

## Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network

### Meeting of SBCCN Core Group

Held SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013 at 7.00pm

**Attendance:** Logan Inglis (LI, Chair), Robin Thomson (RT, Treasurer), Diana Findlay (DF), Raymond du Bois (RduB), John Marjoribanks (JM), Rick Kenney (RK), Martin Tolhurst (MT), Trevor Jackson (TJ), Mark Rowley (MR), Pauline Hood (PH), Alasdair Stewart (AS), Clare Malster (CM), Trevor Jones (TJ), Louise Cox (LC, Guest speaker)

1 **Welcome** LI welcomed delegates, introductions around the table.

2 **Apologies:**

Colin McGrath (CMcG), Rob Brydon (RB), Marion Short (MS), Helen Crowe (HC), June McGregor (JMcG)

3 **Low Carbon Economic Strategy Consultation – Louise Cox, SBC**

LC presented the background to and status of the low carbon strategy, which has identified measures for Local Authority and other parties including businesses, organisations and individuals. Areas include insulation, energy saving, transport & infrastructure, education & training and renewable energy sources. Delegates discussed aspects of particular significance to the Scottish Borders which has a low population spread over a large rural area and a predominantly older housing stock. Policy should look at ways of promoting local produce to avoid unnecessary food miles. SBC must lead the way with innovative transport solutions for HQ staff.

4 **Election of Office bearers** Left outstanding from AGM, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2012

Chair - Trevor Jones was nominated, seconded and duly elected

Vice-Chair - LI was nominated, seconded and duly elected

Secretary - RduB was nominated, seconded and duly elected

Treasurer - RT already elected at AGM

LI agreed to chair the rest of the meeting.

5 **Approval of Minutes from 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012** June McGregor's apology for that meeting was noted. Minutes accepted.

6 **Matters arising**

CM to investigate the additional cost to SBC of providing Libel and Slander insurance. She had been unable to obtain any costs but it was agreed that, as this cover was not deemed necessary, the action was no longer required.

7 **Chairman's report**

7.1 LI reported on his meeting with NHS Borders, which included a tour of the excellent new palliative care facility at BGH.

7.2 LI had also attended the Berwickshire Area Forum in Duns. The well-attended meeting had similar powers to the previous Area Committee, including approvals under the Small Grants and SB Local schemes. The next meeting will

include windfarms - planning guidance and Community benefits.

SBCCN noted interest in how these will develop and urged all CCs to try and attend their local Area Forum.

## **8 Treasurer's report**

8.1 SBCCN present balance of £2,185.56 but with six cheques outstanding in total amount of £201.75 giving balance available £1983.81

8.2 RT asked attendees to submit travel expense claims forms.

8.3 RT requested further copies of the Community Councils in the Scottish Borders leaflet to be printed at SBCCN's cost. CM agreed to look into this. **Action CM**

## **9 Constitution, including role of SBCCN**

With CMcG not present, his action of changes to the Objectives, to clarify the role of SBCCN, remains ongoing.

## **10 Review of SBC's Community Councils scheme**

10.1 CM told meeting that the review working group will consider all aspects of the scheme and is keen to attract comments on areas which do not need to change as well as problems. Should SBC adopt the national model constitution? The review is looking at discrepancies in boundaries and numbers of Community Cllrs.

10.2 Comments and suggestions may be fed to the working group via community council representatives, local Cllrs or directly to CM. The group aims to present recommendations by September this year.

10.3 The meeting discussed whether the remit of CCs needs to be clarified, whether the six-month delay following an unsuccessful CC election should be scrapped, and how better training for Community Cllrs can be ensured. CM agreed to have a look at the SBCCN Handbook. **Action CM**

## **11 Community Resilience Plans**

11.1 CM reported that a number of CCs would like to know how others have fared with Community Resilience plans, the issues that had cropped up and how these had been solved. It has been suggested that this be supported via an on-line forum for resilience plans together with queries and comments. SBCCN could support this suggestion by, for example, provision of honorarium to a student prepared to set this up.

11.2 CM is not sure of how many Community Resilience plans have been completed but thinks about 20 are in progress. Around 12 CCs in the Scottish Borders have so far shown no interest in the plans. Favourable feedback included the opportunity to involve schools as well as Community Councils.

**12 Any Other Business** None.

**13 Date of next meeting** Thursday, 9/5/2013, SBC HQ, 7pm

LI thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.