

Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network

Meeting of SBCCN Core Group

Held SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells on 17 November 2011 at 7.00pm

- 1 **Attendance:** Logan Inglis (LI, Chair), Robin Thomson (RT, Treasurer), Clare Malster (CM), Lorraine Wilson (LW), Graeme Donald (GD), John Elliot (JE), Diana Findlay (DF), Rob Brydon (RB), Andy Maybury, (AM)
- 2 **Apologies:** John Swanson (JS), Raymond du Bois (RduB), Trevor Jackson (TJ), Sally Walker (SW)
- 3 **Approval of Minutes from 10 August** Minutes accepted. Proposed JE, seconded LW.
- 4 **Chairman's report on meetings attended**
 - 4.1 LI stood in for DF as Chair at the meeting of Berwickshire Community Councils Forum that took place on 3 November 2011. The main item was a presentation on the Resilient Communities Plans that were launched at the SBCCN seminar on 1 October.
 - 4.2 LI attended a special meeting of the Third Sector Forum where the sole item of business was a presentation about the Strategic Assessment. This document forms an informative assessment of the current situation in the Borders but a version with a community slant would be of more relevance to community councils.
 - 4.3 LI has received an invitation from the Scottish Government to join a short life working group looking at and exploring ways to build the capacity and strengthen the role of community councils across Scotland. **Action 17-11/1 LI**
 - 4.4 An invitation only meeting will take place on 24 November to discuss the scope of the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill being developed by the Scottish Government along with the best methods of engaging communities in the process. . **Action 17-11/2 LI**
- 5 **Treasurer's report**
 - 5.1 The annual support grant has been received resulting in a balance of £2,299 in October 2011, outstanding cheques value £1,136.
- 6 **'Local view' reporting and feedback**
 - 6.1 LI has had no feedback following his discussion with Rob Dickson, Director of Environment and Infrastructure at the August meeting of BCCF. CM to follow up. **Action 17-11/3 CM**
- 7 **Area Committee consultation, website and wind farm seminar**
 - 7.1 Area Committee Consultation - CM reported that the Working Group will

meet shortly to discuss the proposal that will be submitted to Scottish Borders Council following the consultation that took place earlier in the year.

- 7.2 Website – CM reported that the new website is live and has provided the opportunity to present more detailed information in a user friendly way. RT queried whether community councils will be able to upload their own information, CM to look into this. **Action 17-11/4 CM**
- 7.3 Wind Farm Seminar – CM reported a lot of interest in the event and conformed that Ian Aikman (SBC), Brian Emmerson (SBC), SCF representatives and a wind farm developer representative will give presentations.

8 Newsletter

CM had no update on the SBCCN newsletter.

9 Community Council Seminar - feedback

- 9.1 A lot of positive feedback had been received from delegates, speakers and stall holders. It was felt that a longer morning session with the seminar finishing with lunch worked better than the format of previous annual seminars when a lot of delegates left at lunchtime.

9.10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 JE reported that the Zero Waste Scotland event that had taken place in Edinburgh recently was very informative. The event will be repeated in Hawick on 26 November.
- 10.2 No response has been received from Cllr Davidson to the Network's letter regarding the business loan scheme that operates in east Lothian.

11 Date of 2012 meetings

1 March
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.