



Galashiels Community Council
Langlee Community Centre
Wednesday Sept 6th 2017
6.30pm
Minutes

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Tom Ingoldsby Rick Kenney Claire Howden, Helen Calder Bill White, Mark Kettrick Marion Romeril

In Attendance

Cllr Scott. Cllr Aitchison

Kevin Janiak, Ross Sharpe- Dent, Martin Joyce, Eileen Jessamine

11 Members of public

1. Apologies

Tony Brown, Kevin Ryalls, Police Scotland, Pauline Ward Cllr Euan Jardine Cllr Andy Anderson Drew Tulley Celeste Di Vito. Liz Jardine .Eileen Frame

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 5th July was approved by Rick Kenney and Seconded by Claire Howden

3. Matters Arising

Judith introduced Mark Kettrick who has filled our last vacant seat on the Community Council. Mark has been on the Community Council before but his studies took him away from the area and now he is back and was eager to get back on the Community Council.

4. Police Report and Questions

5. Speakers Eileen Jessamine – Head of New Langlee Primary School

Now week 4 and still having a few hiccups with the new school and finding our way around but on visits to the school parents have spoken highly of how spaces have been utilised, however staff are still getting used o things and looking at the development of the playground.

Judith asked if it was possible if the CC could get a look around the school at some point.

A member of the public mentioned the issue of the parking at the school site and on the yellow lines, SBC Martin Joyce did apologise for this and said that this was being taken into consideration and it will be rectified in the near future,

6. Galashiels Academy Update n/a

7. Sub Group Update

Development Plan

Ongoing

Planning and Licensing Applications

No licensing applications.

Rick attended Stow CC re the local development plan.

There is a drop in session in the Foyer of Tesco 2pm -5pm 27th September

Transport Interchange – Workshop 6pm-8pm on 27th September

Recent Planning Application to Consider – Galashiels Community Council – For 6th September 2017 meeting.

| DETAILS | COMMENTS TO SBC BY |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Applicant: Scottish Borders Council</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/01149/FUL Proposal: Formation of waste transfer station and associated works.</p> <p>Location: Land South Of Easter Langlee Recycling Centre, Galashiels.</p> | <p>21 September 2017</p> <p>This application has previously been discussed by the CC when the first planning application was submitted and our response at that time is sent along with this report for your information. This new planning application is very similar to the first one with the only difference I can see being the Transport Statement prepared by Goodson Associates which, in summary, says that there will only be an additional 3 vehicle trips per day (6 journeys) and that there are no transport related issues preventing the award of planning consent.</p> <p>Despite measures which are mentioned in the application to improve the C77 road, there seems very little that can be done (especially in relation to the pinch point between the 2 cottages) to really make things better, in my view.</p> <p>SBC officers will be attending the September GCC meeting so there will be an opportunity for questions to be put on the night and after which we can agree on the observations we wish to send in response to this planning application.</p> |
| <p>2. Applicant: Smith & McMath Ltd</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/01096/FUL Proposal: Erection of 3 no flats.</p> | <p>8 September 2017</p> <p>This application is to build 3 flats on this site which has lain derelict for some years now since lock up garages were demolished. Previous planning applications have been submitted in the past and agreed by SBC, but nothing has yet come to fruition so it is recommended that we have no adverse</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| Location: Yard And Stores East Of Lintburn Place Galashiels. | comments to make. It will improve an unsightly area and add to the required availability of housing in the town. |
|--|---|

Response FROM GALASHIELS COMMUNITY COUNCIL February 2017 but this application was refused at this point.

Planning Application Ref: 16/01417/FUL**Applicant:** SBC

Proposal: Formation of waste transfer station and associated works.

Location: Land south of Easter Langlee Recycling Centre, Galashiels

Gala CC discussed the above planning application at its meeting on 1st February. The Community Council submits the following observations:

- That the site and associated works must be compliant with all SEPA requirements in order that any necessary capping etc. is carried out to stop leakages from the site. Similarly, all other requirements mentioned in the Drainage Strategy Plan & Flood Statement produced by Gordon Associates.
- The Community Council expressed concerns about the speed of traffic on the Lauder Road and asks that a 30MPH speed limit be considered.
- Due to the extra traffic going up and down from the Lauder Road onto the B6374 (Melrose Road) the Community Council feels that the provision of a roundabout in this location should be revisited.

Submitted by Rick Kenney 6th Feb 2017

Reps from SBC –Ross Sharpe –Dent and Martin Joyce were in attendance to answer questions about the new application for the Waste Transfer Station. Cllr Aitchison who is now on the planning committee made it clear that he would not be commenting for or against this issue.

Bill White was appalled to learn that this application has again been re-submitted when it was refused due to the road being unsuitable for the amount of vehicles that would be using it. He couldn't understand why another area wasn't looked in to.

Comment made: - A roundabout was spoken about way back in February; this has still not been addressed. Widening of the road is on the agenda to cope with the 50% increase in larger vehicles that will be on that road.

Tom Ingoldsby voiced that it's not the best road as it is.

Member of the Public commented with photographic and written evidence of Insurance Claims that the main concern as a very local resident to this road is the absolute safety of the public. SBC claimed that there have never been accidents but this could be proved wrong. Residents of Coopersknowe Estate are having their own road safety survey done which is costing them money and they will be representing themselves at the planning committee meeting.

Lorries have already started using the road at 5.30am.

Martin Joyce SBC- Lowood Bridge currently has a 26 Tonne weight limit so further investigations will be on going about how the work can be carried out and most likely the work will be undertaken during the night ,

Certain improvements will fall under the jurisdiction of Persimmon Homes like the lighting and the roundabout.

Any concerns should be submitted to the SBC Planning Portal.

Due to the Scottish Government SBC have a few significant requirements to fulfil as the deadline to stop landfill is 2021 and by the end of 2018 the current landfill site will be exhausted. If the waste station is not in place then another landfill contract will need to be taken out from 2018 to 2021

QA- Why have you not gone for another option by means of using the A68 – surely someone would sell a field and this would avoid all of these issues. SBC – We are under pressure to save money and these decisions will be made by the planning committee and not by the actual planning team.

Chair Judith Cleghorn asked if the Waste Transfer Station does not get passed again do you have an alternative plan B. SBC – No – but there are certain options that could be implemented.

Gala Waterways

EVENTS

Christmas event on 2nd December needs volunteers – if you are interested in helping out please let Judith or Tracey know.

GALA in BLOOM

In the Floral Gateway Competition Galashiels got a 3rd place. The Community Council would like to take this opportunity to thank SBC for all their hard work in Bank Street and Throughout Gala and the Volunteers who look after the areas in and around the Old Gala House .

8. Chairs Report

Spring Clean to involve the whole of the Town has been changed to early spring when the nights are lighter and it's a bit warmer.

Resilient Communities previously looked after by Dougie Johnson is now being taken over by Tom Ingoldsby and assisted by Mark Kettrick.

Academy holding an auction night 27th October – tables of 10 £50

LRA – There have been some issues out at Melrose Gait with some of the Eildon Residents who are not happy that they cannot have fences to keep children and dogs off their gardens. Cllr Scott looking in to this. No reason why they shouldn't be given a chance to have fences. Tracey added that the Meigle View/Riddle Dumble Development went through the same issue 11 years ago as Eildon are very much for the Open Plan type of Development. Nuisance from Children and Dog fouling was an issue back then and after some of the tenants put their own fences up Eildon found funds to help those who could not afford them.

9. Treasurers Report

1. The current balance in the account is £2394.52. This includes £251.82 remaining of the money donated by Dalgetty's towards planting by Gala in Bloom.
2. Scottish Borders Council's grant of £1780.00 was banked on 30 August.
3. I am proposing that the Community Council applies to the Bank of Scotland for access to internet banking on the account. The main benefit will be that up to date financial information will always be available and we will not have to wait for monthly statements. Many companies and other organisations, however, are now accepting BACS payments of invoices and this will also be available. As at present, there will be the protection of two authorisations being required for a payment to be made; this is simply achieved electronically. The account will be protected by three checks to log in to it. All agreed

10. Secretary's Report

Tracey read out an email that she had received from Ewan Jackson the CEO of Live Borders about an ongoing issue previously spoken about at a CC Meeting

At the Community Council Meeting on 10 May I undertook to progress an audit report into disability access provision across the region wide swimming pool estate managed by Live Borders. I am pleased to advise that the draft report has now been completed. The report considers both short and long term enhancements that could be made to facilitate fully inclusive pool access and makes a number of recommendations.

It is my intention to discuss this report with the author, his line manager and subsequently the Scottish Borders Sports Disability Group in the near future. We will then consider how best to work with you and other partners to fine-tune and resource the final recommendations.

As this action was a direct consequence of my discussions at the Galashiels and Langlee Community Council I considered that the Chair if not the committee would be interested in progress made. I will be happy to provide further updates in future.

Judith announced that from the next meeting there would be no section for Councillors Reports. The reports will be sent in prior to the meeting and Tracey will send them out to all recipients of the Minutes a few days before the meeting with the Agenda so that everyone has the chance to read the Cllrs reports and hopefully just questions will be asked of the Cllrs and they will update only on anything that may have cropped up after reports were sent out. At a meeting with the Judith the 4 SBC Councillors were more than happy with this arrangement.

11. SBC Councillors Update

Cllr Sandy Aitchison –Higher at the Academy have improved and gone up immensely. Recently there have been less favourable incidents in Town by some of the pupils.

Cllr Scott

Hedge at Fire Station has been trimmed. QA: Fire station sign has still not been painted.

Bins and Childs Quad bike have been removed. Comment made - recently bins have reappeared and quad bike was a full size one.

Drug paraphernalia found at hen trap stairs – sorted

Seminar attended –Enterprise Board-looking at how the area can be improved as in the Highlands and Islands

Tapestry in Gala – previously had doubts regarding this but in Alloa recently there were 32 thousand visitors, Tracey questioned if it was a paid entry to see the tapestry? Cllr Scott replied that it had been free as far as he was aware

13. Open Session Members of Public

Comment made that the drain at the bottom of Windyknowe Road has still not been sorted and the Bus is still being parked in Windyknowe Road that Cllrs were going to look into months ago. It's parked just along from the side entrance to Hazeldean.

14. AOB.

Still no signs in place at the entrances to the town.

Community Trails – Bill White announced that Pete Laing had been chosen as the Tender to put together the initial design of the trails and the new pathway which will run from Langlee to Stow.

Bill White is also leading the way for the poppies event in Galashiels next year to commemorate the end of WW1. A productive initial meeting with all the main people who will be involved was held last week and another one will be held on 11th October.

Judith mentioned whether it would be worthwhile getting a bus organised and a trip to Passchendaele run for those who have never been and would like to see the World War sites there.

Dog Fouling – John Gray spoke about this and said that at Netherdale it's going from bad to worse, the Referee stopped play at one point during one game because of the filth the players had to deal with. John speaking up for the Rugby Club told the Community Council that the responses from SBC are always the same and unfortunately not acceptable anymore. John would like a meeting with the legal team at SBC if it could be arranged.

Saturday at 1pm Langlee Choir will be singing outside the flat of Tony Brown. He sings in the Choir and has been out of action due to illness since May 2016 so this will be a nice surprise for him.

Date of Next Meeting 11th October 2017 Langlee Community Centre

Police Report

Substance Misuse

- In August and September there were 2 positive drug warrant searches in the area with a number of negative searches also undertaken?
- Intelligence related activity continues to target those responsible for the supply of controlled drugs within the town
- Most notably a house in Hawthorn Road was searched on 31st August and a substantial amount of heroin was found. A 52-year-old male has been charged with possession with intent to supply drugs.

Reducing Violence, Disorder and Anti Social Behaviour

- Due to an increase in youth disorder over the summer, officers have been carrying out plain-clothes patrols in an attempt to identify 'Hot Spots' and reduce the impact on the community.
- We are currently pulling together a campaign in relation to parents supplying alcohol to teenagers. Hopeful this will be up and running prior to the festive period – this is in partnership with SBC and NHS Borders.
- In the last four weeks there have been 37 incidents of reported anti social behaviour in the ward area.
- Alcohol has been taken from under age youths on a number of occasions and activity to reduce the impact of underage drinking is ongoing.
- On 31/08/17 a male was seriously assaulted in Winston Place, Galashiels. Police are following positive lines of enquiry and charges are expected to be brought in the near future.
- There have also been 6 reports of minor assault within the Ward area in the last month. A number have been detected and enquiries are ongoing in relation to those, which have not.

Making our Roads Safer

- Parking in Galashiels continues to be an issue. In the coming months, local officers will periodically carry out sweeps of the town, which will result in illegally parked vehicles being ticketed.
- SBC have been approached with a view to raising the sunken bollards in Channel Street to prevent illegal use of the pedestrian area.
- Officers are continuing working to educate and take action on young drivers. 2 anti social behaviour warnings have been issued in this respect.
- 13 Road Traffic Accidents have been reported to police in the last month.

Protecting People

- Community officers continue to offer support through crime prevention surveys to vulnerable members of the community.

Other Incidents of note/relevant Community Council information.

Officers are aware that there have been numerous calls in the Glendinning/Magdala Terrace/Halliburton areas relating to antisocial and drug related activity in recent weeks.

Members of the public can be assured that work is ongoing in relation to this and are still being encouraged to report suspicious and illegal activity.

A male was remanded in custody on Monday a Selkirk Sheriff Court following an assault in that area at the weekend and further arrests are expected in the near future.