



Newcastleton & District Community Council

Minutes of digital meeting Tuesday August 10th @ 7pm

Venue : via ZOOM

PRESENT: Lyndsay Patterson, Greg Cuthbert, Iain Crosbie, Scott Wilson, Keith Brough, Barbara Elborn, Iain Crosbie, Ian Nichol, Cllr Turnbull and 1 Member of the public

APOLOGIES: Marcus Day, Ashley Thomson, Margaret Elliot, Cllr Watson

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** – June 2021 were proposed by SW, seconded by GC

<https://www.visitnewcastleton.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NDCC-minutes-digital-meeting-Jun-2021-.pdf>

2. **MATTERS ARISING: COMMUNITY ISSUES:**

1. **CCTV update** - KB updated; planning now closed. No objections. Decision expected end of the month or prior. Cllr T will chase up decisions so works can commence asap
2. **Garden waste dumping in river** – solutions don't seem to have been found, needs to be included as part of the recycling solutions for the village. In the meantime, all requested NOT to dispose of garden waste into the river.
3. **Giant Hogweed** – reported and investigated by Tweed Forum, however CC subsequently advised that this facility was now not included in their service as the River Liddel was under the Solway District Flood mgt scheme and facilities would be provided by them. CC expressed concern given that no one had been advised of this change. Cllr M (not present) had already sent notes of concerns on CC behalf to seek answers and solutions. SBC officer, Andy Tharme also reported not being advised of any changes. NDCC sought immediate clarity and commitment to continue to use the Tweed Forum; officers knew the hot spot, local knowledge considered significant in managing the issue. NDCC requested that efforts be made to ensure the banking was cleared so that the planned riverside clearance of overhanging branches etc could go ahead to protect the volunteers from the sap which is toxic. Cllr T would continue to seek clarity on this matter.
4. **Houghton Park and other pavements** – remains on the agenda until remedial works are completed.
5. **20 MPH update** – CC has had no feedback from SBC to the request to reinstate the limits at both ends of the village and to place signage to support the deceleration zone prior to entering the old 30 MPH zone. Cllr T and CC would endeavour to get this reinstated with SBC – it would appear this has been done in Hawick, on Mansfield road as you enter from Denholm.
6. **Signage on riverside: toilets, extra bins etc** – Signage audit to be undertaken – old village in bloom signs look dated and are no longer valuable. The plethora of 20 MPH signs has created even more small signage. Directional signage from Douglas Square to the riverside had not been replaced post floods and there was increased need to signpost toilets given increased

visitors. Requests for extra rubbish and dog bins had not been fulfilled, many were lost in the folds and not replaced. Cllr T would respond once a list of sites/need had been provided.

3. **FLOODING** Flood risk management plan datasheet https://www.visitnewcastleon.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/OTA-139_Newcastleon-consultation-paper-2021.pdf clearly states that there is potential for 410 people/260 homes currently at risk from flood – rising to 510 and 320 by 2080. All encouraged to answer the SEPA consultation, the more who do the more focus on the need for a scheme and the urgency in which one is needed. Open for all to respond until Oct 31st – not very comprehensive, use the comment boxes to add any issues you feel are not covered <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/evidence-and-flooding/frmplans/>

4. **Roads paper – economic impact data:** NDCC thanked SBC for providing the data which will be included in the social and economic impact assessment study being undertaken by consultants on behalf of Newcastleton & District Community Trust to understand the true impact of flood on the community. As a crude rule of thumb:

- road closures have cut us off from travelling on one of the above for the following amount of days:

2016-17	20 days/5% pa
2017-18	27days/7% pa
2018-19	50 days/14% pa
2019-20	72days/20% pa
2020-21	102days/28% pa
2020-22	18days/15% to date
2020-23 Period	289 days/15%

- infrastructure must also be able to cope with climate change and ours is failing; we are working extremely hard to rejuvenate ourselves; this lack of connectivity is working against us; a strong case must be made to invest in infrastructure, so we do not become the land-locked island we describe ourselves as being in a crisis.
- In addition, we continue to seek to understand if SBC receives the right level of investment from central gov to support the amount of bridges within its catchment and or if this shouldn't be reviewed as a priority as part of climate challenge work? What would happen if the STTS fund wasn't available given that £420k-£450k has been awarded in the last 2 years to improve the local roads?

SBC Roads £££: B6399, B6357 & C26	2016-17	%	2017-18	%	2018-19	%	2019-20	%	2020-21	%
Roads exc, temp/ reactive/cyclical	£224,250	96	£227,600	92	£1,118,560	98	£732,120	87	£722,500	76
Bridges	£9,199	4	£19,048	8	£20,383	2	£108,621	13	£228,388	24
Total	£233,449	100	£246,648	100	£1,138,943	100	£840,741	100	£950,888	100
% STTS funding	0		35		39		53		46	
Post flood recovery works							125000		61000	

- Data will be used to push the case to extend the railway through to Carlisle – the impact on the community of road closures over the last 2 years is unquantifiable and as a result the jointness we have within SBC is being eroded; travelling south is becoming more frequent - the road is more likely to be open to us. The unreliability of not knowing if the road is accessible is changing behaviours which will also impact on our spending to the detriment of Hawick and the benefit of Carlisle.
5. **Area Partnership/Community Grant fund** - SBC require details of assessment panel; it was agreed this would comprise of 1 x CC, 1 x NDCT, 2 x other voluntary community groups. No one had been forthcoming to the original request for members, so the CC had extended invitations to sit on the assessment panel to propose **Newcastleton School Partnership** Chair Claire Musson and **Copshaw Outreach Group Social** chair Janet Moore. They represented some of the youngest and oldest volunteer groups in the community. Keith Brough accepted the nomination to represent the CC by its members and Scott Wilson would act as the representative of Newcastleton community Trust. The CC felt this group covered a wide range of voluntary work and would be a good combination to ensure that local projects were awarded budgets that had the biggest outcomes for wide community gain. The CC would notify SBC and it was hoped that the formal reopening of the Community Grant Fund would get underway, and projects would soon be able to apply for grants.
 6. **Community Voices Project: Return Ticket** – 5 films had been completed and would be launched as soon as social media platforms were enabled. It was hoped that once other communities had viewed them, they would also participate in the conversation to keep momentum going behind extending the railway through to Carlisle.
 7. **Holm Hill update** – awaiting UK Gov Community Renewal grant funding outcomes to complete phase 2 feasibility work. Dry Gravel Extraction from the River Liddel had been approved by SEPA and would commence asap to complete prior to spawning season. Support had been extended by SBC via the Small Schemes Fund to pay for the heavy equipment needed to undertake the extraction, gravel would be used to re-lay the old path network on the other side of Head Bridge. The CC and Community Trust passed their thanks to all the Teviot & Liddesdale Cllrs for their support to enable this work to happen.

8. PUBLIC FORUM/COMMUNITY ISSUES

1. **Speeding** – community reports of increased speeding on Mangerton road, no signage to slow vehicles down. Other areas in the community were also experiencing increased footfall from visitors/horses; unclassified road to Dykecroft, specifically from the end of private road to village, was also seeing large increases in footfall. There was no signage advising drivers to slow down or indicating large amount of cyclists using it. The CC requested that signage be placed, and consideration be given to extending the 20 MPH limit to include these popular and well used routes.
2. **HSBC UK National XC series.** Newcastleton had been chosen to host this prestigious mountain biking event over the weekend of Sep 3- 5. The event would predominantly start and finish from Rock UK but it was hoped that a temporary license would be granted to allow overnight parking in Douglas Square. Approx 30 campervans were expected to park for the 2 day event. Requests for the showers/toilets block to be made available for the whole day/night was also sought. Organisers would ask for £10 from users which would be given to the CC for funds. The CC had already spoken

with businesses who were supportive of this request. Residents would be advised via notices placed in the square.

3. **Unlicensed motorbikes** – there was increasing and persistent use of the railway line as well as other rat runs by the bikes. This was now serious cause for concern with bikers travelling on road to get off road at speed. Police encouraged to attend and explain the risks and the law.
4. **Dogs on lead/no dogs allowed** signage still not placed in the playpark following an incident where a dog had bitten a child. Cllr T would seek clarity on whether the community could do this if SBC no longer provided the signage.
5. **Life Buoy** Given increased levels of users at Whithaugh pool over last 2 years there was a suggestion about placing a life buoy which all felt was worthwhile, however, there was no confidence that this would not be abused or vandalised. The presence of CCTV would potentially deter this, the suggestion would be reviewed when this was operating.

9. PLANNING 21/01137/FUL: Variation of condition 1 of planning consent 17/00010/FUL to increase the duration of consent from 25 to 30 years from the date of final commissioning. **SITE:** Land South West Of Lurgiescleuch (Pines Burn). No objections.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Police report – was circulated. Propose attending in person next CC and at the AP meetings. Welcomed and supported.
 2. UK Gov Community Ownership Grants - equiv to SLF grants in Scotland now avail to all
 3. SBC Home insulation program restarted – previously circulated
11. Date of next meeting Sept 14th - **LEGENDS at 7pm**