

**MINUTES of the MEETING of Kelso Community
Council held in the Town Hall, Kelso
on Tuesday 15 September 2015, at 7.00 pm**

PRESENT: Provost John Bassett (Chair), Councillors Dean Weatherston, Harry Tomczyk, Colin McGrath, Tamzin Thomas, Betty Hodges, Peter Cooper, Alan Hall, and John King and Scottish Borders Councillors Alec Nicol and Simon Mountford.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Suzanne Howgego (Police Scotland), Alan Livingstone (Chamber of Trade), Ian Rendall Reid and David Harvey (Cheviot Youth) and Scott Forbes (Heartbeat Charity)

APOLOGIES: SBC Councillor Tom Weatherston and Councillor Fiona Scott

- Please note questions to either the Scottish Borders Councillors or Kelso Community Councillors need to be submitted in writing to the Secretary seven days prior to meeting.
- All Councillors to make a declaration of interest prior to discussion.
- All correspondence to be circulated via the Secretary.

Welcome

Provost John Bassett welcomed members to the meeting after the summer recess and Ian Rendall Reid, David Harvey and Scott Forbes. He advised the Council had been kept up to date on issues during the summer by use of emails and this had proved very satisfactory.

Presentation on Cheviot Youth

Ian Rendall Reid and David Harvey provided a summary of the Kelso Youth Project, highlighting activities and programmes which had previously been circulated and welcomed questions. They advised the five themes of the organisation were Film, Music, Art, Physical Activity and Health & Wellbeing. A copy of the Information Sheet is appended to these minutes.

Councillor Tomczyk asked how many children participated in the project Ian advised they were attracting between 24 and 26 children. Ian advised they were doing a lot of publicity in local schools to raise their awareness.

The Provost thanked Ian and David for attending and asked them to report back with future developments.

Defibrillators – Kelso Heartbeat Charity

Scott Forbes attended meeting to provide update to Community Council following previous presentation delivered by Kelso Heartbeat in June. Scott advised that the first three Public Access Defibrillators were now located in the following areas, Kelso

Town Centre in Woodmarket at James Stewart's, Kelso Rugby Club located at Poynder Place entrance to grounds at turnstiles and the final one at Kelso Swimming Pool at the main entrance to the pool. He also informed the council that he hoped to have a fourth one located at the Tait Hall main entrance within the next few weeks and would inform the council when this was done.

Scott also informed the meeting that the charity was in communication with The Border Union Showground to relocate their current defibrillator to an external location at the Border Union Office to allow public access, but at the moment this had not been done.

Scott acknowledged Provost Bassets point regarding the possibility of the defibrillator at Kelso High School being located externally and said he would look into this.

The question of Public training was raised by Councillor McGrath and Scott acknowledged this and said he would discuss the planning of this with the Charity. It was also raised about the training of Council members and it was agreed that Scott would liaise with Shirley as to dates for this to happen. It was also agreed that Scott and Shirley would liaise to publicise these agreed training dates through Kelso Life and Southern Reporter.

Scott agreed to sending contact details and recent photos launching defibrillator positions to Councillor Dean Weatherston so these could be shared on the Community Council Facebook page and visit Kelso.

Police Matters

PS Suzanne Howgego advised the June, July and August 2015 reports had previously been circulated. She advised the busy summer weekend attractions had passed uneventfully.

The Provost commented the Gold wing visit had been a great success with no incidents reported.

Councillor Tomczyk asked for an update on the issues with the individual in Wood Market and Suzanne advised he was being monitored and regular meetings had been held with the individual and the housing officer and commented it could take up to two years to issue an ASBO.

The Secretary advised Inspector John Scott and PS Jacqui McGuigan had returned to the area and asked to be kept informed of issues. Inspector Scott hoped to attend a future meeting.

Chamber of Trade report / Visit Kelso

Alan Livingstone advised membership had risen to 80 and a new marketing sub committee had been formed – Visit Kelso, which was being proactive. Alan advised the Visit Kelso website was expanding and being made the focal point for traders in the town.

Alan advised most traders had participated in the Tour of Britain window display and positive feedback had been received. It was noted the Sunday opening had been of benefit to some traders.

Alan advised traders were currently considering Sunday opening during December, which he would encourage. He advised that traders had asked whether the Christmas light switch on could coincide with their late night opening. The town Christmas light switch on is scheduled for Saturday 28 November but the traders had asked if this could be moved to Sunday 4 December.

Alan advised parking continued to be a main concern, particularly those that parked all day in the town. It was agreed people who needed to park all day should be encouraged to park outside the town to allow more spaces for short term parkers. Alan commented the Chamber were thinking of issuing a leaflet on the windscreen of the offenders respectfully asking them not to park all day in the 2 hour parking spaces in the town. The Provost asked whether the Police were aware of this initiative and Alan advised this had been discussed with Suzanne Howgego and she had no objections.

The Secretary advised she had forwarded information to the Chamber of Trade to enable them to apply for community funding to replace the flower baskets.

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 June 2015 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Betty Hodges.

Matters arising

a) Car Parking

It was noted the Secretary had written to the Chief Executive of SBC regarding decriminalising parking as it was felt this would make more options available and requested a timetable. Andy McLean, Chief Inspector had replied advising parking initiatives would be carried out in most of the Border town over the summer.

Councillor Nicol advised any decision on decriminalising would need to be a Border wide decision and urged the Council to write again to SBC stating their support.

Councillors discussed the option of introducing a parking disc scheme, similar to say Berwick upon Tweed, whereby a disc could be purchased at local shops. It was noted visitors would expect to pay something towards parking their vehicle. Councillor Tomczyk stressed the importance of getting any plans in place prior to the start of the tourist season.

The Secretary was asked to write again to the Chief Executive requesting an update on the timescale for decriminalising parking.

It was noted the Secretary had contacted SBC regarding consideration being given to include the Glebe Field in Kelso for inclusion in the next Local Delivery Plan as a suitable site for the provision of additional parking. An initial response had been received which had been circulated.

It was agreed the issue of parking should be raised at the next Area Forum meeting scheduled for the following evening.

b) Memorial Wall

Councillor King advised little progress had been made during the summer but he was meeting with Jim Walker on Friday who was keen to attend a Council meeting. Councillor McGrath advised Churches Working Together were still involved and they were meeting on the 22 September.

It was noted that Councillor A Nicol was yet to arrange a meeting with Hawick Councillors as agreed at the June meeting.

It was noted a legal entity needed to take responsibility of the project, which could be for example a Community Trust and Councillor Mountford suggested advice be sought from Heather Batch at SBC. Councillor Nicol undertook to contact her before the next meeting. It was agreed that contact should be made with her by the committee before the next meeting.

It was noted evidence of public support for the project needed to be “captured” and it was suggested a questionnaire be drafted for distribution in Kelso Life, Southern Reporter, local shops for feedback.

c) Cinema

Councillor Cooper advised matters had not progressed and would report back at the next meeting. A discussion took place on whether this was something that could be arranged via the Cheviot Youth but it was noted the facilities there were not suitable.

d) Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

Neighbourhood Operations Review

Councillor Alan Hall advised he had met with Alistair Finnie (SBC Area Neighbourhood Manger) that morning as he was unable to attend the Focus Group.

The review is to identify and implement changes to the way services are delivered to communities. The review would cover public toilets, third party responsibilities, disposal of land, grassland biodiversity and community empowerment opportunities.

It was agreed this was an important subject for discussion by the Council and due to the timescale Alistair Finnie should be invited to the October meeting to give a presentation.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary advised she had contacted Michael Ballantyne regarding the Pantwell and he had advised the project was originally mooted to celebrate their 75th anniversary in 2012. However the idea had not been discarded and he would keep the Council advised of progress.

Correspondence

The Secretary advised correspondence had been circulated to Community Councillors and a summary schedule had been compiled. In addition the following correspondence was received:

- A letter from The Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland proposing the possibility of designation of a National Park in the Southern Borders.
- An invitation to the Citizen Advice Bureau AGM to be held on 5 October 2015 at 7.00pm in Abbey Row.
- SBC grant for Local Community Pathways.

The Secretary highlighted the consultation documents and asked whether there was any feedback. Councillor McGrath advised he was particularly interested in the SES plan, Health and Social Care Integration, FutureKelso and Direct Response Transportation. It was agreed Councillor McGrath would feed back on an individual basis rather than on behalf of the Community Council.

Concern was expressed at the restrictions to development and change which might in the event of the Borders being designated a National Park.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Area Forum

Councillor A Nicol advised the Area Forum was taking place on the 16 September 2015.

Kelso High School and Broomlands Primary School

It was noted an update from SBC planning department had previously been circulated.

It was noted the High School project has concluded its detailed design phase, however, due to a national accountancy issue around harmonisation of European rules, the project is on hold until the issue is resolved.

Regarding Broomlands Primary the design process for the school is progressing and currently on programme to achieve a start date early in 2016 and completion for March 2017.

Transportation

The outcome of the Bus Service 120 consultation had previously been circulated.

Councillor McGrath commented that only 4% of people living in the Borders used public transport.

SBC Councillor Mountford commented the introduction of the new Borders railway would bring economic benefits to the whole Borders region.

Councillors commented integrated transport was vital to the region and this was issue that should be raised at the Area Forum.

Scotland in Bloom

It was agreed Kelso should enter the Scotland in Bloom 2016 competition and a sub group should be formed, to include SBC Parks, Chamber of Trade, Kelso Horticultural Society and other interested parties. Funding would need to be considered.

Public Toilets – opening times

The Provost asked whether the opening times of the public toilets would be extended particularly when events were taking place in the town. Councillor Nicol undertook to investigate and report back.

Dog Fouling

The Provost asked that the issue of dog fouling be highlighted.

Questions to SBC Councillors

Councillor Tomczyk asked whether anything could be done with the path at the Bridge End Park which was in a bad state of repair.

Councillor D Weatherston advised the hedge in Rosebank Cemetery which borders Rosewood Gardens had been allowed to grow over and was covering some grave stones. Councillor D Weatherston asked whether the hedge would be cut twice a year.

SBC Councillors agreed they would look into both matters and report back.

Consideration of Plans

The Council considered the following plans:-

- a) Alterations and extension to dwelling house, Haybank, 140 Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Council had no objections.
- b) External re-decoration and erection of signage, Shop 18 the Square, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections.
- c) Erection of 18 dwelling flats and associated parking in Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections.
- d) Erection of dwelling house land East of Park Lane, Croft Park Road, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections.
- e) Removal of existing covered store and alterations to form replacement covered store at 37 Roxburgh Street, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections.
- f) Erection of boundary fence and gates to Factory 1 and 2 Works, Kenneth Forbes, Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate. The Community Council had no objections.

- g) Change of use from workshop and alterations to form dwellinghouse, Coledale Workshops, East Bowmont Street, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections.
- h) Formation of all ability access ramp, Lloyds TSB, The Square, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections but comments submitted.
- i) Broomlands School, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections but comments submitted.
- j) Alterations to garage, 3 Chalkheugh Terrace, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections.
- k) Erection of dwellinghouse (change of house type Plot 26 previously approved) Lane south east of Queens House, Angraflat Road, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections.
- l) Part change of use to form residential flat and installation of external staircase and flue Oscar's wine bar, 35-37 Horsemarket, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections.
- m) Replacement of rooflight, 4 the Butts, Kelso. The Community Council had no objections.

Consideration of Licenses

There were no applications to be considered.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Kelso Community Council will be held in the Town Hall, Kelso on Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 7.00pm

Kelso Youth Project - Kelso Community Council Information Sheet

The Kelso Youth Project at The Planet (next door to the Borders Ice Rink) opens for the following times

- Wednesday and Thursday 3.30 – 5.30 P5 – P7
- Thursday 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm S1 – S6
- Friday 12.30 pm – 4.00 pm P5 – P7

We presently employ two staff members on 10 hour contracts, bank staff and a number of sessional staff bringing sport, textile, cooking, baking, music and film skills and experience to our young people.

Our programme will offer various projects and workshops throughout the academic year. So far booked

- Cooking Project Tuesdays 10.00 am – 1.30 pm
- Kick Boxing Monday and Wednesday 6pm – 8pm
- Guitar and Composition Group Mondays 5.45 pm – 7.15pm (provisional)
- Film Club showing latest releases Thursday evenings 6pm – 8pm
- Increase Your Employability Club Thursday evenings throughout academic year 7pm – 9pm

We also run at different venues the following

- Table Tennis Club at Kelso High School Tuesdays 3.50 pm – 5.00pm
- Borders Table Tennis Challenge Cup Tournament first Saturday in November
- International Challenge Cup and 7-A-Side Festival of Football (third/fourth Sunday in August)
- A small village animation workshop tour visiting Ancrum, Morebattle, Yetholm and Ednam

We presently receive funding from

- Young Start (a lottery administrated programme)
- Scottish Borders Council
- Volunteer Action Fund
- Roberston Trust and Daisy Trust
- Sainsburys
- SCVO Community Capacity & Resilience Fund and a number of other smaller funders.

We work with a number of other agencies to bring about a successful Kelso programme and are presently working closely with Penumbra Youth Project, Community Learning and Development, The Bridge, various Kelso High School departments and all primary schools, Kelso Football Club, NHS Birders East Mental Health Team and JobCentre Plus and Business Gateway.

Our programme for this academic term offers the following

- Cooking projects with Pop-Up Restaurants

- Introduction to Curling
- Table Tennis
- Pool Competition
- Film Club season
- Craft workshops covering wall hangings, glass painting etc.
- Creative Textiles course
- Baking
- Curling
- Drumming (provisional)
- People and place workshops
- Christmas Craft workshops
- Upcycling clothes workshops
- Mural design and workshops
- Animation work
- Parties
- Making guys workshops