



PRESENT: Councillors James Boulton, Peter Cooper, Gavin Horsburgh, James McCombie, Paul Roberts, Harry Tomczyk, Dean Weatherston (Chair) and Scottish Borders Councillors Simon Mountford, Euan Robson and Tommy Weatherston.

IN ATTENDANCE: Shirley Redgrave (Secretary), Tina Newton (Visit Kelso), Kirsty Smyth (Southern Reporter), Ally McGilvray (Borders Radio), Henry Coyle Director SBHA, Paul Mitchell (Rutherfords Micropub) and members of the public Dennis Fortune, Margaret and Martin Greenhow and Verity Mutch.

APOLOGIES KCC Councillor John Bassett and 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.*
- *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 welcomed everyone to the December meeting being held by Zoom and in particular our two speakers Henry Coyle from SBHA and Paul Mitchell from Rutherfords Micropub.

Tweed Court Development update

Henry Coyle, Director SBHA had asked to attend the meeting to give an update on the Tweed Court development. As way of background Henry advised SBHA were a registered social landlord who owned 5600 homes in the Scottish borders over 49 sites with 180 employees. SBHA were established in 2003 as a not for profit organisation and had started building new homes in 2013 and were investing £10m pa in their existing stock.

Mr Coyle advised due to Covid there had been delays at Tweed Court but he anticipated the site being ready by April 2021. Mr Coyle advised a Housing Needs Analysis showed a high demand for more affordable housing but a lack of supply. The Haven was not fit for purpose so was knocked down to build 12 new 3-bed homes.

Councillor Tomczyk raised the concern that parking spaces were not beside the houses and asked how they would deal with the demand for electric car charging points. Mr Coyle advised there was space available for the installation of charging points if this was required.

Councillor Roberts raised the issue of elderly people living in a 3-bed house who wanted to down size but had been given no choice of suitable properties to move to. Mr Coyle advised SBHA give priority to people living in under occupied properties and offered them extra points and incentives to help them move to a 1-bed flat. He advised SBHA had a Housing Option for Older People and advice and help was available.

SBC Councillor Weatherston thanked Mr Coyle for his presentation and commented this was an exciting development for Kelso and asked the question why no 4-bed homes were included in the development. Mr Coyle commented there was a full mix of housing over other sites to meet housing needs but the requirement in Kelso was for 3-bedroom homes.

Councillor Horsburgh asked whether the existing houses at Tweed Court would be updated and renovated and Mr Coyle advised there was an ongoing maintenance programme and a requirement to meet strict Government energy efficiency standards and all properties would be updated when necessary.

In response to a question on what heating would be used at Tweed Court, Mr Coyle advised it would be gas central heating as this was the most cost effective at this stage.

SBC Councillor Robson asked that consideration be given to using renewable heat sources on future developments.

Councillor Horsburgh advised he had met residents from Rutherford Square who had raised various concerns regarding lack of maintenance in particular the broken automatic closing mechanism of the front door which was causing them worries about security and health, the lack of electric sockets to charge mobility scooters, unhygienic laundry room, smell from the outside bin area and blocked drains. Mr Coyle asked that a full list of issues be sent to him and he undertook to follow them up and feed back.

The Provost thanked Henry for attending the meeting and advised a full copy his presentation was available from the Secretary.

Rutherford's Micropub

Paul Mitchell had approached the Community Council to ask for their support in his request to use two of the outside parking spaces in front of the Micropub to enable the business to be viable and meet Covid restrictions. A paper setting out the background to the request had previously been circulated to the Community Councillors and it was noted the intention was to open the business in Spring 2021.

After a brief discussion Councillors fully agreed to support the proposal but, following a request from Councillor Tomczyk, to review the situation after a six month period the Provost proposed Kelso Community Council supports Rutherford's Micropub using two parking spaces at the front of said property for the duration of Scotland's coronavirus restrictions to the hospitality industry or for a six month period from 01/04/2021 depending on what one comes first. This was agreed. The Provost thanked Paul for attending and wished him well in his endeavours.

Visit Kelso

Tina Newton advised the Christmas Advent Calendar campaign is well under way. We are on day 8 and so far there are only 2 prizes that have not been collected. Tina commented Visit Kelso wished to thank the Scout group for designing the reverse of the advent flyers.

Tina advised Visit Kelso had secured the back page of Kelso Life and also advertised Visit Kelso in the Gala Life magazine.

The website group are looking to improve the walking trails on the website which will be actioned by March next year.

Visit Kelso has signed up to join the SSDA (South of Scotland Destination Alliance) which is promoting tourism across the whole of the south of Scotland replacing MBTAG (Midlothian and Borders Tourism Action Group)

Tina thanked the Provost and his partner for judging the Christmas windows and well done to Jamie at Flowers by McKenzie for the winning window and a huge thanks to all those businesses who have decorated their windows in this festive season making the town look so magical. Also a big thanks to the Christmas Lights committee for donating stars and lights around the town.

The Provost commented he always enjoyed judging the Christmas windows but this year had proved extremely difficult due to the effort the traders had put in to make the town look fantastic. The Provost thanked Tina and Visit Kelso for all their efforts.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2020

The minutes held on Tuesday 10 November 2020 were approved. They were proposed by Councillor Harry Tomczyk and seconded by Councillor Gavin Horsburgh.

Matters arising

Cycle Racks

The Provost advised the Community Council had been approached by the owners of Cream Chimneys requesting consideration be given to installing additional cycle racks in the area of The Square. It was noted the existing racks are located beside RS McColls, Granny Jeans Bakers, the Police Station, Abbey Row Community Centre and behind WH Smiths. Although a lot of local people know of their locations they are not noticeable for visitors. Currently when groups of cyclist come into the town they congregate outside Greggs and in The Square and park their bikes against the stone sculpture, against shop windows and at the side of the benches and planters.

The Provost advised cycling tourism was on the increase and this was an important opportunity to attract visitors. If secure central cycle racks could be provided this would mean cyclist would feel happy to park and lock their bikes safely and use the local cafes and shops. He advised he had been working closely with officers at SBC to investigate the best location for additional cycle racks and it was suggested the existing bike racks should stay and possibly the best place for additional ones would be to the left of the town hall and outside Greggs. The Provost advised they had considered putting racks beside the Kelsae Stane, by the RBS, by the red telephone box and by the taxi rank but these were not viable due to issues of ownership, utility supplies and health and safety.

Member of the public Verity Mutch asked whether one of the planters could be removed to accommodate the racks. SBC Councillor Weatherston commented this would be a golden opportunity for Kelso and a price worth paying as businesses would benefit from the increased footfall.

Tina Newton reminded Councillors Kelso had hosted the Tour of Britain on three previous occasions and this was a great testament for the town. She also advised Visit Kelso were investing in cycle trials and SBC were planning to make the Borders a cycle destination.

Whilst all Councillors agreed that the provision of additional cycle racks was important they could not agree on their location. In particular there was concern about cycle racks being placed in front of the Town Hall which is a much photographed location which has recently been enhanced by the boat "sculpture. The Provost advised he would go back to SBC and ask for an additional one to be placed at Cullen Kilshaw and two beside Greggs. Once these were complete we could revisit the placement in front of the town hall after gauging public opinion.

Councillor Boulton asked whether Councillors were concerned about the visual appearance of the racks and the bikes that would park on them. Councillor Tomczyk confirmed it was the appearance of the racks and the Provost agreed to re-circulate the image of them.

Street naming

See addendum added by Councillor McGrath.

Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

Police Matters

The Provost advised Police Scotland were not allowed to join meetings by Zoom and advised the Multi Member Ward Plan for Kelso and District for November 2020 had previously been circulated and if there were any comments or concerns to feedback to ourselves or Police Scotland.

Kelso in Bloom

Councillor Horsburgh advised KIB had been successful in securing a grant from the Common Good Fund and this would be used to purchase additional litter picks and black bags.

Councillor Horsburgh advised the next community litter pick would be held on the 13 December – to meet in the Square at 1.00pm. The KIB committee would be providing sherry and mince pies to say thank you to their volunteers.

Councillor Horsburgh advised the KIB Committee would be meeting in the new year to draw up plans for 2021.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary gave the following update –

- Correspondence, consultations, planning, traffic regulations etc. had been circulated and captured and a summary would be attached to the minutes.
- The Local Development Plan – it was noted a response needed to be submitted in January 2021 and the Provost asked Councillors to feed back any comments. Councillor Tomczyk advised there was no provision for protecting and safe guarding the railway line. It was agreed to discuss this at the January meeting.
- The secretary advised she had submitted an application on behalf of the Kelso Heritage Society for the Annual Paths grant.

Provost's Report

The Provost advised there had been no official events.

Scottish Borders Council Community Network (SBCCN)

There was no update as Councillor McGrath had tendered his apologies. Post meeting Councillor McGrath had added an addendum which is appended to the minutes.

Any Other Business

The Provost raised concerns about the traffic lights at the Jet garage on Station Road and the congestion it was causing and the planned works further down the road. SBC Councillor Robson advised this was due to maintenance to the manhole covers at View Point.

SBC Councillor Robson advised utility companies have a right to access but they were obliged to put right any damage to roads and footpaths at their expense. He also commented that it was likely the whole of Jedburgh Road would need to be resurfaced.

Councillor Robson advised the recent closure of Bowmont Street had caused chaos and the quality of the resurfacing was inadequate.

Councillors raised concerns that a car had accidentally gone through the barrier on Rennie Bridge at the weekend and questioned the safety of the barrier. The Provost advised it was now a Police matter and we would need to wait to learn their outcome.

Councillor Horsburgh asked whether there were any plans to introduce additional electric charging points in the town. SBC Councillor Mountford advised the current charging points had been installed by SBC and funded by the Scottish Government and he anticipated additional funding in the future. He commented this was an area the SBC Sustainable Development Committee looked at.

Councillor Horsburgh suggested that by 2030 new cars will only be electric and does SBC have a plan for this, as the need for charging points will be more in demand or will it be a case of deal with it nearer the time as we have the chance to lead the way on this if planned correctly.

Scottish Borders Council Report

Springwood Estate Boundary

SBC Councillor Robson reported on the concerns raised about fencing in the woods in the River Teviot Site of Special Scientific Interest adjacent to the Springwood mobile home park. He said that there were three issues. The first related to access. The landowner had taken the fence back beyond the line of the footpath which it had blocked for several metres. The consequent restoration of the section of the original footpath and the provision of access points through the fence in other places had met with Scottish Borders Council's Access Officer's approval. The next issue was whether the landowner's fence required planning permission which it did not as it was below the requisite height requiring such. The third issue related to the integrity of the SSSI.

Councillor Robson had discussed the situation with the relevant officer of Nature Scotland, the regulator of such designations. He had said that the extent of the SSSI was at the edge of the wood but that the fence did not unduly disturb the integrity of the SSSI. The wood should be seen in the context of the river system and did not contain specific instances of vulnerable or particularly important micro environments. Flora, invertebrates, fauna and most birds would be unaffected by its location in the

wood. The landowner should however have applied to Nature Scotland for consent before erecting the fence and should make a retrospective application. This was however a matter for the landowner personally.

Councillor Robson hoped that the clarification was helpful to the Community Council and the general public.

Teviot Bridge

SBC Councillor Robson indicated that after further discussion with the Council's engineers he had learnt that issues about the health and safety of those working on the bridge repairs had been resolved. This had required a redesign of the scaffolding that had now been completed. It was therefore hoped to commence the delivery and erection of the scaffolding before Christmas, a fortnight later than planned. The A699 would likely need to be closed for a day whilst the scaffolding was being delivered and for a second time when it was removed after dismantling following the repair work.

Cheviot Area Partnership – 25 November 2020

Please see addendum added by Councillor McGrath who had tendered his apologies.

Consideration of Licenses

The Secretary advised there were no applications for consideration.

Consideration of Plans

The Secretary advised there were no plans for consideration.

The next Community Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 January 2021

ADDENDUM BY COUNCILLOR C MCGRATH WHO DID NOT MAKE DEC 20 MEETING

Naming of Streets

I've spoken to those in America who are very enthusiastic about being involved in a ceremony when they come to Kelso hopefully later on this year

Community Council Network

Councillor McGrath advised there was a new list of the Scottish Borders Council executive members roles issued on the 27 August 2020 which if not already been circulated to each Community Council should be, of particular note is Councillor Robin Tatler who has been appointed executive member for community development and localities, he's also now responsible for the updating of the community council scheme. He's already had a meeting with Councillor McGrath with more to come

Cheviot Area Partnership – 25 November 2020

When it came to the voting on the Community Fund. There were two main proposals one from Cheviot Youth to provide a service to young people regarding mental health and wellbeing support was needed straight away. This being proposed by Councillor Mountford and seconded by Councillor Weatherston (note only SBC Councillors could vote) both Kelso. The other from Lothian Hall committee to install secondary glazing in all their 25 windows which could be deferred until 2021.

This was proposed and seconded by two Jedburgh SBC with the Chair also from Jedburgh supporting. All this was clearly against the spirit of the meeting from the non-community voters on the community fund the chair also having responsibility for the well-being of young people. The Cheviot Youth representative was very angry quote stating "double glazing preferred to young person's well-being"

This will be given as an example of why you need equal voting with the community when I write to the Scottish government.

APPENDIX

KELSO COMMUNITY COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE/EVENTS/CONSULTATIONS NOV 2020		
Date	Event/Correspondence	Venue and comments
10.11.20	KCC approved minutes submitted to the KCC and Visit Kelso FB pages for posting.	For information
	Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 - Application for Variation of Premises Licence - Lidl Great Britain Ltd - Lidl Store, 31-33 Shedden Park Road, Kelso. KCC had no objections	For information
	Details of Project Coordinator (Out and About, Scottish Borders) and link to Guide.	For information
	A68 Huntershall to Soutra Carriageway Resurfacing - Consultation Letter	For information
11.11.20	News Release: Ambitious affordable housing plan to be laid out	For information
	News Release: Ambitious affordable housing plan to be laid out	For information
	No Waiting - Maxwellheugh, Kelso	For information
13.11.20	Secretary submitted street name suggestions to SBC	For information
	Participatory Budgeting (PB)	For information
	Road Closures - Scottish Water - Robertson Scheme	For agenda
	Road Closures - Scottish Water - Robertson Scheme	For information
	One Way - Station Road, Kelso	For information
	Road Closure - C46 Ednam	For information
15.11.20	Provost advised Councillor Yule had resigned from KCC	For information
18.11.20	Advised Councillors I have copies of Living Street brochure	For information
	Circulated copy of Councillor Yule's resignation	For information
21.11.20	No Waiting - Springwood Bank, Kelso	For information
	News release: Older People's Champion deserving recipient of Age Scotland Jess Barrow award	For information
	News release: Borderers encouraged to shop local as free parking extended	For information
	News release: Improvements agreed to series of local bus services	For information
	The Circular Economy & the Planning System	For information
25.11.20	News release: Council spend with local businesses increases to over £77million	For information

	Community Leisure and Culture Sector Survey	For information
	National Lottery Community Fund presentation – any one interested?	For information
	Stopping Up Order - Angraflat Road, Kelso	For comment
	Rutherfords Micro pub - Community Council - request for support	Agenda item
	Coronavirus Recovery Survey - please help us to help you	For information
	News release: Borderers encouraged to shop local as free parking extended	For information
27.11.20	Media Release from The Health & Social Care Partnership and Borders Carers Centre Carers' Wellbeing Campaign Launches	For information
	Joint News Release: Partnership protocol agreed between Council and enterprise agency	For information
	News Release: Acceleration of Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal funding announced	For information
	Location of bike racks	Agenda item
01.12.20	Police Scotland - Multi Member Ward Plan November 2020	Agenda item
	Papers for KCC meeting 08.12.20	Circulated