

Tweedsmuir Community Council

Minutes of the meeting of Tweedsmuir Community Council (TCC) Thursday 2nd November at 7pm, Tweedsmuir Village Hall & via ZOOM

Present: Lesley Mason (LM, Vice Chair), Mark Cullen (MC, Treasurer), Debbie Cullen (DC, Secretary), Frances Leckie (FL), Carolynn Hoy (CH), Lesley Kirkwood (LK) Resilient Communities Co-ordinator, Eric Small (ES) Scottish Borders Councillor and 1 member of the public

Lindsay Macgregor, a representative from Biggar Area Climate Care a registered charity covering the ML12 6 area attended the meeting and spoke about the projects they are involved in locally –

- Funding has been secured to undertake a household energy assessment of 22 properties of a variety of ages, construction etc. in the Biggar area with a view to developing detailed costed plans for improving energy efficiency and reducing household fuel bills.
- In the longer term the organisation would like to extend the project into other areas including -
 - upskilling local people to be able to carry out assessments. They are currently organising training on the use of infra red cameras to enable a 'quick broad-brush' assessment of heat loss from properties that might be relatively quick and inexpensive to address.
 - bulk buying of materials to support energy efficiency improvements.
 - Recruiting and upskilling more volunteer 'fixers'.
- A manager has recently been appointed to run a 'Repair Hub' in Biggar. The plan is for 6 'clinic's to be held across the ML12 area over the next 9 months, supported by volunteer 'fixers'.
- TCC shared information about Tweedsmuir's Community Action Plan and the actions identified in relation to 'Low Carbon Tweedsmuir' many of which align with the work being planned/carried out by Biggar Area Climate Care.
- Anyone interested in joining the group or interested in offering or gaining relevant skills should contact Lindsay Macgregor – 7lindsay12@gmail.com

01.11 Welcome and Apologies

No apologies received.

02.11 Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted as correct.

03.11 Matters arising not covered in the agenda

None.

04.11 Planning applications

- Update re: Oliver Forest
- TCC recently received an update from the developers regarding the proposed Windfarm at Oliver Forest who reported –
 - since the first exhibition in March, they have been continuing to carry out and complete surveys required for the wind farm i.e. noise, ecology, ornithology, forestry. The intention had been to hold the second public exhibition days in late 2023 however these have been delayed as information from the surveys along with feedback from the community is assessed to help inform the ongoing design process. The plan is to present a revised design early next year and hold public exhibitions at this time to gather community feedback on the proposal. Following this exhibition period feedback will be reviewed and studies completed to arrive at a final design to be submitted to the Energy Consents Unit with the intention to submit the application before Summer 2024.
 - in the meantime, consent has been received for a Temporary Meteorological Mast (met mast) at Oliver Forest. The work to install the met mast is currently scheduled to take place in November and will last approximately 3 weeks. The works are not expected to cause any disruption on the local road network as the equipment does not require any special transport for delivery and only a small work team to complete this activity.

The developers wish to attend a future TCC meeting to update, and dates of future meetings have been provided.

- Petition - PE1864: Increase ability of communities to influence planning decisions for onshore windfarms. Details can be found at -<https://petitions.parliament.scot>
- A meeting planned with representatives from Fred Olsen, the developers for the proposed windfarm at Menzion has been postponed until New Year as preliminary work is still underway and there is currently little to update.

Whilst not directly related to current planning applications, a discussion took place regarding the potential route of the 'Source to Sea' path being planned and delivered by Destination Tweed. Local residents Kevin Dempster (**KD**) and **CH** both expressed concerns that the routes being proposed through Oliver Field Forestry and Stanhope Estate respectively are not suitable and/or safe and reported that there meetings are scheduled with Destination Tweed to further discuss. It was noted that provision of access/a path for use by the community had been included as part of the planning consultation with the community prior to the Oliver Field forestry development.

It was agreed this matter would be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.

Actions:

- **DC** to add to agenda for December TCC meeting.

05.11 Treasurer's Report

This can be viewed at - <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Oct-2023-Finance-Report.pdf>

It was agreed that the following invoices be paid –

- TCC admin expenses £18.09
- Renewal of the TCC Microsoft licence £59.99

Printing costs - TCC have drafted a Christmas Card and leaflet 'All about Tweedsmuir' to be distributed at the forthcoming Upper Tweed 'Newcomers Party' and to every household in Tweedsmuir with the next edition of the Upper Tweed Community News in December. A discussion took place as to whether the associated printing costs could be funded by TCC. A query was also raised as to whether further printed copies of Tweedsmuir CAP were also required.

Financial support for refreshments for Tweedsmuir's Christmas Afternoon Tea, planned for 17th December. It was agreed that monies in the TCC Contingency could be used for this purpose.

TCC were not currently aware of any plans being considered by the 'Christmas Party' Committee, and it was agreed that **LM** would make contact to enquire about any plans and potential financial implications.

Actions:

- **LM** to contact with the Christmas Party Committee to establish what if anything is planned and any potential financial implications.
- **LM** to review supplies of the CAP and inform whether further printed copies were required and if so, how many.
- **FL** to obtain quotes for printing of Christmas card and 'All about Tweedsmuir' leaflet.

06.11 Grant applications

- Application to **Ventient Microgrant Fund** for £37.98 submitted by Lesley Kirkwood for the purchase of new defibrillator pads. **Approved.**
- **Pathways Grant:** **LM** reported that the volunteer hours recently provided by staff members from Ventient Energy fulfilled the criteria for submission to SBC for this grant.

After discussion it was agreed that –

- grass trimmer at a cost of £18 and
- waymarkers at a cost of £172.50

be purchased against the next tranche of Pathways Grant funding.

Actions:

- **LM** to submit information to SBC
- **LM** to order waymarkers
- **DC** to order grass trimmers

07.11 Police report

Not yet received.

08.11 Scottish Borders Councillors' report

- **ES** informed of the NHS consultation events taking place across SBC. See Agenda item 14.11.
- Concern was raised with **ES** regarding the planned closure of the Biggar sorting office and the impact that such a closure would have on residents. Although **ES** had no updated information it was agreed this matter be kept under review.
- TCC again raised concerns regarding the Mobile Library Service, due to visit Tweedsmuir on Tuesday but once again cancelled at short notice due to mechanical problems with the van.

Actions:

DC to draft letter to Library Service expressing concerns regarding the lack of service over recent months and impact on residents attempting to use the service.

09.11 Community Action Plan

LM reported that funding had been secured via a grant from SSE Windfarm to support the appointment of a Community Development Manager for 2 days/week for 1 year. The recruitment process to commence shortly.

10.11 Recruitment to Community Council

Information has been circulated via email and posted on Facebook. No responses received.

CH reported being aware of someone who may be interested. **LM** informed that any new member would be very welcome to join the Council, initially as a coopted member - until next year's AGM.

11.11 Community Council Website

FL reported a meeting is scheduled with 2 members of the community in the next week to explore whether changes are needed to the TCC website to make it more accessible.

12.11 Resilient Communities

Information regarding the Resilient Communities Register has been circulated via email and can be accessed at <https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Tweedsmuir-Resilient-Community-Register.pdf>

It was noted that everyone wishing to remain on or rejoin the Register should forward their details, ideally including a contact telephone number to Lesley Kirkwood (**LK**), Resilient Communities Lead at - resilienttweedsmuir@gmail.com.

More information about the purpose and role of Resilient Communities can be found at https://www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/EP_Newsletter_OCT23.pdf

A discussion took place regarding replenishment of the supply of sandbags held in the storage cupboard outside the Village Hall. These can be collected and used by any members of the community requiring them, although it would be helpful if when they are removed **LK** is informed so use/supplies can be monitored. **CH** offered to collect a top up of bags from Peebles. **ES** expressed surprise that the supplies were not delivered by SBC but had to be collected and undertook to make enquires regarding potential delivery by SBC.

LK had raised with SBC the issue of a local Fire Plan, particularly in periods of water scarcity and been informed this was the responsibility of the Fire Service. It was agreed however, that there might still be value in **LK** contacting the local Fire Service.

Private water supplies (PWS)

Further communication has taken place between **LK** and Andrew Phillips, Principal Regulatory Services Officer at SBC regarding PWS and water scarcity issues.

Mr. Phillips reported having been in contact with a representative for Scottish Government about Water impact assessments. He is responsible for gathering information about those properties potentially affected/concerned about water scarcity to be able to consider the matter and if appropriate take it forward to the Scottish Government who with Scottish Water are currently looking at this issue.

Actions:

- **ES** to investigate whether SBC might deliver supplies of sandbags
- **CH** to collect supply of sandbags from Peebles.
- **LK** to contact the local Fire Service regarding Fire Planning

13.11 Biggar Medical Practice

LM feedback from the recent meeting of the Practice Patient Group –

- The main issue continues to be the unsuitability/ lack of capacity of the current Practice building. Options are being explored but the feeling is a new build is the only viable long-term solution.
- A new telephone system is now in operation which has simplified the initial contact. Patients are reminded that they can contact the Practice at any time of the day for general queries.
- The re-establishment of the Breast Screening Service to Biggar was very positively received.
- It was reported that it is unlikely that the Minor Injuries Unit will be re-established at the Kello, with the exception of a one afternoon per week 'dressing changing' service. This is of significant concern to residents in and around Biggar and it is anticipated that the Patient Practice Group may lobby for this service to be re-instated.

14.11 Consultations

- **Roads service delivery** - The Roads Management Team at SBC have launched a survey about the roads service delivery and closes on 17th December 2023. The survey can be accessed using this link - <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/assets-and-infrastructure/2023roadsbridgeslighting>
- **Time for Change conversations** - NHS Borders is starting 'Time for Change' conversations – discussions with communities about healthcare services provided.

The focus of the sessions will be led by attendees – priorities and concerns an opportunity to hear about the current position of services, previous feedback and the work we are currently doing to address challenges faced. There will be space to discuss the challenges and potential solutions in these areas:

- Primary care (e.g. GPs, Dentists, Pharmacy)
- Community based bed services (e.g. Community Hospitals)
- Acute Hospital Services (the Borders General Hospital)
- Mental Health Services

These are drop in sessions providing an opportunity to view a presentation and have a discussion. The timetable is as follows:

Tweeddale

Tuesday 14 November (2:00pm-7:00pm) at Peebles Community Centre, Walker's Haugh, Peebles EH45 8AU

Teviot & Liddesdale

Wednesday 15 November (2:00pm-6:30pm) at Heart of Hawick, Kirkstyle, Hawick TD9 0AE

Cheviot

Monday 27 November (2:00pm-7:00pm) at Abbey Row Community Centre, Kelso TD5 7BJ

Eildon

Wednesday 29 November (2:00pm-7:00pm) in the Discovery Room, Great Tapestry of Scotland, Galashiels TD1 1SD

Berwickshire

Monday 11 December (2:00pm-7:00pm) at Southfield Community Centre, Duns TD11 3EL

If you have accessibility requirements, please email public.involvement@borders.scot.nhs.uk

- **Tour O' Borders** - Scottish Borders Council is looking for the views of the community regarding the 2023 Tour O' The Borders event which took place on Sunday, 3 September 2023 on closed roads. The online survey can be accessed at - www.scotborders.gov.uk/ToTBSurvey Closing date, Sat, 9 December 2023

15.11 Items for information

- Tweeddale Citizen for the Year – see agenda for link and info.
- Vacancy on the Tweeddale Assessment Panel – see agenda for link.

16.11 Forthcoming Events

- **Sunday 17th December**, Christmas Afternoon Tea, 2:30pm the Wee Crook. RSVP to tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com
- Info about other events can be found at www.tweedsmuir.scot/events/

17.11 Any other Business

- Warm spaces – **LM** to respond to SBC survey.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 7th December 2023

**Please forward any agenda items to
tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com**

Below is the zoom link for the meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88590891104>
 Meeting ID: 885 9089 1104
 One tap mobile
 +441314601196,,88590891104# United Kingdom
 +442030512874,,88590891104# United Kingdom

www.tweedsmuircommunitycouncil.org.uk Contact: Tweedsmuirsecretary@outlook.com

Vice Chair: Lesley Mason, Treasurer: Mark Cullen Secretary: Debbie Cullen

Other Councillors: Frances Leckie, Carolynn Hoy

Resilient Communities Co-ordinator Contact: resilienttweedsmuir@gmail.com