Tweedsmuir Community Council chair person report

AGM 12th May 2022

Over the last 12 months there has been a mixture of meeting being held in person, zoom and successful hybrid meetings using zoom in the village hall. We have tried to keep everything as normal as possible and thanks to Debbie and Frances for all technical aspects of setting up and running these digitally and also for their work in updating the website and database.

We have dealt with a number of issues over the last year overlapping or unresolved from the previous year, The Broadband project will now be covered by R100 and this Government scheme should be starting shortly…

Planning – Forestry planning and decisions are a large concern to a number of residents and how we are notified about land area, access and number of applications leading to a permanent change of land use. We will continue to pressure Government for more information and a change in protocol so that local communities are more involved with forestry planning decisions. The council represented local concerns and a decision is awaited on the plans for Oliver Field. Community right of access through HillHall is currently in the hands of SBC lawyers. It is recognised that there needs to be more communication of access rights between locals, visitors and landowners.

Mobile Mast – A consultation was received for a mobile mast to be sighted on the Silver Jubilee road and the council represented the many concerns over the inappropriate site which is clearly within a scenic area. Questions were asked about local benefit but as yet , no reply has been received.

Windfarms – We have two windfarms in our area who currently provide community benefit through grant schemes. There are 3 more wind farms at various stages of planning and we will continue to monitor progress.

Roads – There has been a number of road closures lately with considerable inconvenience to locals due to lengthy diversion routes. A letter was sent to SBC roads department to request that local residents are better considered when planning closures to allow access to work and to allow services to our area. Potholes are an ongoing problem and I would urge everyone to report potholes on <https://www.fixmystreet.com> This site passes on information to local councils and is recorded as well as acknowledged by email. This site also covers flytipping, flooding and signage.

Dog fouling – Unfortunately we have received complaints about dog fouling and this information has been passed to the SBC dog warden. We have also requested more signage and bins. Please be a responsible dog owner.

Grant application – micro grants and youth bursaries are still popular and have helped many local young people and groups. Through community benefit grants, Tweedsmuir village hall and Tweedsmuir Community Company have been able to improve and develop resources for the benefit of everyone. Grant information is available on our website and I would encourage anyone who has an idea to have a look at the possibilities a grant might enable. A new community development plan has just been funded and we hope that you will feed into what our community needs in the next few years.

Biggar Health Practice – The practice manager, Donald Stwert, came to a public meeting to discuss covid and the issues around locals accessing GP services. We have asked for a member of our community to join their panel and communication continues.

Tweedsmuir Community Company

An inventory of all of the equipment held and how to access it has been produced for further details – contact Lesley Mason lesleymtweedsmuir@icloud.com

The ECO museum and website are up and running – The Eco Museum is looking for more content - photographs and stories that might be forgotten. The site is easy to use - and has a phone app.

The Wee Crook nears completion and we hope to hold events soon to promote our new facility. The work has continued despite huge delays due to Scottish Power and Scottish Water as well as ongoing Covid absences. Huge thanks to the gardeners who have worked through clouds of midgies and are now transforming piles of mud into a formal garden under the expert direction of Caroline Mathias.

The litter pickers as usual cleared a huge amount of litter and rubbish from roadsides and laybys and hopefully the verges will stay clear for some time…

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee –

2nd June – after the council meeting, a fire will be lit in the ground of the Crook to mark the Jubilee - beacons up and down the country will be lit at 9.45pm

Sunday 5th June starting with competition entries from 1.30pm, the tree planting in the Jubilee orchard and unveiling of the Jubilee Bench will take place shortly after 2pm and the Rhubarb festival will run until 5pm – cream teas, competitions, live music, treasure hunt, plant sales, bar,

Sunday 5th June – Sunday Sundae – a joint church service will be held in Broughton village hall to mark the Jubilee and also the church’s birthday – this is an ice cream event not to be missed and everyone is welcome to go along.

Lastly – Thank you to our SBC councillors Heather Anderson and Eric Small who have supported us, our Tweedsmuir councillors and all of the volunteers who have helped make Tweedsmuir such a special place to live.