

MINUTES OF PARISH OF STOW & FOUNTAINHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup>  
JANUARY 2015 in STOW TOWN HALL

Present: D Muir, C Hendry, J McKenzie, S Jeffery, A Riddell, T Miller, Cllr J Mitchell, PC Anne McNair, Cllr Bill White, Cllr Sandy Aitchison; Gillian Donaldson, lead cardiac nurse NHS Borders

Also present: Leonie Cairns (Chair, Stow PTA); Bob Fleet (Wooplaw Community woods)

Apologies: J Mushlin, A McNeilly

The meeting started with the Chair inviting Leonie to give us her suggestion regarding the possible purchase of a community minibus; (Leonie wanted us to note that - & she stressed this - it was not her, personal, idea, and she was merely the spokesperson for the PTA and wider community).

Due to the cost of hiring a bus for school outings, Members of Stow PTA had approached SSE (windfarm fund) to find out what, if any, funds might be available to cover this. Ciara Wilson of SSE suggested that there might be a grant available through the windfarm fund, for buying a minibus. Obviously there are many considerations eg: if this were the case, would the grant be for the cost of purchase only or for the running costs too? (ie maintenance/insurance/tax etc); where would it be kept/who would drive it/who would pay for this/how many groups would use it/how much would each use cost the respective user/how much would it cost to train a driver if necessary etc etc .

Kenny Duncan has given some specifics; he suggested that the bus be maximum a 16 seater as above this requires special license/ extra training etc to drive; Leonie thinks 20 would be more useful certainly as far as Stow school concerned; for example, taking children to a swimming session in Gala – a 16 seater would still require 2 cars to go, in addition.

There would be a lot of incidental expenses, eg £100 every ten weeks for routine inspection, £1000+ insurance. Also - where would it be garaged? Who would carry out maintenance? Cost of tax disc; To be considered also – the feasibility: how many people would use it and How much would users have to pay?

Wendy Ball had sent out a general email asking for groups or individuals to come forward if they thought a community minibus would be useful. The only group to come forward was Wooplaw Community Woods, represented by Bob Fleet. There has been a large increase in interest in the community woods recently, especially from people outwith the Stow area – and several enquiries as to how they could get to the woods via public transport – so a minibus would be useful for this. Charlotte said that probably Fountainhall school would find it useful - & a 16 seater would suit them better than Stow as there are so many fewer in the school; but how often it would be used .... ?? The Stow Pipe band also would find it useful, though again they would be too numerous to fit in one 16 seater. The junior pipe band would fit in – but their need for it would be infrequent. Leonie has paperwork from the Scottish Parliament regarding legislation &c. Our response was that owing to the lack of interest shown from other groups, the take-up of an expensive minibus would probably not justify its purchase. We suggested getting a grant to fund the regular hire of a Cooks (or similar) self-drive hire bus – which if it was on a regular basis, might be cheaper than one-off hire.

Sandy Aitchison will give Leonie the number for Galawheels, who are a community transport organisation.

SA

Defibrillator:

Gillian Donaldson from NHS Borders brought in a demonstration model. We can have one of the 50 re-conditioned defibs that NHS Borders have acquired from NHS Lothian. If it is to be accessible for everyone, 24/7, it will need to be stored outside (planned to be on the wall of the town hall) – which means it will need to be in a heated box. This will cost £355 (it had been estimated by HART at £240, which proved to be slightly inaccurate); Gillian gave us a quick demo with the training box; its battery lasts 4 yrs; it comes with a spare battery & a couple of spare packs of pads; anyone can use it; it has very clear written & spoken directions; no training is required, easy directions; the machine analyses patient's state, this appears on the screen & the machine then gives instructions; there are no legal implications involved with using it! It seems failsafe!

Laminated signage with nationally recognisable Defib symbol would be put up around the community, giving the exact location of the box. The box could be fitted with a code to stop vandals, but this might mean it would obstruct peoples' use if they didn't know code...Community resilience could let people know ; but the likelihood is that vandals could probably break into the box with a code. The ambulance service in the future will know that Stow has a defibrillator & could inform anyone ringing them of this, pending their arrival. The British Heart Foundation has training packs for basic life saving/CPR etc that Gillian would be happy to come and demonstrate; she can approach local groups & offer basic life support training - & demonstrate how the defib works; she would also be happy to check the battery every time she comes to Stow. She also kindly said she would help with the Fountainhall one too if we want. We should advertise this on the website & in the community newsletter;

BW will check about planning (as the town hall is listed: if this is required it will represent a small cost; he will also find out roughly what the cost of the power to run it would be – and get back to us. Then DM will apply to SSE for grant, for cost of heated box, maybe some additional packs of pads, cost of power & £50 approx donation.

BW/DM

In the meantime, Gillian has the defibrillator for Stow (approx. £50 donation to HART) and she will ask the Post Office if it can stay there pending arrival of heated box. (or possibly the café) GD will also see to the signage.

GD

Her email address is [gillian.donaldson@borders.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:gillian.donaldson@borders.scot.nhs.uk); Her no is 01896 826550

Police Report

Anne McNair DID submit police report for Dec meeting. Chairman apologised and Minutes for Dec '14 will be altered accordingly. PC McNair drew our attention to a current scam, involving people cold calling pretending to be Police Scotland, asking for £150-200 roughly in exchange for advertising; do not be taken in by this! Police Scotland will never cold call & ask for money!

There was an Incident in Fountainhall where a lady coming home late at night was very frightened by 2 men thieving stuff from the railway; British Transport police didn't report it; there possibly needs more co operation between Police Scotland and the Transport Police; maybe we should get a rep from them to come to a CC meeting;

PC McNair will ask

We drew her attention to local concerns that at the new Fountainhall turn – going south there was a potential accident black spot. We will raise it with Colin Ovens at the next month's cc meeting, which he is going to attend, hopefully. **DM** has added minutes from the latest A7 Action Group meeting to the Minutes.

**SA** will ensure that Colin Ovens (SBC Roads) will attend the Feb CC meeting, as scheduled.

Previous Minutes: Approved & seconded

Matters Arising:

The lack of fence at back of football pitch: **SA** will arrange for a fence to be erected along the edge of the Laid. The question was raised, however, as to whether the bi-annual clearing out of Laid could take place with this fence in place – ie could it be close enough to the edge of the Laid to allow the digger arm to work over it....? **SA** said he thought it would be erected along the tree line, tho this would not be far enough back to allow digger between fence & laid. **SA** will speak again to Craig Blackie & get matter sorted one way or another.

Sandy will address signage on gate of old kirkyard advising public of situation here (regarding gravestones.)

The issue of the streetlights (ie, lack of) on Fountainhall road, & the 'spare' ones from Heriot, will be put to Colin Ovens at Feb CC meeting. **DM**

#### Councillors' Reports

J Mitchell is looking into the positioning of the camera in Stow (by the bus stop outside the public toilets) 'in the middle of a conservation area', with no planning consultation etc **Cllr Mitchell**

The Toilets are NOT listed (as was thought by some); they are in a truly shocking state

#### Windfarm Panel

Next deadline for applications to the SSE fund is 6<sup>th</sup> Feb; SSE (now up to £10k) the EDF fund deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> Jan (via Foundation Scotland)

**DM** will ask Wendy (if she hasn't already been asked) if she could amend 'Notes on the Wind' for the April newsletter to inform that SSE are now running their own fund, so there are 2 different directions that the monies are coming from.

Last quarter, £4k was awarded to Stow Kids' Club, to help with the childrens' activities.

Sound Out made their annual application; they asked for £6k; after lengthy discussion the panel agreed to offer £5k p.a for the next three years so they have the security of knowing they have funding from one year to the next.

Gala Academy Parent Council applied for 3 desktop computers for internet café they are setting up, and were awarded the full amount £2,600

Stow & District OAP Society asked for £3k, for Activities to include the older members of the community, which was granted. The fund statement reads: EDF: £86,094.17; SSE (pre 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec):

£83,064.16; Total £169,000 less what we gave at last meeting; so the total of £147,555 is current fund balance.

SJ asked if grant could be applied for upgrading the town hall kitchen....But it is a Council property. SA will talk to Alan Scott (Halls Manager SBC) about this; it really does need attention.

Minutes of all Windfarm Panel meetings are available on the relevant websites (Foundation Scotland & SSE); there is also a full breakdown of all applications/grants etc on each website.

General Matters

SA told us that he had been contacted by the owners of the Royal site – they are about to remarket the site.....(possibly they think that the railway reopening will present opportunity to get their extortionate asking price...?!); he was astonished to receive their letter as it was the first time they had ever contacted him, or anyone at SBC or in Stow of their own accord.

BAM have put letters through all doors of houses next to the railway, explaining that they will be extending their working hours...see below:-

### **Extended working hours – Stow station**

As part of the on-going construction of the Borders Railway, Network Rail and its principal contractor, BAM, will be undertaking work near to your property.

Extended weekend working hours have been granted by the Environmental Clerk of Works at Stow station over 8 weekends.

The revised weekend working hours for Stow station are as follows:

#### **10 January 2015 to 01 March 2015 (inclusive)**

- **Saturdays 0800 – 1800 (no stone compaction before 1000)**
- **Sundays 1000 – 1700**

Prior to Christmas we received feedback from the community that work start times have been breached on a number of occasions. We apologise for any disturbance caused by this.

No weekend work should take place outside these revised hours. Please report any breach to the project information line.

Noise and vibration monitoring will be undertaken to ensure that that the construction activities are within the project guidelines.

### **Station update**

The station construction is due for completion early in June 2015. The final phase of civil engineering work is underway and will be largely completed during March. The remaining work on the station is less disruptive and involves various specialist subcontractors installing final elements of the station.

In summary the main elements of work required to complete Stow station are:

- Complete the reinforced retaining wall, access ramps and steps that provide access to the platform adjacent to Weedale View
- Complete the work associated with the bridges

- Install station drainage system
- Construct the new station car park- including footpaths, street furniture, lighting, CCTV, landscaping and other minor works
- Fencing and noise barrier installation
- Engineering trains will continue to work along the line to complete the rail systems installation

The project remains on programme for completion in June 2015, with passenger services commencing in September of that year.

In order to provide you with a more detailed explanation of the remaining work, a representative of the principal contractor BAM will be available to visit you to describe the works in more detail and answer any question you may have about this final phase of work. Please contact the project on the details below to arrange a 'one-to-one' meeting.

We appreciate the potential inconvenience caused during these works and we will work hard to minimise disruption to the community as far as practically possible.

Should you have any further concerns or wish to contact us about the project please email us on [info@bordersrailway.co.uk](mailto:info@bordersrailway.co.uk), or call us on [0845 604 4146](tel:08456044146).

The projected extension of Stow Nursery will be put on hold until the railway is completed & open, to see whether or not the numbers do in fact increase according to predictions.

The discussion for next 5 year plan will start this Sep-Oct. (Each new 5 year plan starts immediately after the previous 5 ys have elapsed). IF the idea of Heriot having a station in the future (SA apologised for his misconstrued remark in the Southern Reporter, which was taken slightly out of context by the reporter) appears in the next 5 yr plan there will need to be some development As we discussed last month, there are sites in or around Heriot and Fountainhall which are far more practical & viable than any in Stow.

The next Eildon Area Committee meeting will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> February in the Council Chambers in Galashiels, at 6.30 pm.

Cllr White told us that Bank Street in Gala will be closing in a fortnight's time for a total of 17 weeks or so. Hopefully this will happen in staggered sections, but it will still present an enormous inconvenience for the whole town & particularly the shops there.

The first fee-paying passengers are scheduled to be using the train on 6<sup>th</sup> September this year.

Any local businesses are invited to attend a meeting/forum by Scottish Business Forum, to hear about business opportunities connected to Borders Railway & discuss how they & their businesses might benefit from it. It will be at SBC HQ on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan from 8.30 am til approx. 11.30 am; it will be addressed by Mike Kean, UK Rail Development Director for Abellio, the company which will operate the Borders Railway franchise; other speakers include Michael Moore & Councillor Stuart Bell (executive member for economic development at SBC); there will be opportunities for questions from the audience, group discussions, presentations etc. Anyone wishing to attend the meeting should contact Linda Richardson on [lrichardson@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:lrichardson@scotborders.gov.uk) or call 01835 825040. DM has already passed on the info to businesses in Stow but if anyone can think of a business that would benefit please do let me/them know.

## Planning

Application for a 50m anemometer at Burnhouse; Jenny has obtained an extension to the deadline for this & DM will object on behalf of the CC.

## AOCB

There is water running down from Watherstone farm across the road, and several complaints have been made about this; the whole road in fact is in a shocking state with mud and potholes etc etc and the drainage non existent. It will be lethal if & when it freezes. SA is going to contact Chris Hardie again, and ask him to come with a shovel and get the mud off the surface in the immediate term, while the road as a whole is a matter of priority.

The gravestones in the old kirkyard are a matter on the list for attention and will be seen to as soon as is possible.

DM has asked Stuart Mackay (BAM) to attend the March CC meeting, together with Jonathan Hepton, to give us an update/answer questions about the railway.

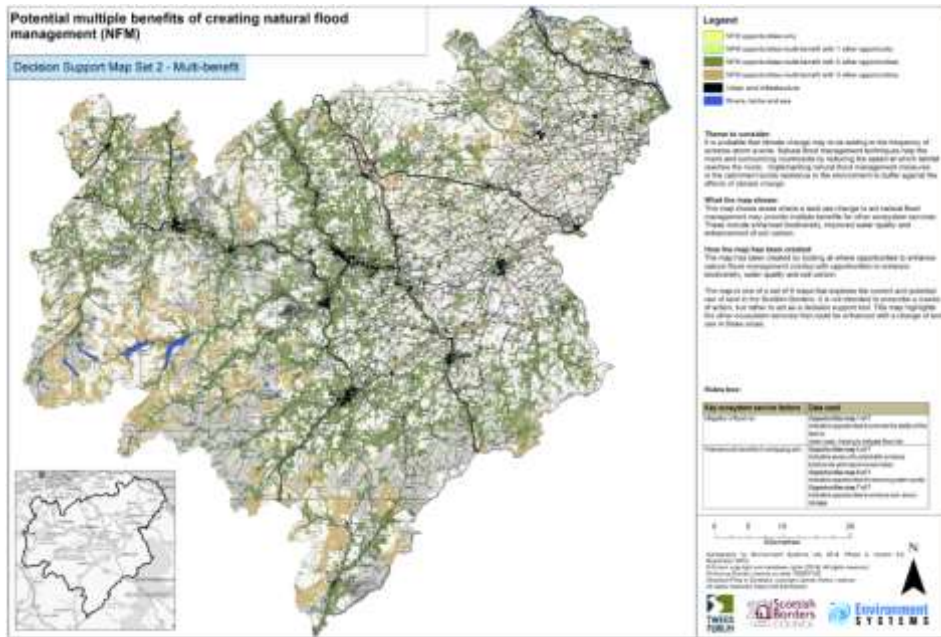
SJ will attend the meeting about land use on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 7.30 pm at Eddleston Village hall; see below for details of this:-

### **Scottish Borders Land Use Strategy pilot**

#### **'Consultation on the draft Framework and Map based information'**

Please come along to the third **Public Meeting Event**,  
in **Eddleston Village Hall** on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015**,

7.30pm - 9.00pm



An example map showing potential multiple benefits of creating natural flood management

### Evening Programme for the Consultation Event

After almost 18 months of widespread discussion, the draft Land Use Framework and Maps are available for public consultation and we are hosting a series of LUS pilot consultation events. At these events, a short presentation will be made on the draft Framework document. This will be followed by a discussion regarding the various maps generated. More information is available overleaf. It would be appreciated if you could let us know of your intention to attend, by e-mailing:

[derek.robson@tweedforum.org](mailto:derek.robson@tweedforum.org).

Kind Regards

**Derek Robeson**, Tweed Forum

### Scottish Borders pilot regional Land Use Framework: Consultation Questions

The consultation documents and maps are available to view for your interest and comment on the Council's website at:

[www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/1225/countryside\\_farming\\_and\\_wildlife/964/biodiversity/6](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/1225/countryside_farming_and_wildlife/964/biodiversity/6)  
[www.scotborders.gov.uk/pilotLUSconsultation/maps](http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/pilotLUSconsultation/maps)

A set of consultation questions is also available on the Council's website for completion via an online web form, or via a download document if you prefer to submit your response by email or post to [lus@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:lus@scotborders.gov.uk) or Land Use Strategy pilot consultation, Built & Natural Heritage, Regulatory Services, Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA. **The closing date for consultation responses is 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015.**

Ahead of the meeting, it would be beneficial to have looked at the on-line documents, and maps, so we can discuss them. The questions are listed below:

Question 1:

Does the Framework document provide enough background information to explain the pilot?

Question 2:

Are you satisfied with the process undertaken to produce the Framework?

Question 3:

Are you satisfied with the stakeholder consultation undertaken to produce the Framework?

Question 4:

Are you satisfied with the content and clarity of the maps shown?:

- i) Do you have any comments on the stock maps of natural capital?
- ii) Do you have any comments on the opportunity maps and key policy drivers?
- iii) Do you have any comments on the interaction maps?
- iv) Do you have any comments on the potential multiple benefit maps?

Question 5:

Are the mapped sets of interactions between different potential land uses (constraints on possible land use options) together with the maps of potential multiple benefits helpful in guiding decisions about possible land use change?

Question 6

- i) Can you give an indication of how you might use the mapped information?
- ii) What other elements might help make this easier for your use?

Question 7

Are you satisfied with the Interim action plan?

Question 8:

Are you satisfied with the set of potential national, regional and local actions as proposed in the Postscript?

Questions 9 &10: Refer to actions for organisations to consider



Question 11:

Do you feel that the proposals for Monitoring and Assessment of this pilot are adequate for the purpose?

Question 12: Do you have any further comments you would like to make?

The A7 Action Group met on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan at Teviothead village hall, & the notes from it are as follows (Jack Mackenzie attended on behalf of Stow CC):-

#### Planned works 2014/15

- 3<sup>rd</sup> phase to upgrade streetlights Stow main street mainly complete with some final electrical testing to be carried out
- Budget allowance originally made to allow Planned Patching on A7 north of Gala during 2014-15; permanent repair works deferred until after construction phase of railway completed
- Surfacing of Gala High St deferred in 2013-14 due to proposed design requiring Ground Penetration Radar survey of existing utility services in area. This survey has been carried out & a final design completed. Now likely that the surfacing work will take place during Mar 2015, with final decision being based in conjunction with ongoing gas main replacement works currently being carried out by Scotia Gas Networks, & the timings of completion of works (connected with the railway) in Ladhope Vale.
- 7 sections of carriageway centreline were spray-applied at the end Oct '14:-

S of B710 Bowland junction to start of surface dressing, 562m

Entrance to Longpark Windfarm to S end of Bow straight, 617m

N end of Bow straight to 30mph limit in Stow, 2015m

N of Torquhan to N of Burnhouse Mains, 2350m

N end of Fountainhall straight to B6368 Gilston Jctn, 2020m

N of old jct at Heriot thro' double bends, 370m

N of new road re-alignment to Midlothian boundary, 1406m

- Officers from SBC's Asset Management section continue to monitor & inspect A7 and adjacent minor roads within the A7 corridor, which are being used in connection with the Railway project. Defects identified during inspections are being temporarily repaired in order to keep roads safe.
- A full condition survey will be carried out on the A7 & adjacent roads within the A7 corridor during Jan-Feb 2015. This survey will include carriageway surface, white lining, verges, drainage, structures: and it will allow for works to be identified & considered for inclusion within the planned works programme for 2015-16.

David Richardson, Asset Manager, Commercial Services SBC 9/1/15

The PEM for the proposed Girthgate wind farm will take place at the Carfraemill on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015; John Williams is kindly representing Stow & Fountainhall CC's; the Chair cannot attend as she is away, anyone else wanting to go will be very welcome.

The CC meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.

The next meeting will take place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 at 7.30 pm in Stow town hall;