

Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network

Meeting of SBCCN Core Group

Held SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells on 14th June 2012 at 7.00pm

1 **Attendance:** Logan Inglis (LI, Chair), Robin Thomson (RT, Treasurer), Graeme Donald (GD), John Elliot (JE), Diana Findlay (DF), Raymond du Bois (RduB) Rhona Goldie (RG), Jackie Coucnton (JC), George Brown (GB), Colin McGrath (CMcG)

2 **Apologies:** Clare Malster (CM), Lorraine Wilson (LW), Rob Brydon (RB), Helen Crowe (HC), Martin Brims (MB), Debbie Bolton (DB), June McGregor (JMcG) John Swanson (JS), Trevor Jackson (TJ), Kate Tulloch (KT), Fiona Scott (FS)

3 **Approval of Minutes from 1st March 2012**

CMcG asked that his apology be added to the minutes. Minutes accepted with this change.

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

4.1 LI has attended the Scottish Government community council working group meetings of 10th April and 22nd May this year - minutes circulated to SBCCN attendees. The working group, established to further the government's aim to promote and strengthen the role of CCs, has a mixed membership of community councillors and local authority CC Liaison Officers. LI reported that organisation and level of activity of community councils appears to differ widely across different regions. Recommendations from the group are expected to be published in September this year.

4.2 LI had not been able to attend all meetings of the 3rd Sector Forum, previously Voluntary Sector Forum, due to meetings being held during the working day. JE attends these meetings on behalf of another organisation and agreed that he will be able to update SBCCN on proceedings.

4.3 LI was also unable to attend a meeting of the Selkirk Action Plan workshop, but has been forwarded the Selkirk Community Action Plan consultation. LI to contact the group for an electronic copy so as make available to a wider audience.

5 **Treasurer's report**

5.1 RT reported the balance at year end, 31/3/2012, of £1,111.90 The annual accounts have been prepared and are expected to be audited before the AGM.

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

6.1 In absence of CM, LI reported she is waiting for a response from Rob Dickson, Director of Infrastructure & Environment.

7 **Clare Malster update**

7.1 LI presented CM's update on SBC activity. No decision has been reached on Area Committees and LI commented that the debate on how these will be replaced appears to have gone almost full circle.

- 7.2 LI noted that his CC receives a monthly newsletter from the SB Wardens. Community councils who do not receive a monthly newsletter or report should ask for one.
- 7.3 A number of Borders Community Councils will hold elections over the next few months. LI cautioned all CCs to ensure that correct election procedures are followed, including procedure for co-option of members. CM can provide advice and guidance.

8 SES Plan – Main Issues Report (MIR)

- 8.1 CMcG proposed that SBCCN should act to give a collective view on the SESplan. GD said that the issue is whether SBCCN acts as a network or as a pressure group. If the latter, we would need to prepare papers for circulation to all CCs and collate the responses. He suggested approaching Cllr Watson to address the seminar on SESplan.
LI mentioned Time is very short for the ‘Main Issues Report’ MIR, as public consultation closes on 26/6/2012.

9 Community Council Seminar - proposals

- 9.1 Council Leader David Parker is unable to attend but Convenor Graham Garvie will give a presentation. The Chair of NHS Borders, John Raine is expected, SBC Chief Executive Tracey Logan hopes to attend. Susan Robb and Dorothy Aymes have both confirmed.
- 9.2 Meeting stressed the need for good timekeeping by the Chair. As it was felt that the timeline was tight for 30 minute presentations, after ten minutes the presenter should be given a ‘5 minutes’ warning to allow for a few minutes Q&As and the handover to the next session.
- 9.3 It was agreed to make the AGM the last session before the Open Forum – the Dorothy Aymes session on Planning will be brought forward to 12:15. There is still scope for fine tuning but meeting generally happy with proposed program.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 LI noted that the Zurich insurance schedule appears to exclude Libel & Slander – he seeks confirmation, as this is a major reason for having insurance cover.
- 10.2 Seminar catering was discussed. This may be put out to tender as it is felt that the SBC catering had been expensive and not as good as previous outside providers.
- 10.3 DF invited all interested community councillors to the BCCF roadshow at St Abbs, 11am to 4pm on Wednesday 8th August.
- 10.4 RduB outlined the Newtown in Bloom project, which had already tackled eyesores, provided planters and put up hanging baskets at local businesses. The level of support had been encouraging.

11 Dates of meetings in 2012

20 th August	7pm at SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells
22 November	“ “ “ “

29 September – Annual Seminar

LI thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.