



**Galashiels Community Council
Burgh Chambers
Wednesday 14th June 2017
6.30pm
Minutes**

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Tom Ingoldsby Rick Kenney Drew Tulley Claire Howden Eileen Frame, Liz Jardine Celeste Di Vito Helen Calder

In Attendance

Clr Andy Anderson, Cllr Aitchison, Cllr Euan Jardine
Callum Hodgson – Border Telegraph
Kevin Janiak – Southern reporter
11 Members of public
Reverend Bob King – Chair TD1 Radio

1. Apologies

Tony Brown, Kevin Ryalls,, Police Scotland, Marion Romeril Pauline Ward Cllr Harry Scott

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 10th May 2017 was approved by Drew Tulley and Seconded by Tom Ingoldsby

3. Matters Arising

4. Police Report

and Questions

No Police present- Tracey read out the item on the report regarding making our Roads safer. Report will be at end of minutes.

5. Speakers - Rev Bob King – TD1 Radio

Reverend Bob King has been involved with the Radio station since 2015; it started just as an internet station in 2008. Based at Ladhope Golf Course the radio transmits to 4.5 mile radius. It transmits 24 hours a day with 10 hours of that being live.

At the moment the radio are looking at how they broadcast and what they broadcast. They are looking to get more community involvement. It would be ideal for the Community Council to record a slot about what is going on or come in to the studio and get interviewed.

Costs £6000 to £8000 for licence. Chair Judith explained that the Community Council had a very small budget but if all Members agreed £100 could be donated to the Radio.

Mr Tulley said that the Common Good Fund may oblige with the donation as may the Hayward Trust and Quality of Life funding

6. Galashiels Academy Update n/a

7. Sub Group Update

Development Plan

Ongoing

Planning Applications

DETAILS	COMMENTS TO SBC BY
1. Applicant: Westminster Job Centre Application Ref No: 17/00765/FUL Proposal: Change of Use from Class 1 (Retail) to Class 2 (Financial, Professional and Other Services) Location: Units 9 And 10 6 - 8 Douglas Bridge Galashiels	29 June 2017 This application is to relocate the Job Centre from the High St to Douglas Bridge. The shop premises have lain empty since 2014 despite marketing efforts. Other than new signage, no other alteration to the shop frontage is proposed. There is the argument that numerous clients have easier access to the Job Centre by bus/train and there may be an increase in shop trading due to the people being in the town centre. It seems to me to also get empty premises into use is positive. Mixed view comments on this
2. Applicant: J S Crawford 3 GL Application Ref Nos: 17/00750/FUL and 17/00749/FUL Proposal: Erection of dwelling house with attached double garage (change of house type to that previously approved). Location: Plots 27 & 34 Ellwyn Terrace Galashiels	26 June 2017 These two location have previously been granted planning permission for houses. This is a largely similar type so I see no reason for GCC to comment on these 2 applications. No adverse comments have been received from CC members since distribution of the 2 planning applications. All ok with this
3. Applicant: Eildon Housing Association Application Ref No: 17/00695/FUL Proposal: Residential development comprising of 34 no. flats with associated parking and retaining wall works Location: Workshop And Yard For Caravan Storage, Huddersfield Street, Galashiels	15 June 2017 This site has lain derelict for some years and is identified as a housing location in the Council's Development Plan. The provision of the 34 flats will assist in the Council trying to deliver on the houses required for the Borders. No adverse comments have been received from CC members since distribution of this planning application. All welcome this one

<p>4. Applicant: Mr Khalid Sharif</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/00814/FUL Proposal: Change of use from fitness suite (Class 11) to form 2 No retail units (Class 1) and alterations to shop front Location: Shop 82 Channel Street Galashiels</p>	<p>10 July 2017 The premises have lain empty for some time since the gym business closed. The application is to return to retail units (which it was originally) and if approved, then the location is likely to be marked for this purpose. Again, it would be beneficial to encourage shops to open in the town centre. All agreed to this</p>
<p>5. Applicant: DM Hall Chartered Surveyors</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/00821/FUL Proposal: Change of use from retail (Class 1) to professional office use (Class 2). Location: Gala Cycles 38 Island Street Galashiels</p>	<p>11 July 2017 The premises have lain vacant for several years and by reclassifying from retail to professional office use, will allow the building to be marketed to a wider potential occupiers. It would be beneficial for the town for this empty building to be brought back into use. Change of use will allow this to be occupied.</p>

Gala Waterways

Last meeting was 6th June

Will be contacting Jason Curran from Friends of Gala Policies to see if they require any help

Last work party was June 3rd and next one is 24th June

EVENTS

27th Aug will be the last steam train of a month of them coming down the Borders Line. We are looking at holding an event somewhat like the event when the Flying Scotsman came to the Borders with stalls and street entertainment.

Judith has been asked if Galashiels would like a commemorative plaque in remembrance of the Centenary of the Jellicoe Express which passed through Galashiels 100 years ago. We will be privileged to have the great Grandson of Admiral Lord Jellicoe, Admiral Chris Smith here in Gala, this will be combined with the 27th event.

GALA in BLOOM

A lot of work going on at Old Gala house.

Planters in situ on platform at station and looking lovely.

8. Chairs Report

LRA – n/a

9. Treasurers Report

The balance on the books at 14th June is £723.78 – few cheques paid out this evening

10. Secretary's Report

Tracey reminded everyone that she was still waiting on a few biographies and pictures from members who haven't submitted already. Tracey also mentioned about an issue that was going on at Hazeldean Elderly Amenity Development and the fact that SBHA had stopped them having any amplified musical entertainment on the back of one complaint from one resident. Cllr Aitchison offered to look in to this with Tracey and possibly have a meeting with residents and SBHA to resolve this.

Bill White spoke about the trails update and said quotes were in and it needs to be decided which one will draw up the plan before someone is taken on to do the work required from the quote received.

Judith said this was going to cost anywhere from £750,000 to a £1million. Pump track will go from Langlee all the way up to the old Drove Rd at Stow.

11. SBC Councillors Update

Cllr Aitchison

QA – Parking at Netherdale – can relaxation on yellow lines be looked at? - meeting still to be arranged regarding this issue

Merchant Navy Day on 2nd September

Sandy's new portfolio is Localities and communities, £500,000.00 has been given to this and it needs to be split between the 5 areas and how much each area will get.

QA- What is happening about the signage for the Edinburgh Road - - 2 years been waiting- why can't we get the town publicised at the entrances to the Town – Cllr Aitchison will take this on.

Comment made – once again we raise the subject of the lights in the public park, do the powers that be not know the difference between day and night. We would like a report back for the next meeting (See appendix)

Cllr Andy Anderson

Attended Event of Galashiels Master plan- several ideas were brought up that the CC have already covered and come up with.

Attended the LRA meeting and have now become involved in the Langlee Carnival Committee

QA – Fountain not working and the water level is very low. Tiles on the bottom have started to disintegrate – Cllr Anderson will look in to this.

Cllr Euan Jardine

QA – regarding disabled access at swimming pool- Ewan Jackson has not come back to Judith about this – Cllr Jardine will look into this.

Comment made – High Road – works going on as wall is down and some of the trees have been cut back but it doesn't look right it would look better if all of the trees were cut down.

Comment made – Empty properties- Scotts Street, Gala Park Island Street can SBC not get a CPO? Obviously this may cost a lot it may be it would be worth asking SBC if they could purchase them on a friendly basis.

Interchange has been closed quite a bit due to vandalism but the lights are blasting away – Judith will write to Stewart Morsen
 Tourism- 2017 Map has been produced from some unknown source and Galashiels does not feature in it at all, Live Borders is advertised in it 3 times and there are adverts in it that not even in the Borders.

Judith suggested that the CC take this on and ask volunteers to help take this forward and produce and publicise a proper map. Comment made – Houses at Kirkbrae are being converted. A big skip has been put on the front gardens which will cause parking to be an issue. – Cllr Aitchison will be looking at this.

When will the consultation take place to look at schools?

Beautiful planters now in place at station however there is a big banner up advertising Beds and Sofas and apparently the company were sold the space by Scotrail- Judith is going to write to them to say that we don't want to see banners like that .

Comment – We have a new line up of Cllrs they need to make sure they stand up and make sure that Galashiels is not forgotten about

13. Open Session Members of Public

14. Date of Next Meeting 5th July

Appendix

Cllr Aitchison

North Entrance to Gala on A7

The re-build of this is with Property Maintenance.

I've copied in Stuart to remind him to organise.

Railway Construction Sign

I've asked Chris to check & remove.

High Road

Wall - 100m of construction. Scaffold goes up next week & SBC doing work which is estimated to take 8 weeks. The design is from our Bridges Section, so stability/strength will have been part of the design.

Grass Cutting - the biodiversity strip is cut twice a year. Gala CC can plant wild flower in this area if they wish - let me have details.

Landscaping works associated with the Railway

My understanding is there are on-going discussions with Network Rail to bring these areas up to adoptable standard & work will be programme asap. I've copied in Jason who is dealing with this & will ask him to add any comment as necessary

Cllr Jardine

- Still no real progress or big developments to report as the council has been really hamstrung with the general election. Which has taken a lot of resource from the daily duties of the council
- All new councillors have also been going through a training induction which has been informative and interesting
- Councillors have also chosen their committees and outside bodies. Brief outlines of a few of my commitments are – JCG Staff Committee, Standards Committee, Education performance sub-committee, Clubsport Etrick & Lauderdale, Focus Centre, COSLA Health and Wellbeing and COSLA sports art and culture working group. I am also involved with various other groups.
- I have also been catching up with the long list of issues raised by the public during my election and have the majority of them resolved.
- I attended a regenerate Galashiels event where members of the public and business owners could give ideas about future developments regarding the town. This is a long term plan with Scottish Government backing as all towns on the borders railway getting focus to help them prosper. One of the people involved played an instrumental part in bringing the Kelpies to Falkirk and working to ensure that project was a success and we all know how that went.
- During the formation of the new administration I was given the Culture and Sport portfolio. I have a background in both parts of the portfolio and I am excited to work with all the key stakeholders surrounding it. We are also in early discussions about a public forum and also using online surveys to get feedback of what the people in the borders would like to see in terms of culture and sport.
- Finally on a lighter note I took the opportunity to go on the very first open top bus tour of the borders. It was a very informative journey which left Galashiels stopping off at various well known places and peaking at Scott's view. I hope it will encourage tourists to visit the region.

Police Report

Our focus is to reduce crime and disorder, to increase public reassurance within our community and to KEEP PEOPLE SAFE.

We will continue to work closely with our partners and find effective long-term solutions to the issues you raise.

We continue to work on issues raised in relation to the multi-ward Member Plan with the priorities being violent crime, drug dealing and drug misuse, inconsiderate driving and anti- social behaviour.

Violent Crime

- Within the Galashiels and Langlee area there has been 6 calls relating to disturbances.
- We have seen a number of common assaults (9) reported to police, predominantly alcohol related. These incidents are all subject to ongoing investigations and charges have all ready been preferred against a number of individuals responsible.

A 39 year old male has been charged with serious assault, possession of offensive weapon and knife and Police assault. Remanded in custody

Substance Misuse

- Over the month of May there have been 11 recorded calls in relation to illicit drugs misuse.
- 4 x males (ranging from 15 years to 30 years) have all been reported for possession of a Class B drug, namely Cannabis.
- One other male reported for having Cannabis cultivation.

Police Officers conducted 4 x stop/searches on persons whom have been found in possession of controlled drugs.

Specialist Police teams have also carried out house searches under drugs warrants in Scottish Borders (Hawick area) where approx £15K of drugs, Class A, B and C were recovered. 53 year old remanded in custody. When there is a sufficiency of local drugs intelligence similar raids will occur in Galashiels in the future.

Making our Roads Safer

- Police have attended 12 road traffic collisions.
- One male driver reported for careless driving.
- 20 year old female charged with drink driving.
- 54 year old male charged with drink driving and offences against the Firearms Act 1968.
- 2 x motor car seized for having no insurance and drivers either reported or received £300 fine, 6 points on their licenses.
- Officers continue to issue Fixed Penalty Tickets to illegally parked vehicles and school zig-zag line parking offenders.

Community and Roads Policing officers continue to carry out work to combat speeding motorists and anti- social driving

Some drivers still find it acceptable to drive whilst under the influence of alcohol. Police patrols will continue to target and identify offenders.

Reducing Antisocial Behaviour

- Currently Galashiels has 4 people on an active ASBO, with another 6 at Face 2 Face level. Several others are being closely monitored.
- 10 reports of domestic incidents/assaults – 20 year old female held in custody for Court appearances.

- 22 calls relating to anti social behaviour by youths. 12 of these relate to issues within Gala Policies area with reports of disorder, alcohol consumption and camp fires.
- The number of incidents in Transport Interchange area has decreased. Police continue to deal with drunk and abusive behaviour from a minority of these youths – both uniformed and plain clothed Officers are being utilised to tackle youth disorder.

We continue to work with our colleagues in the anti social behaviour unit to engage and get early intervention in order to reduce anti social behaviour.

Protecting People

- 34 calls relating to Missing Persons or concern for person incidents – these calls often require significant police resources and time. The local community officers continue to carry out work with vulnerable groups in order to provide them with suitable safety advice. We continue to work with partner agencies in Housing, Health and Education in order to combat any issues that may arise.

If any members of the community council have any concerns regarding vulnerable members of the public that may need some help and advice please pass details to us and we can assist.

Other Issues of Relevance

The number of shoplifting offences in month of May remained low. Those reported were of a minor nature. A number of retail outlets work closely with Police Scotland and are aware of repeat offenders.

May has shown a similar level of youth anti-social behaviour calls. The level of incidents to the Transport Interchange has decreased, however there has been an increase in calls to the Gala Policies woodland area in respect youths camping, creating disturbances and setting camp fires.