: Cllr Pirone wanted to remind everyone that the bus survey is still ongoing. It is important. Make your views known and she will share a link.

Christmas Lights: We would like to thank the volunteers for the Christmas lights and displays. It would be good if we could encourage more volunteers to join the local groups, not just for the lights but for all our volunteer groups. We need new and younger volunteers and perhaps the Peebleshire News could highlight this plea on our behalf.

Warm Spaces: G Macdonald asked about the Warm and Well Fund? Is this going to be published? Cllrs, yes. Anyone can apply for funding and set up and let them know what part of the community it benefits.

Defibrillators: G Macdonald asked who services and maintains the defibrillators? The Chairman said he would find out. M Bruce said the donor group is responsible.

Greggs old premises: G Macdonald asked who's moving into the old Greggs' premises? M Bruce said he believes it's the Edinburgh café group, called The Milkman.

Cllr Douglas suggested inviting someone from the Cycling Organisers to come and speak to us about the world championships, perhaps Enduro?

Cllr Thomson said that CAB are running some big energy saving network events. They may do a presentation for us, and she will send the link to the Secretary.

A Snoddy reminded everyone about nominations for the Tweeddale Citizen of the Year is active, closing date 26 January 2023. Also, is there a flood protection update? Cllr Tatler confirmed Peebles is next on the list when the government has the money. However, it is highly unlikely to have the money, and it could be some time.

J Shearer: We have a new tourist information. Cllr Tatler said it is called Go Tweed Valley.

The Chairman also pointed out that South of Scotland has been mentioned in the Lonely Planet as one of the 30 best areas to visit in the World!

The meeting finished at 2051hrs, and the next meeting will be on Thursday 12 January 2022 at 7pm in Peebles Community Centre, Walkershaugh.