

## Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network

### Meeting of SBCCN Core Group

Held SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells on 1 March 2012 at 7.00pm

- 1 **Attendance:** Logan Inglis (LI, Chair), Clare Malster (CM), Lorraine Wilson (LW), Graeme Donald (GD), John Elliot (JE), Diana Findlay (DF), John Swanson (JS), Trevor Jackson (TJ), Helen Crowe (HC), Rhona Goldie (RG)
- 2 **Apologies:** Sally Walker (SW), Robin Thomson (RT, Treasurer), Rob Brydon (RB), Kate Tulloch (KT), Fiona Scott (FS), Raymond du Bois (RduB) received after the meeting
- 3 **Approval of Minutes from 17 November 2011** In Para 7.3 conformed should read confirmed, with that amendment the minutes were accepted as correct record. Proposed JE, seconded LW.

CM informed the group that, due to personal issues, Sally Walker had resigned from her local community council and SBCCN. This leaves Tweeddale with only one representative.

In RduB's absence the group was unsure whether a letter of response had been received from Cllr Davidson regarding business funding available from SBC. TJ informed the group that it is felt that the lack of take up of the funding available from SBC is due to problems obtaining match funding. This subject was raised by Richard Howard (Clovenfords and District) at the budget presentation.

#### 4 **Chairman's report on meetings attended**

- 4.1 LI attended BCCF meeting featuring presentations on wind farms from Ian Aikman and Mark Rowley and No Cold Calling Zones, from PC Justin Hulford.
- 4.2 LI hadn't attended the NHS's Public Governance Committee (PGC) meeting but had received information about the appeal to raise funds for the Margaret Kerr Unit. There is currently no dedicated palliative care unit in the Borders. LI stated the need for the Network to be more involved with the NHS and proposed that the Chair of the PGC be invited to speak at the annual seminar.
- 4.3 LI has attended two meeting of the Scottish Government's short life working group looking at the role of Community Councils and Community Council Liaison Officers. The group has 12 members including Community Councillors and Community Council Liaison Officers; the group is chaired by Alasdair McKinlay, Team Leader, Community Empowerment Unit (Scottish Government).

#### 5 **Treasurer's report**

- 5.1 In RTs absence LI reported that the current balance is £1,155.10.

#### 6 **'Local view' reporting and feedback**

- 6.1 CM reported that officers were aware of the problem and seeking to rectify it as soon as possible, an update from SBC's web team to be sought. **Action 18-1/3**  
**CM**

## **7 Area Committee consultation, website**

- 7.1 The recommendations from the working group were presented to the meeting of the full Council on 23 February 2012. It was agreed that the report, and recommendation to reinstate Area Committees in the areas where they have been disbanded, be presented to the new Council for decision after the election. A discussion followed regarding the two operating Area Committees and how they operate.
- 7.2 It was agreed that the new Area Committee structure should be on the annual seminar agenda.
- 7.3 There was a brief discussion about the new website. Some like it others don't find as easy to navigate as the old system. It was agreed that the planning information is much better structured and easier to use, this may be in part to the time that Brian Frater and his team have spent advising community councils on its use.
- 7.4 Not all members of the group understand the best way in which to monitor planning applications in their area. John Swanson agreed to prepare a crib sheet to assist in this. **Action 19-1/3 JS**
- 7.5 HC stated that members of St Abbs Community Council had found the 'job descriptions' for community councils, provided by CM, useful. CM agreed to brand them with the SBCCN logo and circulate to all community councils.

## **8 SES Plan – Colin McGrath, Kelso CC**

CMcG was not in attendance so was unable to speak to this item. Some of the group felt that the SESPlan is biased towards Edinburgh/Mid Lothian. It is important that all community councils submit comments to ensure that those working on the Plan listen.

## **9 Community Council Seminar - proposals**

- 9.1 It had been agreed earlier in the meeting to invite the Chair of the NHS Public Governance Committee and have an update on Area Committees. It was agreed that a discussion on the Main Issues Report, the Local Plan and the SESPlan and how they relate to each other would be useful. This discussion could be led by JS and GD who are well versed on the plans which would help make it more useful to community councillors.
- 9.2 It was agreed to invite Tracey Logan to speak at the annual seminar about business transformation, the Council Leader could add the political dimension.
- 9.3 Susan Robb and the Children's Champion could speak on the work to empower young people, how young people are involved in the decision making process and the work of the Youth Commission on Bullying. Members of the Youth Parliament should also be invited. **Action 20-1/3 CM**

## **10 Any Other Business**

- 10.1 LI asked about changing the number of seat allotted to each village in his community council area. CM responded that the Community Council Scheme would need to be amended. The Scheme is scheduled to be reviewed during 2012/2013.

10.2 JS reported that steps are being taken to establish a Community Development Trust in Peebles.

**11 Date of 2012 meetings**

14 June  
23 August  
22 November  
All at 7pm at SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells

29 September – Annual Seminar

LI thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.