



Newcastleton & District Community Council

Minutes of digital meeting Tuesday Oct 13th 2021

PRESENT: Lyndsay Patterson, Greg Cuthbert, Iain Crosbie, Scott Wilson, Barbara Elborn, Ian Nichol, Ashley Thomson, Cllr Watson, Margaret Elliot, Rob Irwin and 3 Members of the public **APOLOGIES:** Marcus Day, Keith Brough, Cllr Turnbull

Minutes Last Meeting: Sep 2021 were proposed by IC, seconded by SW

Housekeeping: Venue for next CC to be decided on a monthly basis; risk assessments will be undertaken by KB/Covid officer. Members of public informed of protocols in advance of meeting for attending.

Matters Arising:

1. CC admin post update, no responses.
2. **Community issues:**
3. CCTV update Still awaiting planning outcomes. Revisiting costs as prices increased
4. Houghton Park and other pavements – no change. However, other pavement sites more visible being attended too. Will remain on agenda until concluded.
5. 20 MPH update Cllrs were briefed on outcomes from Napier University; statistical data but conclusion unsurprisingly was the lower the speed driving the lower the accident rate. CC continues to stress the need for action by SBC given the onset of darker evenings, half term this week, dusky evenings with children running about.
6. Speeding/Pedestrian crossings: Public reaction to fatality has been to request for a crossing to be re-examined. Cllr McAteer will follow up – previous reviews concluded location was a challenge, but alternative types of crossings can now be examined. The school signage (flashing lights) was not working, this needed to be resolved before return to school. Tractors seem to be disregarding the 20MPH status, issues raised again about parked cars on corners obscuring vision for drivers and pedestrians
7. CC will write to SBC CEO to stress need for action on all road related matters.
8. Signage on riverside: extra bins etc 6 waste bins have been ordered to replace those lost in the flooding, in place soon, 'pole' mounted to prevent being washed away in the future. Clarity sought on placement outside village boundary – proposed to place one at south end near the cairn/village sign as this is a rubbish/dog poo hotpot.
9. SBC Community Grant Fund now open. Closing date applications in Nov 2nd Suggestion for budget – replacement of Douglas Square benches/tree seats and 2nd flagpole for the memorial. CC will apply for planning permission to add 2nd pole, Legion will refund CC the application cost.
10. Handrails on steps from Riverside to Poly – NDCT installing these over next few weeks
11. Village water – Scottish Water requested all concerns be reported directly by householders to them, they will respond to each individually and in time this effort may well result in further investigative work being undertaken. Many continue to complain about impact on boilers, taste and colour of the water. Scottish Water help@scottishwater.co.uk Customer Service 0800 0778 778
12. **Police Report – September 2021** No mention of theft of flood machinery from what must have been premeditated/organised crime, police claim not to be able to find any record of it. No mention of road accident in village or at Singdean. Very poor report this month; concerns expressed given that this is used to review requests for support, services etc and it is important that it accurately reflects events particularly as these are of a very serious nature.
13. **Flooding: Drilling program** – hit old stones/rock, couldn't penetrate. Larger equipment used to

drill again, got through but 'core' samples poor. Report expected. **Flood group update** – nothing to report **Walter Street drain** – this continues to be cause for concern, been reported continuously, efforts needed to get this reviewed and cleaned again asap. **Trees** – willow overhang causing erosion disturbance on riverside bank.

14. **Winter Resilience plan** Pauline Elliot provided update: Strengthened the plan; homes at risk of flooding provided with a flier, only issued on instruction from SBC, provides advice to put up defences, sandbags, moving cars to the square, contact numbers for the resilience, location of shelters etc. to ensure all made aware of the risks. Post event: cards to put in windows should they leave their homes or need help. This is to highlight to emergency services if they need help. In addition, list of all those who completed household form providing details of vulnerable people, something we will collaborate with rescuers should they require. Requested a live exercise with SBC/Fire and Rescue unlikely to happen until the end of the year.

Area Partnership update

- i. Minutes of last meeting Previously circulated and avail on website
- ii. Place planning feedback: NDCC response submitted, no acknowledgement

Extending the Borders Railway

- iii. Borderlands prospectus published and welcomed; it is expected that a decision on outcomes ref reinstatement/not will now be within 2years.
- iv. UK Gov Connectivity Review – still not published
- v. Social media campaign continues with steady views and engagements on posts.

Public Forum/Community Issues SBC School policy additional needs – response inadequate and not reassuring. Letter to be sent to CEO outlining community concerns and lack of delay in outcomes impacting parental choices given D&G policy varies so widely.

Planning:

Windy Edge – back in scoping: 12 turbines from 9, moving further towards Hawick, increasing in height. *Not expecting negative objections given this was approved and suffered continuing delays. NDCC welcomed the opportunity to work with developers given community constraint on grid capacity and hoped that the planning process would not be protracted this time.*

Polysport change of use granted this week, waiting for formal notifications will have conditions. 3 years, 1 room.

CCTV – still awaited.

Flagpole: CC will apply for planning permission to erect a 2nd pole in Douglas square so a Union Jack or village flag can be flown when appropriate, reimbursed by the Legion.

Correspondence

Road closures continue:

- vi. Canonbie Bridge Oct 11th – 15th
 - vii. Whitrope Foot B6399 11th October 2021 for 1 day, 9:00 to 16:00
 - viii. SPEN traffic lights no notice given
2. Development of a new Local Housing Strategy for the Scottish Borders: Not clear how this is being integrated in the Place Making program; questionnaire online isn't very helpful, requested detail paper copies for wider engagement, no response. NDCT undertaking a

housing review/needs now we have land to exploit – number of priorities live/work concepts, co-operatives as well as assisted housing for vulnerable/elderly.

3. SBC corrs to Polysport/NDCC ref report on usage and update on community lawnmower. NDCC will co-ordinate with Poly.

AOB

4. Whisgills lay-by blocked by large boulders; need to be moved to enable users to access.
5. Road markings appeared on road by forecourt – not known what these are for
6. Queens Jubilee – Canopy project – free trees available to plant. NDCT will discuss small site to plant a Queens wood as part of walks on Holm Hill, other community groups considering options.

Date of next meeting **Tuesday Nov 9th via zoom**