



PRESENT: Councillors Owen Adams, James Boulton (Vice Chair), Peter Cooper, Christine Hamilton, Gavin Horsburgh (Provost), James McCombie, Toni Oliver, Shirley Redgrave, Paul Roberts, Gus Russell, Gail Watson and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tommy Weatherston

IN ATTENDANCE Sharon Johnston (Secretary) and Adrian Clarkson (Visit Kelso)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Colin McGrath

- 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.
- 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 welcomed Councillors and Visit Kelso to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to the public.

Police Matters

The Provost advised that the Police Report had been circulated.

Regarding the abandoned horsebox which has been left in Woodside Park football ground since Civic Week, the Provost advised that he had been in contact with Police Scotland to ascertain ownership of vehicle. Police Scotland have passed onto SBC department of abandoned vehicles, however, SBC are reluctant to agree to the recovery of this due to the cost. The Provost has also been in contact with the Kelso Laddies Association to ask for their assistance with this matter.

Visit Kelso

Adrian Clarkson presented the report –

“Visit Kelso would like to congratulate Sharon on taking over the position of secretary for Kelso Community Council and hope she will find her new role very interesting.

You should have already seen the advert in Kelso Life, and we have posted flyers through the doors of local businesses in town too.

Visit Kelso has closed the applications for the advent calendar campaign, and we have 29 businesses taking part so there will be a few days where there will be more than one prize to be found. We are also compiling a list of business opening hours over the festive period and will be sharing those soon.

We are pleased to say that there will be a “community stall” at the Visit Kelso Christmas Market (on Sunday 4th December) to showcase the work they do, attract members and share information – in particular the Community Council, 2023 Walking Festival and the Tweed Valley Railway group.

Visit Kelso advised that they had secured some funding to extend the visitor season into the winter months and asked KCC to think about ideas to market Kelso during this period.

Beyond Christmas Visit Kelso is keen to promote Kelso as Scotland’s Health and Wellbeing town.

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2022

The minutes held on Tuesday 20 October 2022 were approved by Councillor Boulton and seconded by Councillor Russell.

Matters arising from the minutes

- Food Larder – Councillor Russell advised he was expecting to hear from the Community Led Local Development Fund as to whether the funding application had been successful. Councillor Russell thanked the Provost for his Facebook posts which had generated 18 responses of willing volunteers.
- CCTV Shedden Park – the Provost advised that he had held constructive talks with Kelso Cricket Club and that they were looking to re-introduce the operation of their CCTV cameras. The Provost advised that he was looking at other avenues of CCTV.
- Citizen of the Year – The Provost advised that he had been in conversation with a couple of ex-rotary club members regarding this and fed back that they historically presented an engraved salver to each winner. The ex-rotary club members were happy for KCC to take this forward. SBC Councillor Weatherston asked how wide the catchment area for the award would be. The Provost indicated that this had not yet been agreed but would be given consideration.
- SBC Councillor Robson informed KCC that the budget for 3 new bins had been approved and they had been ordered. The Provost informed the meeting that one bin would be situated at the running shelter in Shedden Park, one would be situated at the end of the Rennie Bridge and the last one would be situated on the path between the Ice Rink and the Co-op.

Questions from the public

Residents of Riverside Drive attended the KCC and addressed their ongoing concerns regarding dangerous trees in close proximity to their homes. Mr Cummings had emailed the Provost prior to the meeting with their concerns and photographic evidence, which the Provost circulated to KCC members.

Mr Cummings went on to explain that the woodland had previously belong to Kelso Community Woodlands group who maintained the area. However, this group had folded and the management of the woodland reverted back to the owner with whom they had been in discussion over a period of 4 years regarding their serious concerns over the dangerous condition of some of the trees and the danger to residents and their homes, however so far the concerns had not been addressed. Latterly some trees have collapsed falling into gardens, there are signs of ash dieback and some trees are rotten.

Mr Cummings informed KCC that a meeting had taken place with the owner that morning which had proved to be more positive, with the owner agreeing to employ a tree surgeon and have a tour around the woodland with Mr Cummings. During their meeting the owner mentioned that he would like to see the woodlands managed by a community group in the future. Mr Cummings asked if KCC would also like to join the meeting with the owner, as a show of unity with the residents and to show their desire to assist in resolving this matter. Councillor Horsburgh agreed to try and assist and asked Mr Cummings to keep him informed of the date.

The Provost agreed that the residents were in an unfortunate position and KCC sympathised with their predicament, however, due to legal restrictions of the committee there was little that they were able to do in this instance. However, he agreed to meet with the residents again after their second meeting with the owner to see if issues were being resolved.

Councillor Russell agreed that urgent action needed to be taken by the owner of the woodland and that he had a duty of care for the residents if the woodland was deemed to be dangerous. Councillor Russell also questioned whether SBC would have an obligation to deal with the dangerous trees given the path and main road into Kelso runs alongside it.

Kelso in Bloom

- Volunteers Evening – An invitation will be sent to all volunteers asking them to an evening on the 25th November at the Registrars Room at the Town Hall, Kelso. Mark Hay has kindly offered to donate the wine for the evening. This is an invitation to all volunteers of Kelso in Bloom and the Resilience group and the Community and SBC Councillors are also invited.
- Councillor Redgrave appealed for volunteers to help with the bag pack at Sainsburys on Friday 25 November from 10am until 5pm. Councillor Watson agreed to contact volunteers for confirmation and to liaise with Councillor Redgrave.

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign and KCC Railway Committee

A report had been circulated by Councillor Boulton and there were no questions from the meeting.

Secretary's Report

Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and a summary is attached to the minutes.

Provost Report

The Provost thanked all the volunteers of Kelso Ladies Poppy Group who had hand knitted and crocheted the display at the War Memorial and thanks also went to SBC Councillor Weatherston for arranging with SBC the street lights at the War Memorial. SBC Weatherston advised that it would be a good idea to check the lights in mid-October next year, to ensure they were in working order at an early stage.

Correspondence from a resident at Sutherland Gardens had been received regarding concerns that floodlights are being installed at the skatepark and the impact that this would have on the community. SBC Councillor Weatherston replied that this was something that the Kelso Skate Park Project at Kelso High School had proposed and that it was in the very early stages. Councillor Hamilton indicated that it would be good for the Youth Parliament to meet with the residents to hear their views and concerns.

Walking Festival 2023

Councillor Redgrave circulated the report prior to the meeting and there were no questions raised. Councillor Redgrave advised KCC that the application for the Community Health and Wellbeing Grant had been unsuccessful and Councillor Hamilton had agreed to ask for feedback from the funding committee.

A discussion took place regarding the Cheviot Neighbourhood Partnership Funding and it was noted that KCC has already reached the capacity of applications that it could submit. The Provost advised that the Cheviot Area Fund Panel are proposing at the next Cheviot Area Partnership meeting the number of applications that can be submitted and that subgroups of a Community Council are treated as an individual application if they meet certain criteria. The funding panel were looking to increase the amount of funding available from £2500 to £5000.

Involvement of the Kelso youth and what activities they would like to see in the town

Councillor Hamilton advised that she still needs to contact the High School. The Provost advised that he would be attending Kelso High School on Friday and that he would speak with the Rector again about this initiative.

Coronation of King Charles III and the unveiling of the Time Capsule

It was suggested by SBC Councillor Weatherston that the excavation of the time capsule should be put back to later in the year to coincide with any potential Royal visit. It was agreed that a letter inviting the King or other member of the Royal Family to an event involving the old time capsule and a new time capsule should be drafted and sent to Clarence House as soon as possible.

Safeguarding Policy

Councillor Redgrave advise KCC that a Safeguarding Policy had been drawn up, which needed to be put in place for the walking Festival and other events. The Policy had been circulated to KCC for approval prior to the meeting and had been proposed by Councillor Horsburgh and seconded by Councillor Roberts.

Consultations

There were no consultations

Scottish Borders Community Council Network

An update from Councillor McGrath would be circulated on his return, after the next meeting of Scottish Borders Community Council Network.

Scottish Borders Council Report

SBC Councillor Robson advised KCC that the signs at the roundabouts had been replaced and the redundant brown tourist signs had been removed. He also advised that the lights for Shedden Park were on order and should be arriving soon. The CCTV in the town had been turned back on as a couple of cameras had tripped off, and will be handled by SBC Street Lighting team, instead of sub-contractors.

SBC Councillor Mountford advised KCC that there was a detailed report being produced regarding all toilet provision within the Borders looking at which toilets should stay open, upgrading of toilets and possible increase of payment and use of card readers. Once this report was published SBC Mountford agreed to bring any feedback to the council.

SBC Councillor Weatherston advised that the Abbey had only been partially inspected before it had been closed to the public and that he was trying to arrange another visit from HES. He added that he was not confident on the timescale of the visit. However, SBC Weatherston did feedback that he had secured money from SBC for Herras fencing with advertising netting for the wall at the beginning of the Rennie Bridge. It was also agreed that SBC Weatherston would again ask when the scaffolding would be removed in Union Street.

The Provost advised the council that he had spoken with Police Scotland regarding the parking in the town and was told that because parking in Kelso was for a maximum of 2 hours, they would find it financially unsustainable to monitor parking compared to other towns where the parking limit was 30 minutes. The Provost asked for a follow up of the request to change single yellow lines around the square to double yellow lines, particularly on Bridge Street and around the Kelsea Stone. SBC Councillor Robson advised that disabled drivers would still park on double yellow lines and the Provost advised that parking should not create an obstruction. The Provost has created and distributed with the backing of Visit Kelso notices that can be placed on vehicle windscreens advising them not to park in areas that create obstruction.

The Provost has been approached by a few members of the community regarding the incorrect chiming of the Town Hall clock and SBC Robson agreed to look into this.

Consideration of Licensing applications

There were no licensing applications.

Consideration of planning applications

The retrospective planning application for Fernyhill Court was discussed at length and concerns were raised around setting a precedence for the purchasing of communal or amenity land and the storing of vehicles on the land. Councillor Adams asked if the land was common land or communal land as the word “common” had been used in the application. It was agreed that this should be taken back to the planning department for clarification before a decision was made. Councillors were asked to feedback to KCC Secretary, this would then be sent to SBC Planning for clarification.

Any other business

The Provost advised that he had received correspondence from a member of the community regarding the lowering of the speed limit on the Edinburgh Road outside of Kelso towards the Stichill turn-off and the bend beyond. Discussion took place on reducing the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph and KCC agreed to put this request forward to SBC. SBC Councillors agreed to take this forward and report back.

Councillor Russell informed KCC that the bench that was privately purchased for the memorial garden, on behalf of his late step-father has now been installed. Councillor Russell thanked SBC Councillors for installing.

Councillor Watson advised the council that several residents from Berrymoss Court were concerned with a number of the trees which were blocking the light into homes, overhanging onto roads and large roots lifting the ground. SBC Weatherston advised that he was in talks with SBHA and SBC as to whom the trees belong and that he would report back.

The Provost thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 December 2022

Tweed Valley Railway Campaign / Railway Committee
Update for Kelso Community Council – 8 November 2022

- 1) There are three main developments this month:

UK Government

- 2) The Campaign sought a meeting with Berwick-upon-Tweed MP, Anne-Marie Trevelyan who, at the time, was the Secretary of State for Transport.
- 3) The Campaign received a reply from the UK Department for Transport noting that the Tweed Valley Railway was not one of the suggestions for the Ideas Fund set up in 2020 as part of the 'Restoring Your Railway' Fund. The Ideas Fund provides development funding for early-stage ideas to reopen lines. We learned that the final round for applications to the Ideas Fund closed in March 2021, some six months before the Tweed Valley Railway Campaign was established.
- 4) This does not prevent the Tweed Valley Railway from pursuing its objectives, however. The UK Government's position is that "local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are best placed to decide on, and take forward, transport schemes that will most benefit their local areas" and the letter sets out the UK Government's process for case-by-case analysis of proposals for line reopening. The Campaign will explore what this means in practice. A copy of the Department for Transport's letter is attached.
- 5) Generating high levels of interest and support for a restored rail link between the Borders Railway and the East Coast Mainline therefore remains critical to the success of the campaign.

Scottish Government

- 6) SBC officials have advised that the final Scottish Government's Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2) decision (the consultation draft of which had not included a firm commitment to the extension of the Borders Railway) is expected before the end of 2022.

Sprouston Community Council

- 7) The Chair (Councillor Boulton) and Secretary (Councillor Russell) presented to the Sprouston Community Council on 1 November and received broad support and helpful feedback from their Community Councillors. SBC Councillor Mountford was present and noted that the railway is more than a transport scheme because it is an 'economic development scheme', given the significant investment a railway can attract to an area.



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for Transport

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Web Site: www.gov.uk/df

Our Ref: 412452
Your Ref:

DATE: 24 October 2022

Gus Russell
6 Broomlands House
Ednam Road
Kelso

TD5 7SW

Dear Gus Russell

Restoring a Rail Connection between the East Coast Mainline and the Borders Railway

Thank you for your email of 28 September 2022 about the restoration of a rail connection between the East Coast Mainline and the Borders Railway. As you will understand, the Rail Minister receives a large amount of correspondence each day and so it has been passed to me to respond. □

In January 2020, the Government pledged £500 million for the Restoring Your Railway Fund, to start reopening lines and stations in order to reconnect smaller communities, regenerate local economies and improve access to jobs, homes and education.

One aspect of Restoring Your Railway is the Ideas Fund, which provides development funding for early stage ideas to reopen lines and stations. The third round closed in March 2021 and this will be the final round for the foreseeable future. The Fund continued to generate a high level of interest, with 89 applications received for this round.

No bids were received to restore a railway line between the East Coast Mainline and the Borders Railway. You can find a full list of the bids made to all rounds online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/restoring-your-railway-fund-bids-received>

Beyond the Restoring Your Railway programme, the Government believes that local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) are best

placed to decide on, and take forward, transport schemes that will most benefit their local area.

The Government will consider proposals to enhance the rail network on a case by case basis, based on the economic benefits put forward by local partners. Proposals seeking Government funding need first to secure the support of a local promoter, normally the local transport authority, to undertake studies of the potential additional passenger demand, train service options, economic benefits, capital and any operating subsidy requirements before the addition of such services to a franchise agreement could be considered.

I would like to emphasise the importance of engaging with Network Rail and Train Operating Companies to get a full understanding of the commercial and operational challenges to accommodate additional train services interfacing with the national rail network.

It may also be helpful to draw your attention to the 'Expanding the Railways' guide (www.bettertransport.org.uk/expanding-railways) published by Campaign for Better Transport, with support and endorsement by the Department for Transport. This document seeks to guide stakeholders through the various stages of development and delivery of a proposal, drawing on case studies. It will also help stakeholders focus on schemes which have the greatest chance of progressing through to construction and opening.

Yours sincerely,

Kaeden Bunting
Restoring Your Railway team

Kelso Walking Festival – report to Kelso Community Council December 2022

Dates: Sunday 3 September to Saturday 9 September 2023

Committee consists of KCC Councillors Christine Hamilton, Gus Russell and Shirley Redgrave (Chair), Helen Rabour (Coldstream Ramblers), Sally Keen and Lorna Mackenzie (Eildon Ramblers), Jim Stone (U3A walking group), Keith Robeson (SBC Chief Ranger) and Visit Kelso (June Swan or Tina Newton).

Walks programme

This has been finalised (copy attached)

Transportation arranged

Ticket prices £10.00 if walking from hub or £12.00 with transport

First aid training to be arranged in spring 2023

No cancellation policy available from insurers

Social programme drafted, will be shared once firmed up.

Funding/Sponsorship

- Ticket sales via Evenbrite or alternative
- Sponsorship opportunities via local traders
- Cheviot Neighbourhood Area Partnership funding application – to be submitted 07.12.22
- Fallago Fund to be submitted
- Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing grant – submitted and unsuccessful
- Paul Mitchell of Rutherfords has offered to donate £500
- Alternative funding streams being considered.
- Roll over budget of £2,500 has been received from Galashiels CC.
- SBC Rangers have provided £1,000 funding

Web site

Agency engaged to develop web site

To launch as soon as possible

Marketing/branding/promotion

Priority to meet in January 2023 to develop a marketing strategy – working with Visit Kelso.

Venue

- Tebbutt Rooms for reception hub
- Coffee lounge in Abbey Row for afternoon tea – local groups to be invited to host.
- Kelso Town Hall for civic and welcoming ceremony on Saturday 2 September and handover ceremony on Saturday 9 September 2023).

Future meetings –

- Marketing strategy meeting arranged for 12.1.23
- Full committee meeting – to be arranged

Shirley Redgrave

07.12.22

**KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS – NOV/DEC 22**

Date		Venue and comments
14.11.22	Fireworks seized and drop in reports of antisocial behaviour as Community Action Team target key local priorities	For information
	Primary and secondary teacher education opportunity for graduates	For information
15.11.22	NHS Scotland Initiative SHARE	For information
16.11.22	Community Council Consultation for application 22/01779/FUL - External Redecoration	Comments by 14 December
	Borders businesses come together to celebrate Living Wage week	For information
17/11/22	Concerns around traffic speed and dog fouling and anti social behaviour	For information
18/11/22	Community Council Consultation for application 22/01801/FUL – Replacement windows	Comments by 16 December
	Community Council Consultation for application 22/01800/LBC – Replacement windows	Comments by 16 December
	Scottish Borders Council launch ambitious events strategy promoting the Borders as an event destination	For information
21.11.22	Wilton Lodge Park's Walled Garden crowned 'Best of the best' in two categories at national Green Flag Awards	For information
22.11.22	Have your say on the future of the Borders' bus network	For information
	Inspection report on Waverley residential care home reflects good quality of service delivery	For information
23/11/22	Thank you for your comments on planning application 22/01688/FUL	For information
25/11/22	Borders asked to show their support for #16DaysOfAction 2022	For information
	Seasonal gifts produced by people subject to unpaid work to be sold for charity	For information
29/11/22	Scottish Water Top up Tap - Kelso	For information
	Scottish Borders Council Bus Network Review - Community Council Locality Cheviot Workshop	For information and attendance
06/12/22	Warm and Well Fund from Scottish Borders Council	For information
09/11/22	Community Council Consultation for application 22/01903/AMC – Refusal of application notification	For information
12/12/22	Community Council Consultation for application 22/01903/AMC – demolition of shed and erection of house	Comments by 6 January

