



**Galashiels Community Council**  
**Burgh Chambers**  
**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017**  
**6.30pm**  
**Minutes**

**Present**

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

**In Attendance**

Cllr Andy Anderson, Cllr Euan Jardine Cllr Harry Scott

Callum Boath- Home Energy Scotland

6 Members of public

**1. Apologies**

Tom Ingoldsby Tony Brown, Kevin Ryalls,, Police Scotland, Marion Romeril Pauline Ward Cllr Aitchison

**2. Minutes Approval**

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 was approved by Rick Kenney and Seconded by Claire Howden

**3. Matters Arising**

Judith introduced Bill White on to the Community Council and his contact details were available on the Agenda for this meeting ...

**4. Police Report and Questions**

No Police present-Report late being sent through so will be attached at the end of the Minutes

**5. Speakers - Callum Boath – Home Energy Scotland**

Home Energy Scotland is primarily looking at reducing the water usage in Galashiels.

Various places around Gala in the coming weeks, ie Transport Interchange, Tesco, Marks and Spencer's 9am -5 pm where you can find out more about it and pick up information and Hose Guns and aerated water saving showerheads and various other items . There is less than 1% of rain that falls in Scotland that Scottish Energy can get their hands on. A lot of money has been invested in this.

Comment made: Anything that can be done to save on resources is to be welcomed .

**6. Galashiels Academy Update** n/a

**7. Sub Group Update**

**Development Plan**

Ongoing

**Planning Applications**

DETAILS	COMMENTS TO SBC BY
<p>1. Applicant: Lloyds Banking Group</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/00890/LBC.            Proposal: Internal alterations.</p> <p>Location: Bank Of Scotland Halifax 3-7 Channel Street Galashiels.</p>	<p><b>29 June 2017</b></p> <p>This application is to me internal alterations to the lay out of the ground floor (customers) at the Bank of Scotland building in Channel Street.            The choice of alterations will be in keeping with the Grade C listed building and I recommend we have no objections.</p>
<p>2. Applicant: Pia Developments</p> <p>Application Ref No's: 17/00930/FUL and 17/00930/FUL            Proposal: Change of use of former mill and alterations to form 25 residential units and associated works.            Location: Bristol Mill Edinburgh Road Galashiels.</p>	<p><b>1 August 2017</b></p> <p>There was a previous planning application (Ref 11/01519/FUL) approved for the site in 2011 for student accommodation. This application is for 2 one bedroom flats; 13 two bedroom flats and 10 three bedroom flats. 35 car parking bays are included within the proposals.            Existing outbuildings are proposed for demolition to be able to provide car parking and circulation space. These are Category B listed buildings but would require to be demolished to allow the full proposals to be implemented.            There have been no recorded road accidents on Bristol Terrace in the last 5 years. Pedestrian access to the town centre is available.            There is only one observation on the SBC website, about the plans and that is to try and get more visitor/public parking spaces on the site to reduce the potential for more on street parking.            Given the unsightly look of this entrance to the town from the north, this planning application, if granted, would be a major step in improving the appearance of the area along with helping with the housing requirements in the Borders.</p>

**Gala Waterways**

Claire spoke about the piece of land that has come up for sale and there is a worry that if it goes in to private hands that there would be no access to the Mill Lade and surrounding and work would not get done . Is it possible for Waterways or Community Council to purchase the land?

Alistair Lings gave a talk and a handout to everyone explaining how important access to the Mill Lade is.

Obviously downsides have to be considered like fly tipping but these can be overcome, a lot of questions would need asking. Judith pointed out that the CC would not make any decisions but support would be given Last 2 work party had 21 volunteers Next one is Aldi on 5<sup>th</sup> August and the next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> August.

### **EVENTS**

Not much to report, Jellicoe Express plaque going on Galashiels Station on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

Leaflets for Old Gala House was touched upon and John Gray spoke about the leaflet being taken on by another organisation.

### **GALA in BLOOM**

#### **8. Chairs Report**

##### **LRA –**

Not very well attended mainly due to holidays ... The Fire Service attended and spoke about fire safety in the flats.

Comment made about the signage at the Fire station no progress has been made on this.

#### **9. Treasurers Report**

The balance in the account at present is £723.78

#### **10. Secretary's Report**

#### **11. SBC Councillors Update**

##### **Cllr Sandy Aitchison –**

Tracey read out Sandy's report .... See end of minutes

Comment made that the lights in the public park are still blasting away; regardless of this being discussed many times...this is a waste of money especially when cuts are being made to wages.

Community Fund – Towns should not be arguing about who is getting the most money.

QA – Kirkbrae – is there any news on this – Work has started on this.

##### **Cllr Anderson**

Braw Lads Gathering was another good success

Cracks in the Fountain tiles – these will be getting looked at.

Comment made – Fountain at Lees Garage not working can this be looked at

QA – on Gala Day can the Chimes at the war memorial be made louder at 8pm for the Braw Braw Lads- virtually had to strain ears to hear it. Also after the 8pm Event at the War Memorial there was a load of rubbish left and some put in the fountain after people had gone away. Broken glass was a main concern and the street pastors were collecting broken glasses. The Salmon and Auld Mill ended up doing all the cleaning up with Fountain news also helping out.

##### **Cllr Jardine**

##### **Cllr Scott**

Comment – when will there be any new play equipment in the parks and can this be looked at please?

Comment made that although Kirkbrae is being worked on no planning permission has been sought from Community Council via Rick.

30p toilet charge, can someone find out how much each separate unit on each toilet has cost for the paying of the 30p charge. Also is there any legislation in place for those places selling food for when people are needing toilet access.

Trails – Bill White gave an overview of this and is asking for the thoughts of the CC regarding the 2 tenders that have been put in.

The tender that is chosen to do the job will be responsible for looking at the land and what is being done before and after. We need to decide which is the best tender for the job . All the costings should be back by February 2018

#### **13. Open Session Members of Public**

**QA** Could someone look at some rubbish that needs to be moved from off the pavement and also can the Bus that is constantly parked up Windyknowe Rd be moved. Cllr Anderson said he would look in to this.

Comment made – about a quad bike parked on the pavement at Forest Gardens. This will be looked in to.

#### **14. Date of Next Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> September**

##### **Appendix**

##### **Cllr Aitchison**

I will be seeking further updates but due holidays it seems difficult to get anybody!

On the Hazeldean issue we (Tracey and me) will be going to meet Nicola McKwraith from SBHA but i have not managed to fix a dated yet will keep in touch with you on that's issue.

I was very impressed with the Langlee Choir at the Braw Lads Concert on Friday evening. Very very impressive performance.

Obviously Braw Lads was another success despite the weather.

Glenfield Road East is now moving forward and at long, long last there is an agreement in place between BAM and SBC to get new trees and landscaping completed.

At council last week it was agreed that the £500,000 agreed by the last council for "community Participative Budgeting" will be divided between the five Localities and be based a "per head" basis. This means that "Eildon" will receive the largest amount of £153,611. This was hard won with some Localities wanting the division to be based on other criteria. The methodology of how to bid and the selection on successful bids will be decided at a hearing in early August and, I hope, a further paper on this will go to Council for approval in August or September.

I have received an email this morning advising that a builder has been instructed to do the work which will involve traffic lights etc. The delay has been due to summer holidays. I expect work to be done soon having stressed the urgency of the job.

##### **Cllr Anderson**

##### **Councillor Report: Andy Anderson**

**General:** It has been a busy period since the last meeting with a number of constituents contacting me about various problems. These have ranged from issues with housing to parking problems in several residential areas of the town. There are no simple answers to the latter and no doubt there will be further discussions on options to address this. Reacting to an issue raised I had also asked for dedicated disabled parking bays in the town at Bank Street, and possibly Channel Street and the High Street while provision of disabled parking spaces was being reviewed. Unfortunately, this was rejected by the officer concerned, but I am not giving up. I would be interested to hear if the CC has any comments on this.

The perennial problem of dog mess has been 'popular', with complaints about the Black Path behind B&Q heading out of town being the main area of concern. I will be exploring a number of possibilities regarding this.

**Langlee Primary School:** I was delighted to attend the opening of the new school. It is a wonderful building and is a credit to the team delivering this project; I am sure children and staff alike will enjoy their new space. At the open day in the old school I spoke to a number of the staff before the move about the challenges of the move and it was clear how much they were looking forward to their new space, in particular the special needs facilities. I think they all deserve a massive vote of thanks for all their hard work packing up everything in the old school and unpacking and distributing materials around the new school in such a short period.

**Early Learning and Childcare (ELC):** I attended a locality consultation at the Volunteer Hall on the expansion of ELC from 600 hours to 1140 hours. This was part of a Borders-wide series of events. Despite what may have been heard in the press, and the resulting fears expressed, the process is very much open to consultation and childminding groups will be very much part of the mix; parents childminders and parents are all welcome to add their comments.

**Buskers Buses:** I contacted 'Buskers' about the bus being regularly parked on Windyknowe Road. I had a long conversation with Bruce Methven about this; he was unhappy that one of his buses was causing issues and he has spoken to the driver concerned. The driver lives near where the bus has been parked and was being parked there, while taking a break, prior to it going to Stirling Street to form the 61 service. There had been issues about leaving it at the stance by the church (security and noise complaints from the church about buses – including those of Border Buses). Although there are no parking restrictions in force there, the driver has been advised to park elsewhere for these short periods and they are looking at alternatives where the bus can be left unattended.

**St Aidans Church:** I was looking into the ownership of the church, and had determined that a demolition order was being sought but as it was Grade 2 listed, SBC, Historic Scotland and the owners were in consultation. The building is on the SBC 'at-risk' list. It is proposed that the halls be demolished and replaced with flats.

Councillor Scott then shared a concern that had been raised with him that teenagers were getting into the building and passed on the information he had gleaned. This obviously has concerns for safety, given that the building is in a poor state. Since then I have been in contact with the Police at local and regional level, and the property agents; the Fire service are also aware of the situation. The police have been keeping a 'low-profile' eye on the building and have spoken to some of the children involved and their parents. They are not wishing to publicize the situation in case it makes matters worse.

As of this week I note that the building has been made secure again and some of the vegetation that was providing cover for entry though the boarded up windows has been cut back. I will be checking the progress of any developments and will be asking the owners to make more efforts to clear the remaining vegetation at regular intervals.

**Abbotsford Arms Hotel:** I have not been able to gain any information regarding the future of the building. It is not regarded as 'at risk' by SBC at the moment and it is not listed.

#### **Cllr Jardine**

I have taken up the issue with empty houses raised at previous community council meeting and I currently awaiting further feedback

**I was asked to raise the issue of disability pool access with Ewan Jackson. I have received the following response.** After the Galashiels community council meeting I asked our Disability Sports officer to conduct an audit of pool access. This report has still not been completed. We also just recently upgraded hoists in Selkirk and Peebles with the support of a common good fund grant. I am not aware of us looking at any further projects to fund new access hoists at present however we should review this if audit suggests our provision is less than satisfactory  
It was raised to me recently that there were very low hanging branches in broom drive at Langlee. They were hanging so low residents had to crawl under them. I am pleased to report that this has issue now been resolved

#### **General Interest**

I attended the inspire awards that took place in the volunteer hall. The inspire awards recognise the achievements of many young people across the Scottish Borders. It was a great event and an honour to be in the company of such inspirational young people

Lastly I had the honour of attending a few events during the Braw Lads week and also the fantastic Gala Day on Saturday. It was also a great opportunity to speak to many residents of Galashiels who were happy to share their ideas for the future of the town. I would also like to use this platform this evening to thank the Braw Lads committee for the warm welcome they gave me and the other councillors. I want to also say thank you to them for all their hard work in organising the week's festivities. I am also sure that Greg and Amy will be great ambassadors for our town

#### **Cllr Scott**

**Borders Busses** - at the Transport Interchange where we were informed of their proposed plans for the Scottish Borders. Local decisions now devolved to local management – looking at how best they can link connections to Borders Railway Services.

I raised a concern I had about the use of one of the bus stances in Stirling Street being so close to the pedestrian crossing there, but SBC Road Safety Officers have visited the site and are satisfied that it meets the criteria and the build out from the pavement has been extended to improve visibility for drivers and pedestrians.

**Veterans First Point, Galashiels.** - VFP assists and supports veterans with a range of different problems to adjust to civilian life after service in the armed forces, and help them navigate the services available. There were worries about medium and long term funding, which have now been more or less resolved. Initially funded by LIBOR fines, but now mainly funded by the NHS.

**Energise Galashiels** - to meet the management team and be briefed on the various work streams.

**Heriot Community Council** – mainly ongoing issues about the maintenance of the underpass – SBC or Scotrail responsibility & discussion about planning issues.

**Scottish Borders Council** - meeting to hear proposals to merge numerous old and mainly redundant charitable funds into a more manageable position. Many no longer have a use, and/or have little money in them.

**Scottish Borders Council** – briefing on the City Deal and how it will benefit the Scottish Borders. Funding mainly concentrated on the development of a high level business park in Tweedbank to take advantage of the greater connection opportunity offered by the Borders Railway.

**Opening of the Mosque** - in Roxburgh Street, Galashiels, where we were given an insight into the Prophet Mohammed and the Muslim religion.

#### **Meetings in August**

**Stow Community Council** – mainly concerns about whether the infrastructure could cope with any future developments at Fountainhall – concern that 30mph warning stickers were removed from the lampposts in Stow – was explained it was not legal, but still disquiet expressed.

## **Complaints Received – I will provide verbal updates**

- Fire Station hedge overgrowing foot path and entrance to Public Park.
- Quad bike obstructing the footway at 71 Forest Gardens.
- Langlee – litter bins overflowing & who owns the walls in need of repair.
- Swings in the Scott Park
- Poor state of the walls along Huddersfield Street.
- Harrow Inn skip
- Ladhope Cemetery
- Windyknowe Road.
- Drug paraphernalia Halliburton Place & The Hen Trap Steps open ground
- Roundabouts & road markings on Ladhope Vale

## **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 9 calls relating to disturbances.
- We have seen a number of common assaults (08) 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.

### **Substance Misuse**

- Over the month of June there have been 11 recorded calls in relation to drugs misuse.
- A number of residential properties searched under Misuse of Drugs warrants.
- 02 male reported for possession of Cannabis.
- Police Officers conducted 5 x stop/searches on persons whom have been found in possession of controlled drugs.

As part of Operation Gatekeeper, Police have arrested 3 persons, a 30 and 69 year old male and 49 year old female in Glendinning Terrace area. £27,800 worth of Class A and Class B drugs were recovered. All appeared from custody for concern in the supply of drugs offences.

### **Making our Roads Safer**

- Police have attended 09 road traffic collisions.
- 1 male driver charged with being drunk in charge of vehicle.
- A 36 year old male charged with drink driving. He was held in custody and received a 3 year ban and £400 fine at Selkirk Sheriff Court.
- Male driver issued £100 fine/3 points for careless driving offence.
- 2 vehicles seized for having no valid insurance and drivers issued with 6 points and £300 fine
- Officers continue to issue Fixed Penalty Tickets to illegally parked vehicles, school zigzag line parking offenders and anti-social drivers.

Roads policing officers continue to carry out work to combat speeding motorists and anti- social driving.

Community Officers attended Magdala Terrace, Galashiels, where 30mph speed limit stickers were displayed on every residential wheelie bin. This was facilitated in partnership with Safety Camera Unit due to the recent successful pilot project on the A7 road in Stow.

### **Protecting People**

- Currently Galashiels has 06 people on an active ASBO, with another 06 at Face 2 Face level. Several others are being closely monitored.
- 11 reports of domestic incidents/assaults – charges preferred in some instances with Court bail conditions set.
- 19 calls relating to anti-social behaviour by youths. 08 of these relate to issues within Gala Policies woodland area with reports of disorder, alcohol consumption and fires. 04 of these relate to issues within Balmoral area where thefts have occurred and items subsequently set on fire in campfires. (08 male youths identified as ring-leaders / perpetrators are currently being dealt with by Police for various offences)
- Number of incidents in Transport Interchange area has again 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.

### **Other Issues of Relevance**

The number of shoplifting offences in month of June again 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.

June 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 and creating disturbances, setting camp fires and thefts. Offending youths are being dealt with robustly.

Police Scotland would like to invite members of the public who may have information on people involved in using or dealing illegal substances, to contact us through calling 101, logging on to the Police Scotland website and leaving message for local officer, or anonymously through Crimestoppers 0800 555 111.