

Tweedsmuir Community Council Chairperson's report

AGM 6th May 2021

Due to covid it has been a very difficult time for everyone but hopefully there is light at the end of the tunnel. The vaccination scheme is well under way the council meetings have been over zoom with no face to face meeting allowed.

Plans to upgrade our website and information distribution system are underway, I f you have not already done so, please contact Debbie Cullen to confirm you still wish to receive information. Thanks to Frances Leckie for her work updating the website.

There are a number of windfarms in our area with another 3 in the pipe line - Whitelaw Brae, Daer and Grayside. We will keep you up to date with planning and progress. There is also planning for forestry planting and forestry roads.

Timber transport and extraction will always create problems on our roads. There have been a number of sections of the A701 which had deteriorated and while road closures are often inconvenient, we will continue to pressure SBC for further upgrading of our roads. White line work on A701 is now complete and I would urge everyone to continue to report potholes as they appear. I have received requests for updates on access at Hillhall but can only say that it is currently with SBC legal department.

It is with great sadness that I have to inform you, the community broadband project will not proceed as planned. A huge amount off work by many people, particularly by Mark Cullen, progressed our project to the point of contract. Unfortunately, BT Openreach will not sign a contract as we are now covered by the R100 government scheme which requires an upgrade to the Moffat exchange with a time line of 2024.

During lockdown it was decided to deliver goody bags to every resident in our area and this was again carried out at Christmas. These were very well received with gifts, plants, competition etc., many thanks to all involved and congratulations to all competition winners. Members of the community also supported isolating residents by delivering shopping and collecting medication.

The TCC and community company have been working together on many projects and as you can see things are happening at the Crook site. We look forward to updates.

Tweedsmuir Little Library has been established thanks to Debbie Cullen, Frances Leckie, Lesley Mason and Ann Welsh. The community company has appointed a development officer, Lesley Mason, with new volunteers involved in lots of new exciting projects - please keep up the great work.

Recently, the annual community litter pick was undertaken by 40 volunteers, taking around 100 hours to collect a horrible amount of rubbish. 3 litter bins have been installed and adopted by volunteers who regularly empty them. Litter signage has been put up at a number of problem locations around the area.

Thanks to all my fellow Tweedsmuir councillors, SBC councillors, Heather Anderson and Eric Small for all their hard work. Please continue to contact any councillors with concerns or if we can help in any way.

I hope we can all meet face to face soon.

Gavin Parker