

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, Wednesday 6th February 2018.

Present: F. Connelly, S.Sharp, G. Whittaker, J. Williams, H. Brinkworth, Cllr. Anderson, 6 members of the public.

Apologies: S.Aitchison

1. The Secretary apologised that the Minutes of the previous meeting had not been prepared due to misplacing the contemporaneous notes. Minutes will be prepared when these are found.
2. Police report. Attached, there were no incidents of note.
3. Planning applications.

19/00069/FUL Extension to house to form garage, Braehill Nettlingflat EH38 5YF. There was short discussion of this application, but the Council had no objection and no significant comments to make.

18/01769/FUL Extension to Macfie Hall and siting of modular building. Macfie Hall Heriot Scottish Borders EH38 5YE. The CC fully supported this application on the basis of significant benefit to the community. GW to write supporting submission.

18/01777/FUL Erection of two houses, Garden Ground Of 7 Heriot House Heriot Scottish Borders. There was significant discussion of this application. Although the application was for two houses, it is understood that a modification was proposed to include a third house. The CC is generally supportive of relatively small scale organic growth, but had specific concerns about the details of this application, including the following:

- It encroaches on to council land
- The drain potentially presents a safety hazard
- While recognising that large windows exist in a neighbouring property, they are not in keeping with the existing houses at Heriot House. They represent poor energy efficiency and lead to light pollution from spillage out of the property (and directly into the A7 and B709)
- Winter parking remains an issue. The steep access to the properties would lead, in frosty weather or snowfall, to residents parking on an already crowded B709 and risk reducing access for the school bus and the snow plough. Accessible winter parking was regarded as essential within the application.

HB to prepare a summary of the objections to be circulated to councillors for agreement, JW to submit.

- **19/00150/PPP Erection of commercial shooting bothy. Land North Of The Lodge Dewar Heriot Scottish Borders.** This application had only just been submitted and no further information was available at the meeting. The CC would examine the application and discuss whether a response is appropriate.

4. Broadband provision:

- a. It remains unclear what is happening with Commercial (primarily BT-based) FTTP broadband in Heriot. No official information has been received by the CC, but it has been reported that BT has run out of money and is reapplying for further funding from Holyrood.
- b. JW reported that HCB was operating normally. Expansion into Moorfoot is underway, the company had been approached for connections by Langshaw (north of Galashiels), and closer integration is planned with Stobo and the Pentlands.

5. Planning for Heriot – MIR consultation.

SBC's next Local Development Plan (LDP) for the decade starting 2025 is currently at the consultation stage prior to preparation. In the light of high level plans for the development around Edinburgh, it is clear that planning pressure will eventually be applied to Heriot. For the last decade at least, Heriot CC has informally expressed a preference for gradual 'organic' development in the area – i.e. gradual, small-scale, additions to the housing stock, as opposed to the sudden imposition of a single large-scale estate. Locality Area Plans encourage CCs to strongly influence plans by local authorities and in this vein, the CC had met with a planning professional to discuss writing up a development plan for the village to be submitted to SBC's Main Issues Report (MIR). In order to place a marker in the MIR, Heriot CC had prepared a first draft of a development plan. This affords us time to refine our submission, to formally consult with planning professionals, and to consult with the community about how the development plan will evolve before the final LDP is prepared. This is an opportunity for the community to take control of the future of the village. The CC document will be made available on the website and publicised via the Facebook page.

6. Windfarms

- a. Wull Muir Windfarm exhibition. It was reported that this would take place on Feb 8th, and had already been publicised via the CC Facebook page. It was noted in the course of the discussion that although the developers claim to have reduced the height of the proposed turbines, they have on, two previous occasions, increased the height of turbines in their developments via a Section 42 application after gaining planning permission for the smaller turbines. No discussion on any other details took place as no planning application has yet been submitted.
- b. There had been no news of the Gilston appeal [update: planning permission has been granted since the meeting]
- c. Greystone Knowe: Coriolis reported that scoping for this windfarm (currently proposed as 12 x 150m turbines) will take place in early summer.

7. Community funds

- a. Bus shelters: The Crookston shelter is now under construction. GW to ask Borders Buses whether auto-notification of bus arrival would be possible at several Heriot stops.
- b. There was no other news about community funds.
- c. Babies and Toddlers small grants application: A funding application had been received for £250 for toys for the children, and was approved by the CC.

8. AOB.

- a. Heriot cemetery: the CC is currently looking at options for reinstating the gravestones that SBC has reported have been laid flat/ made safe for safety reasons. **SS to follow up.**
- b. Heriot underpass maintenance: Cllr Aitchison is following this up
- c. Falahill water. Transport Scotland expect to close out the water design issues within 4-6 weeks, with completion of the installation of mains water by the end of April. **AA to follow up**
- d. A7 Action Group was to meet next in Hawick. There were no volunteers willing to attend.
- e. Following consultation with the community, Cllr. Scott had raised the issue of the B709 between Garvald Lodge and Innerleithen, but had been met with a standard comment about financing and priorities.
- f. In the light of the planning application at Heriot House, the speed limit from Sandyknowe to Heriot Way was briefly discussed and it was agreed that this should be limited to 30mph (currently denoted at national speed limit – 60mph). **AA to follow up with SBC Roads**
- g. GW reported that he had met, after being asked by Cllr Aitchison, with a tourism specialist who was investigating the integration of walking routes between Galashiels and Gorebridge. The project was focused on the A68 side, but there was potential for Heriot to be included in future studies.
- h. Light pollution at Heriot Primary School: This remains an unresolved issue. The lighting is regarded as intrusive and unnecessary, as well as being a waste of energy and money. **AA to follow up**
- i. Chris Nicol reported that Carcant was to be featured on a Channel 5 programme, Secret Scotland, to be aired in the near future.

The meeting finished at 20:39

Provisional dates of meetings in 2019:

(all at 7:00pm in the Macfie Hall)

April 3rd

June 19th

August 14th

October 9th

December 4th