

Heriot Community Council

Wednesday February 3rd, 2021

Online Zoom 6pm

Minutes

Present: John Williams, chair. Frank Connelly, Sue Sharp, Helen Brinkworth,

Cllrs: Harry Scott (part), Andy Anderson (part), Sandy Aitchison

Apologies: Gavin Whittaker

Members of the public: Peter and Lily Caunt, David and Harriet Bowes-Lyon,

1. Police Reports/Update from SBC Councillors:

Cllr Scott referred to his recent meeting of the Ward Councillors and Police Scotland. He raised HCC observation that the Road Traffic Accident stats are understated and fail to reflect the reality of the situation. Apparently, there is a long lag between data being uploaded and stats being produced. Police Scotland collect the stats not SBC.

In relation to Police Scotland, Helen raised the point that HCC would like a 20 mph speed limit near the school, especially along the strait between HPS and the Church.

Action: Helen to raise this, again, with Philippa Gilhooly, Team Leader, Traffic and Road Safety, SBC. Cllr Aitchison to do the same. Cllr Aitchison will also raise the need for warning signs on the A7 near the telephone exchange corner. These are apparently on order.

Cllr Aitchison is still speaking to Midlothian Council re Soutra and mentioned that speed cameras have been in action in Stow.

2. Minutes of December Meeting were agreed.

Action: Frank to nudge Colin Hood.

3. Eildon Area Meeting Report

- John attended January meeting – the only HCC to speak. He is concerned that the meetings do not result in action. He raised a few points that require a proper response.

Action: Cllr Aitchison to feed this back to chair Gordon Edgar.

- Underpass: Unsatisfactory winter maintenance. SBC has finally accepted that maintenance/gritting etc. is their responsibility.
Action: Cllr Aitchison has tried to discuss this with John Curry (Service Director of Assets and Infrastructure at SBC) but no response yet. A nudge is needed.
John to write to John Curry stressing that we expect SBC to honour their commitments and reminding SBC that the build spec was wrong.
- There was a lengthy presentation by Jenny Craig which was not informative. Updates from partners Home Energy Scotland was more interesting and could usefully be mentioned on HCC website. Update from SBC Community Assistance Hub was also valuable – it has helped many people during Covid.
Useful links are promised by Kenny Harrow.

- Review of Area Partnerships – these are a strange beast – their role/responsibility does not seem to be properly confirmed. HCC comments did get through.
- X95 Bus – there is a circular argument about responsibility for the deterioration in service between SG and SBC. John has been in touch with Midlothian CCs who are also impacted. We have been getting nowhere in applying pressure to Christine Graham MSP and have agreed to wait until politicians are in pre-election mode and push then.

4. **Wind Farm Scoping Consultations & Planning Applications**

- Scawd Law - Virtual exhibitions & consultation took place. Details were sketchy. SBC is seeking more detail. Expected to go to Planning in March. Little impact on HCC.
- Greystone Knowe – no update. Application expected mid-2021.
- Ditcher Law, Oxton - Energy Consents Unit rather than SBC planning system. Application not expected until 2022. At some point, the ECU will respond to the developer's scoping report.

5. **Consultation process for new SBC Local Development Plan**

Not much to report. In January SBC approved the **Proposed** Local Development Plan (LDP) which sets out land use proposals and planning policies which are intended to guide development and inform planning decisions within the Scottish Borders over the next ten years. Heriot Station is shown as having a development boundary but the LDP does not provide any housing allocations or areas for longer term development in Heriot Station.

However, Cllr Aitchison warned that Heriot should be aware that developers could possibly start looking at Heriot, given that Stow and Galashiels housing stock is effectively at carrying capacity.

6. **Community Funds**

- Bus Shelters - there has been a request for a bus shelter from Hangingshaw and Stagebank residents who feel they have been left out. Safe access along the road is an issue. Gavin was making some enquiries – carry forward to next meeting.
- Churchyard headstone. Carry forward.

7. **AOB**

- SBC Budget consultation – HCC considered this rather lightweight. Cllr Aitchison to pass on our comments. He has asked to see the public comments.
- School lights: Harriet Bowes-Lyon pointed out that lights are left on for extended periods, even during the day. Waste of electricity is an environmental concern as is the light pollution.
- Draft community questionnaire - Helen to circulate for comment.
- Community Council support grant, £540 – Treasurer reports HCC has received this year.
- Windfarm panel – David Bowes-Lyon points out that there are funds available and few applications. HCC to promote on website/Facebook page. Some discussion as to

whether eligibility rules extend to direct disbursement to Heriot residents e.g. for energy saving cash, rather than applications from groups.