



**Galashiels Community Council
Langlee Community Centre
Wednesday Oct 11th 2017
6.30pm
Minutes**

Present

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Tom Ingoldsby Claire Howden, Eileen Frame

In Attendance

Kevin Janiak- Southern Reporter, Callum Hodgson –Border Telegraph. Ally McGilvray – Radio Borders

5 Members of public

1. Apologies

Tony Brown, Kevin Ryalls, Police Scotland, Cllr Euan Jardine Cllr Aitchison Cllr Scott Cllr Andy Anderson Drew Tulley Celeste Di Vito. Liz Jardine. Rick Kenney Marion Romeril Helen Calder Bill White

2. Minutes Approval

An accurate Minute of the Meeting 6th September was approved by Tom Ingoldsby and Seconded by Claire Howden

3. Matters Arising

Claire questioned what the Big Spring Clean was? Judith explained that it was a cleanup that was going to be in conjunction with Waterways and including as many of the public that we could get interested, however due to the time of year and dark nights this has been put back till spring next year.

4. Police Update and Questions

2 new Community Police are now in place, Sandy Blacklock has now left and we should have police presence at next month's meeting.

5. Speakers

N/A

6. Galashiels Academy Update N/A

7. Sub Groups Update

Development Plan

Ongoing

Planning and Licensing Applications

Applications for Planning – no major concerns.

DETAILS	COMMENTS TO SBC BY
<p>1. Applicant: Rebecca A Craig</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/01289/FUL Proposal: Change of use from office to form dwelling house.</p> <p>Location: 25 Bridge Street Galashiels.</p>	<p>17 October 2017</p> <p>The premises have been empty for some time. As this was previously a dwelling house, there are no parking issues related here. No GCC members have objected, from information previously circulated, so I propose that we have no objections.</p>
<p>2. Applicant: Eildon Housing Association</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/01284/FUL Proposal: Demolition of existing warehouse and erection of 39 No residential flats with associated communal facilities, parking and amenity space.</p> <p>Location: Workshop Glenfield Industrial Estate Currie Road, Galashiels.</p>	<p>19 October 2017</p> <p>.The proposal from Eildon Housing to demolish the old warehouse and build 39 flats on this site will improve the visual appearance of the location and provide additional housing. No GCC members have objected, from information previously circulated, so I propose that we have no objections.</p>
<p>3. Applicant: Mr Christopher Virtue</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/01300/FUL Proposal: Erection of gallery with associated facilities and link to and incorporating change of use of Royal Mail Building and alterations to house the Great Tapestry of Scotland.</p> <p>Location: Former Shop & Royal Mail Channel Street Galashiels.</p>	<p>19 October 2017</p> <p>This application is to erect a new building to locate the Great Tapestry of Scotland within along with other facilities which support the operation and future use of this new building. It is a much more modern design than the surrounding buildings but will certainly make a visual impact, which may assist in the marketing and development of the visitor attraction and to the town. No GCC members have objected, from information previously circulated, so I propose that we have no objections.</p>

<p>4. Applicant: Mr Christopher Virtue</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/01301/LBC Proposal: Internal and external alterations to incorporate into Gallery to house the Great Tapestry of Scotland. Location: Royal Mail Channel Street Galashiels.</p>	<p>20 October 2017</p> <p>The application to carry out internal & external alterations to the former post office building, which is a 'listed' building has no objections from Historic Environment Scotland. They "are generally content with the LBC application, to alter the former post office front building to provide complementary accommodation for the proposed gallery. This would include a glazed link extension, which we consider would be a relatively low key recessive addition, not diminishing the primacy of the existing listed building's street frontage. If your Council is minded to approve, we suggest that the detailed alterations, including new openings and works of making good, associated with the glazed link, be appropriately managed under the listed building consent conditions." As no GCC members have objected, from information previously circulated, I propose that we have no objections.</p>
<p>5. Applicant: Mr Christopher Virtue</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/01302/CON Proposal: Demolition of shop. Location: Shop 14 - 20 High Street Galashiels.</p>	<p>20 October 2017</p> <p>As the Council have previously taken the decision to proceed with hosting the Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels, the application to demolition of the Pound stretcher building should have no objections from GCC in my view. No GCC members have objected, from information previously circulated, so I propose that we have no objections.</p>
<p>6. Applicant: Craigvar Construction</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/01307/FUL Proposal: Erection of 4 No Flats Location: Gap Site Adjacent No 1 Woodside Place Galashiels.</p>	<p>25 October 2017</p> <p>This area, at the west end of Windyknowes, has lain derelict for some years, so the application to build 4 flats here is a visual improvement and provides more local housing. No GCC members have objected, from information previously circulated, so I propose that we have no objections.</p>
<p>7. Applicant: Eildon Housing Association</p> <p>Application Ref No: 17/01328/FUL Proposal: Erection of seven dwelling houses Location: Land East Of Craigpark Court Galashiels.</p>	<p>26 October 2017</p> <p>Murray & Burrell had planning permission to build houses on this site (we had no objections) but went into liquidation with only 2 built. Eildon Housing wish to build 7 houses on the site which they have now acquired. No GCC members have objected, from information previously circulated, so I propose that we have no objections.</p>

Gala Waterways

Successful work party last Saturday with no major concerns. Chainsaw Training is starting next month

EVENTS

GALA in BLOOM

8. Chairs Update

1. Although I submitted my very brief report before I went on holiday, on the understanding that the meeting would be held last week, fate intervened and we were unable to find a suitable venue for the meeting on 4th October.

I apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced by this change, and my thanks go to Rick Kenney, who would have led the meeting in my absence.

2. However, since I have returned, and indeed while I was away, some things have changed. The first one is that Live Borders have called a meeting of all Community Centre office bearers – the intention being to discuss how the 10 centre in the Borders can be used to their full potential. The meeting is to be held on 26th October, and I will keep you all posted as to what happens.

3. The second thing that I have been made aware of – even more than ever- is the huge financial restriction that organisations such as Scottish Borders Council and Live Borders are working under. Things that we could get done a few years ago with ease, now take longer and the reply to our questions always seems to be 'There is no money'

I personally think that both those organisations, especially SBC, do the very best they can with the ever reducing budgets they have, and I believe I am right in saying that we can only expect it to get worse.

So as I see it, our options are easy – we can continue to moan, or we can try to do a bit more ourselves – perhaps it's time for the community to do their bit – and if anyone has ideas of where we can help, please let me know. That goes for the elected members too – your ideas gentlemen, are always welcome.

4. Finally, some time ago, I brought up the issue of a Credit Union, to be started in Langlee. Capital Credit Union offered to do this but their terms were not acceptable, so it we taken no further.

In these precarious financial times, and I have taken advice on this, a credit union can mean a whole lot to people who are not so well off. It gives the opportunity and encouragement to save, and the chance to get cheap loans both for personal and business reasons.

I have taken the liberty to make an appointment to see Margaret Simpson, chair of Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber.

Margaret has vast experience and is very keen to see a credit union active in Galashiels and will give all the help we need. She has also found a fund which may be able to help with setting up the credit union.

I would appreciate the Community Councillor's backing in taking this forward.

Judith asked around the room for comments about the credit union. All seemed pretty much in agreement.

8a. LRA – Judith was not present at the meeting but it was just the usual complaints.

Judith announced the Galashiels Christmas Raffle, first prize is £500. Asked those present to take raffle tickets.

9. Treasurers Update

1. The current balance in the account is £1643.77. This includes £238.32 remaining of the money donated by Dalgetty's towards planting by Gala in Bloom. The available balance is £1405.45
2. The main item of expenditure in September was £508.78 on raffle tickets which is expected to be recouped quickly from sales.
3. Internet banking is now in place.

10. Secretary's Update

Tracey asked if everyone was happy to receive all of the road closures that she sends out from SBC on a daily basis especially if they are for outlying areas. She has spoken to SBC and John Henderson said he was just doing his job by making all Community councils aware of Scottish Borders road closures. Tracey agreed that she was just doing her job as Secretary by sending them out. Judith said she thinks that all road closures should still be sent out and if members have no interest then to just delete them.

11. SBC Councillors Comments and Questions

Cllr Aitchison
Cllr Anderson
Cllr Jardine
Cllr Scott

12. AOB.

a) Community Council

Tom spoke about the Railway and asked about the Rolling stock that was, promised, are they 158's that have been upgraded? Judith who is a member of the Borders Community Rail Partnership said she thinks that 170's that run on the Glasgow to Edinburgh line will get cascaded to the Borders Line but there is uncertainty about this so Judith will get a statement for the next meeting. Comment made: Two Saturdays running the trains have been off.

b) Members of Public

Comment made: Signs on A7 – The wall has been fixed at the entrance to the A7 but the signs are still not up. (No Cllrs present so hopefully one of them will pick up on this from the minutes)

Comment made that the Gala Local Relief Fund is available for certain projects, it was money put aside for the Elderly of Galashiels. Tracey Asked if it was a possibility that this money could help the elderly residents at Hazeldean get a new kitchen as the one in there has been in since the place was built. Tracey was told to speak to Bill White.

Thanks were given to Cllr Sandy Aitchison for getting a meeting with the SBC legal team however as nothing actually came from it, the wording on the deeds that are held regarding Netherdale need to be seen.

A successful Gala in Bloom Awards was held and Rick Kenney who presented the awards in Judith's absence gave some notes of thanks to all those involved including Tracey for notifying all the award winners. A well done was given to Abbotsford Court for gaining a First Prize this year.

QA- Can we get help from the 4 Councillors please to get the war memorial cleaned up properly especially Cllr Scott who is particularly heavily involved regarding the Army and World Wars?

October 27th the Afternoon teas will be resuming at the Focus Centre starting at 2.30pm price £2.50

Date of Next Meeting 1st November 2017 Upstairs – Transport Interchange