



- PRESENT:** Councillors Owen Adams, James Boulton (Vice Chair), Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), James McCombie, Colin McGrath, Toni Oliver, Paul Roberts, Gus Russell and Gail Watson and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tommy Weatherston
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Gordon Grant (SBC Team leader for Passenger Transport) Dan Cathcart (SBC Localities traffic officer), Marina Piper and Luke Fisher (Destination Tweed) and member of the public Christine Hamilton
- APOLOGIES:** Police Scotland

- *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.*
- *All Councillors and attendees to act in a courteous manner and direct question through the Chairperson.*

Welcome

The Provost wished everyone a happy new year and extended a warm welcome to Councillors and presenters to the January meeting via zoom.

Police Matters

The Provost advised the Multi Member Ward Plan for Kelso and District for December 2021 had previously been circulated. Councillor Adams asked for confirmation on how many parking tickets had been issued.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised no meetings had taken place of the Visit Kelso committee, but they had kept up their presence via social media and were working hard to keep the website up to date.

The Provost thanked Tina for this update and commented the town had a great buzz over the Christmas period. Councillor Boulton asked whether the traders considered it a successful season and Tina advised that the feedback she had received was positive and the Advent Calendar had worked extremely well.

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2021

The minutes held on Tuesday 14 December 2021 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Toni Oliver and seconded by Councillor James Boulton.

Matters arising from the minutes

On Demand buses

The Provost welcomed Gordon Grant and Dan Cathcart.

Gordon Grant advised that SBC were trialling On Demand Buses and over the last two years there had been a significant change to the bus service. Obviously with Covid there had been a huge reduction in the demand for buses which brought challenges. Gordon advised the funding for the trial was in place until March and there was an opportunity to extend the operational times of buses in town and rural areas by implementing On Demand Responsive Transport.

Gordon advised with the introduction of free bus travel for the under 22s at the end of the month they would work with communities and utilise school transport to expand bus facilities into the rural areas. He commented that currently there were 10 contracts running around Kelso with an annual budget of £110,000.

Dan Cathcart advised he has been involved in the Moovit trial by the Go Borders service Hawick – Bonchester Bridge / Ettrick Valley. He urged Councillors to look at the Go Borders App where passengers could pre-book a bus service for the following day. The Go Borders bus services are 'on demand' services which provide customers the opportunity to book rides where and when they want to go. These services will operate within the advertised service areas and operating hours. Passengers use the App to book a bus in the service area one day in advance of travel. Bookings will close at 4pm the day prior to travel. On the day of departure you will receive a text notification shortly before your vehicle arrives to remind you of your booking and where to meet your bus along with an estimated time of departure. The Go Borders App can also be used for onward travel planning by clicking on 'Stations' or 'Lines' you will receive timetabled information of other public transport services in your location.

In response to a question on whether the system could be used in real time, Dan advised a pre booking service worked best in rural areas. However the trial had only been in place for four months and they would capture feedback to see how to improve the service.

The Provost commented this service would be of great benefit to the outlying villages and looked forward to its development.

Councillor Roberts asked for confirmation that the current Saltire card could be used on this service as he was aware the older population who did not drive needed to get to appointments at the BGH and local GP surgery. Dan advised they could.

Dan advised the community transport system as currently funded by SBC would be part of the transport mix and it is planned to introduce a telephone booking service for those that don't have access to technology.

Gordon commented that they were interested in finding out –

- Where do people want to travel to and what for ie work, shopping or social trips
- Where could we improve transport links?
- What times of day is a bus service required?
- What days of the week would people travel?
- Would the community be willing to book dynamic demand responsive transport in advance rather than having a fixed bus route?

The Provost thanked Gordon and Dan for attending and looked forward to future developments.

Police Specials

Councillor McGrath advised he had been in contact with Sergeant Fraser MacDonald from Aberdeen Police who were launching a recruitment drive for Police Specials. Councillor McGrath undertook to follow up and report back.

HRH Queen Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee

The Provost advised celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee would take place over the weekend of 2 – 5 June 2022. He had previously circulated details regarding holding an outside event and involving local groups and schools. He advised he would like to run this along the lines of the old St James's Fayre, with a procession through the town and a stage set up in the Square to re-enact the Queens' Coronation using children. He proposed having some form of entertainment in the afternoon and finishing of the day with live music. He suggested the area in front of the Cross Keys could be used to locate stalls and children's rides, etc. The Community Councillors applauded this suggestion and it was agreed that a sub-committee would need to be set up to bring all interested parties together. The Provost advised he would be happy to lead on this and ask for volunteers. He advised he had already made contact with local groups including local schools, Kelso Community Events, Kelso Heritage Society, Amenities Society, Visit Kelso and the local Cubs and Guides and had received positive feedback.

In addition to holding an outside event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee arrangements will be made to plant trees and the possibility of erecting a permanent memorial.

Councillor Adams suggested the possibility of holding a street party with the idea of those people who had attended as children to the original Coronation, bringing their grandchildren along.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised it was important to include the local traders so they didn't lose out on business. Tina Newton suggested that if a street party was organised the local café/restaurant owners could provide the refreshments.

Councillor Oliver said it would be important to showcase the town and have it decorated appropriately with bunting and make a feature of the Town Hall.

Councillor McGrath advised he would notify the Kelso, USA group to see if they wished to get involved.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised Kelso would be entitled to the funding available but to bear in mind other groups may wish to do their own thing.

It was noted that the proposed weekend of the celebrations coincided with the Scooter weekend.

Questions from the public

There were no questions from the public.

Presentation from Destination Tweed

The Provost welcomed Marina Piper and Luke Fisher from Destination Tweed – this is a long distance trial which will run from Moffat to Berwick upon Tweed. Luke Fisher advised Destination Tweed aims to celebrate, promote and conserve the assets of the river Tweed. The vision is to create a unique and world-class visitor destination based around the concept of a 100 mile trail that will connect the numerous communities, attractions and assets along the full length of the river.

Luke advised this would be a walking and cycling route that will take in the great houses, histories, stories and landscapes to be found along the river. Marina Fisher advised they were working on a 2 kilometre buffer zone either side of the river and were currently concentrating their efforts in negotiations with landowners.

In response to a question on who the target audience would be, Luke advised they were keen to attract new audiences and wanted to provide a high quality experience that was accessible to all.

Luke advised the likely budget for the project was £20 million over a five year period and initial funding had been sourced from National Lottery Heritage Fund, SBC and Sustrans.

SBC Councillor Weatherston commented he had always had an aspiration to have a walking trail on the opposite bank from Mayfields to the new bridge.

The Provost thanked Luke and Marina for attending and giving an update on this exciting project and advised Kelso were planning to host the Walking Festival in 2023 and it would be good to work together.

Kelso in Bloom

The Provost advised no committee meetings had taken place but he had arranged community litter picks on Sunday 23 January (from the Square), Sunday 6 February (from Kelso High School) and Sunday 20 February (from the Square) all at 1.00pm and all were welcome.

The Provost advised with the fine weather, weeds had started to grow in the beds and these would need to be hoed.

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee

Councillor Boulton gave the following update –

- The Campaign now has 11 members.
- The Cheviot Area Fund Appraisal Panel met on 6 January and has recommended that the Campaign's application for £2,500 of funding should be approved by the Cheviot Area Partnership. They are due to meet on 26 January.
- The Campaign has started a dialogue with the Campaign for Borders Rail and the Rail Action Group for East of Scotland to explore if and how we might support each other's campaigns.
- The Management Committee will next meet on 31 January 2022.
- If funding has been approved, a priority will be to develop a communications and engagement plan.
- The Committee will agree on a response to the South-East Scotland Regional Transport Strategy consultation, which closes on 11 February. This is important because the draft of the Regional Transport Strategy sets out a range of policies and actions which will "shape investment in, and the management of transport in the region **for the next 20 years**".
- The draft strategy states that "enhancing and **extending the train service** within the region is still regarded as a **fundamental component of the strategy**". It recognises that we have a less developed rail network in this region than in other parts of Scotland and that there are "greater opportunities to expand the rail network in the region and these should be explored through appropriate appraisal and business case development." Unsurprisingly, there is no specific mention of the Tweed Valley Railway, yet. We need to make sure that the Tweed Valley Railway is, at the very least, on the radar for consideration over the next two decades.
- We also need to work out if we are still able to provide input to the second Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) by Transport Scotland. This review also covers the 2022 to 2042 period. If we are not out of time, we will need to move at pace to have the Tweed Valley Railway included as one of the options under potential consideration. The Campaign for Borders Rail is

well advanced in its lobbying and they want confirmation that the extension of the line will be part of the 20-year strategy.

- We will continue to support publicly the extension of Borders Rail from Tweedbank to Hawick and on to Carlisle.

Councillor Russell advised the next committee meeting would take place on 31 January 2022.

Secretary's Report

- Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and captured and a summary would be attached to the minutes.
- Common Good Consultation – closes on 31.03.22 – agreed Councillors should submit personal comments and the KCC would submit a joint one.
- Annual paths grant - £450 had been received which had been transferred to Kelso Heritage Society.
- Dog Education Officer – Rose Hogg has been invited to February 2022 meeting,

Provost Report

Co-option of Christine Hamilton

The Provost advised there was an opportunity to co-opt a new member onto the Council and he had approached Christine Hamilton who had attended many meetings previously and she had accepted the invitation. This was unanimously approved and she was proposed by Councillor Gail Watson and seconded by Councillor Paul Roberts. The Provost welcomed Christine onto the Council and looked forward to working with her.

Christmas Lights

The Provost advised Councillor Oliver had circulated an email stating that she felt Kelso's Christmas lights display was poor compared to other Border towns and had asked for feedback. Councillor Oliver commented that the Square in Kelso was a real asset and felt more effort should be made to showcase this and the Town Hall.

The Provost advised currently it was the Kelso Community Events committee who organised the funding for the Christmas lights and arranged the switch on event and it would be beneficial for Community Councillors and interested members of the public to get involved with this. The Provost advised funding for the lights came from some traders and members of the public. Councillor Oliver commented her shop had never been approached for funding and suggested donation tins be placed in local shops.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised he sat on the KCE committee and they were actively looking at ways of increasing the Christmas light display and would welcome additional members and feedback.

It was agreed Councillor Oliver would attend the next meeting of the KCE and put forward suggestions for consideration.

Scottish Borders Community Council Scheme Review

The Secretary advised the consultation on changes to the SBC Council Scheme had previously been circulated and asked Councillors for comments. She advised a Working Group had been set up in 2019 to review the current Scheme which was delayed due to the pandemic. SBC had now amended the existing Scheme and are looking for comments back from Community Councils prior to formal public consultation. The Provost advised Councillor Russell had attended a working group and his comments had previously been circulated.

SBC Councillor Robson advised this was a good opportunity for the Council to make suggestions for any changes e.g. asking for the Annual Grant to be reviewed on a biennial basis.

Councillor Russell advised he had attended a working group and a couple of points of interest were – the term of office for Community Councillors to be three years (four years possible but requires SBC approval) and the need to adopt and keep updated (a) Equalities Statement and (b) Environmental and Sustainability Policy. Councillor McGrath advised SBCCN were preparing a draft response and this would be circulated.

The Secretary undertook to recirculate the documentation for comments and it was noted comments were due back by 18 February and this would be included in the February agenda.

Investing in Communities Fund 2023 - 2026

The Secretary had contacted the Investing in Communities Fund team to see whether there will further webinars and was advised a decision has not been made yet. However the presentation slides from the webinars and the draft guidance is now available on the website: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/community-empowerment/empowering-communities-fund/>

Councillor Boulton suggested the Kelso Events Committee could use this source of funding for purchasing additional Christmas lights for the town.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

Councillor McGrath advised there was no update and the next meeting would be held in February 2022.

Scottish Borders Council

Parking and traffic management

The Provost advised illegal parking in the town continues to be extremely challenging and causing issues and advised a trader in Roxburgh Street had been in contact regarding issues with deliveries and the additional payments he had to make because deliveries could not be made to his shop due to the public parking in the loading bay. The Provost advised people continued to abuse the 2 hour parking time

allocation, park in the loading bays, bus stops, on yellow lines, particularly in Bridge street etc. After a discussion it was agreed the Provost would write to the Area Commander to arrange a meeting so concerns could be raised and hopefully solutions found.

SBC Councillor Robson commented he hoped the new signage would be in place shortly.

Open Water Safety

SBC Councillor Robson advised the two outstanding lifebuoys were due to be installed this week.

Lamp on Rennie Bridge

Councillor Robson advised there were a couple of issues with the lighting on Rennie Bridge and he was in discussion with the lighting department to find a solution.

Ferneyhill Cemetery Gates / Railings

Councillor Oliver asked if the gates could be shut at night to detract people from gathering there. SBC Councillor Weatherston undertook to make enquiries.

Lights at the bottom on seats in the Square

SBC Councillor Robson advised he had reported the fault before Christmas and suspected they were coming to the end of their lifespan. It would appear they are suffering from water ingress and the water may have damaged them beyond repair. He advised the lighting department would carry out further investigations to see what options there might be to get them back on again.

Old Foundry Perimeter Wall

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised we would need to wait until the sale of the land had been completed and then contact the owners.

Wall from Maxwellheugh Cottage

SBC Councillor Mountford advised officers had inspected the cracks and he was awaiting their feedback.

Dropped kerb on bye pass

SBC Councillor Mountford commented he would chase up the possibility of introducing a dropped kerb on the bye pass by the footpath.

Window boxes in Town Hall and cleaning of windows throughout property

The Provost advised the hall side windows had been cleaned and they would be placed on the cleaning rota. He advised he had spoken to Eric Briggs and it was agreed replacement window boxes were required and a deterrent for the pigeons. The Provost advised cellar at the town hall needed to be cleaned up.

Questions to Councillors

Councillor Oliver asked whether there could be better lighting in the Square, e.g. the use of spot lights and the introduction of lanterns at the corner of the Square.

Councillor Oliver advised Rutherford Square needed a dropped kerb and SBC Councillor Weatherston undertook to investigate.

SBC Councillor Robson advised there was an issue with the surface at Simon Square which became dangerously slippery when it was damp and could the KCC raise awareness.

Councillor Oliver asked for an update on the step at the Bank of Scotland. The Provost advised to chase up.

Councillor Watson advised there were a lot of weeds in Woodmarket and asked for an update on weed spraying. SBC Councillor Weatherston advised this happened on an annual basis.

Councillor Boulton asked for an update on the scaffolding in the town and commented it would be good to get some of it down before the tourist season.

Consideration of Licenses

The Secretary advised there were no applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Secretary advised the following plans had been considered –

21/01894/FUL – Ninewells Farms Limited – erection of 9 no industrial units, new access and associated parking – Plots 15 and 16 land south of Borders Precision Services Ltd, Pinnaclehill Industrial Estate, Kelso. The Community Council supported this application.

21/01977/FUL – Trustees of Kelso Baptist Church, Change of use from bookmaker (Class 2) to community hub (Class 10) – unit 1, ground floor, 26 – 40 Horsemarket, Kelso TD5 7HD. The Community Council supported this application.

The Provost thanked everyone for attending the meeting

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 February 2022, hopefully in person.

**KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS NOV / DEC 2021**

Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
14.12.21	Approved minutes Nov 21 posted	For information
	Thanks sent to Bluemill Studios Limited for attending the meeting and giving presentation	For information
	Email sent to planning department for definition of “Retrospective planning” applications, etc	For information
	Email send to SBC Cllr T Weatherston on Abandoned and derelict buildings and vacant land	For information
	Platinum Jubilee Fund information shared with Visit Kelso and Kelso Heritage Society	For information
18.12.21	SBCCN news for the network	For information
	Response to Emma Harper MSP regarding Derelict Buildings	For information
	Kelso Heritage and conservation area	For information
	CCTV update sent to The Bridge	For information
	Floral Gateway update	For comments
	Community Council meetings – guidance	For information
	SBCCN update	For information
	Cyber Resilience Training	For information
19.12.21	Presentation on North Trinity Church	For information
22.12.21	CCTV - information from Kelso - response from SBC	For information

	Road Closure - B6461 Swinton	For information
	Scottish Borders Community Council Scheme - proposed amendments - comments required by 18 February 2022	For comments and agenda item
	Common Good Consultation 2022	For comments and agenda item
	Kelso Mens Shed update	For information
	Planning application - 21/01977/FUL - Trustees Of Kelso Baptist Church: Change of use from bookmaker (Class 2) to community hub (Class 10) SITE: Unit 1 Ground Floor 36 - 40 Horsemarket Kelso Scottish Borders TD5 7HD	For comments
	Secretary contacted Investing in Communities Fund 2023 – 2026 for further details and response circulated	For information
23.12.21	News release: Council gearing up to support communities as Covid-19 cases rise	For information
	A86 Drygrange Bridge Resurfacing works - Information Letter	For information
	Secretary contacted Walking Festival to be involved in the planning of this year's event	For information
	Dog fouling Roxburgh Street from member of the public – sent to SBC	For information
09.01.22	Police Scotland December monthly report	For information and comments
	Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – proposed celebrations	For comments
	Response from Scottish Parliament (Police Scotland) on anti-social behaviour in Kelso	For information
	Agenda with Zoom details for meeting	For information
11.01.22	News release: Residents invited to attend next round of local Area Partnership meetings	For information