



COLDSTREAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Coldstream & District Community Council (CDCC)
Thursday 17th Nov 2022 held in Town Hall.

Alison Campbell (AC))

Iain Dickson (ID)

Diana Findlay (DF)

Wendy Myers (WM)

Guy Stephenson (GS)

Henry Wallis (HW)

SBC Councillor Donald Moffat (Cllr M)- attended the last part of the meeting

SBC Councillor John Greenwell (Cllr G)

Visitors:-

Gus Russell– Tweed Valley Railway

James Boulton– Tweed Valley Railway

David Robinson Eildon Housing

Simon Smith SRS Development

Walter Ross Architect

Martyn Lee MD SRS Development

Martin Hadshar – Coldstream Heart Rhythm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Jannette Simm, Joy Thomson, Fiona Shepherd, Carrie Bridge, Mark Rowley, Colin McGregor and Mary Hemingway.

2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Minutes for 20th October were proposed for approval by Diana Findlay and seconded by Henry Wallis. There were no declarations of interest except under Planning. Cllr M cannot comment on Planning Items. The Nursery Lane item will not be discussed by AC or WM.

3 TWEED RAILWAY

Initiated by Kelso Community Council, the campaign organisation was set up in October 2021 by Kelso District Council, received grant funding from Cheviot Area partnership in early 2022 and is keen to see if there is interest from other border towns along the route in restoring connection of East Coast main line to the Borders Railway by extending eastwards through to Berwick.

A development of this kind would boost tourism and leisure, encouraging foreign visitors to travel in and around the Borders rather than bypassing it on their way to

Edinburgh. The route could encourage active travel cycling and walking and has good tie-ins with Destination Tweed which could bring 330,000 additional people. This link would make it easier for young families to access education and work, which should in turn encourage young people to stay in the area. 6 times more than expected have been using the Tweedbank station so there are lots of people who would potentially use this new line. New jobs have also been attracted to Tweedbank which we would hope might happen here. Reston, Coldingham and St Abbs are also excited about their new railway station too and it would be good to share in this excitement.

The train is a sustainable source of transportation and this line would provide resilience for the link between Berwick and Edinburgh and also Berwick to Carlisle.

The group has 130 members and supporters already. It would be a three stage project :-

- Is there interest?
- Feasibility study – how and where?
- Deliver

The feasibility study for extension from Tweedbank to Hawick and on to Carlisle is expected to cost £10m for a route twice the length of the Tweed Valley Railway (71 miles Tweedbank to Carlisle compared with 34 miles from St Boswells to Berwick). There is a need to decide if the route should be electrified or hydrogen.

Northumberland Councillors on the North Northumberland Local Area Council are also keen on the project, especially for the opportunities it might bring to Berwick upon Tweed. The group is also keen to talk to Area Partnership and SBC too. Anyone can join the group and any member of CDCC who wants to could join the management committee, which meets every 2 months. – it's great fun!

CDCC is very keen to get involved and thinks this would be great for the town.

Gus Russell will send AC the details and the monthly update – **AC to put on Facebook to encourage folk to apply for membership and follow progress.**
(DONE)

4 59 UNITS OF SOCIAL HOUSING

The team has been working on this development since April 22. Sincera Developments are part of a larger group working across the UK. They have Site Managers and Contract Managers dealing with property and other infrastructure works and commercial too. SRS are partnering here with Eildon Housing Association who have been based in Selkirk for more than 50 years and target to build 800 hundred homes in the next 5 years. This is one of the Eildon HA's top priority developments. They have recently built some extra care units in the Borders. The 12 Flats at Hirsell Court and 6/7 supported living units at Douglas Court are Eildon stock in Coldstream.

The team have worked with the Local Authority and the Scottish Government and both are supportive. SRS are contracted to buy both plots of land on Duns Roads. They plan to build:-

2 DDA compliant bungalows, 12 dormer bungalows, 12 cottage flats and some flats. There has been a lot of effort put into the environment– communal gardens and seating, an electric charging point and the units aim to cover all the needs for social housing that have been identified although no extra care provision is proposed here.

The team are keen to get involved in the community and to use local businesses where they can. They have had a lot of meetings with local planners already and they are on board.

There is to be a Public Meeting on 29th November 6-8pm upstairs in Newcastle Arms to help them hit a 16th Jan target date to submit a planning application.

They have been working with Scottish Water on waste water plans. More surveys are now taking place. The energy savings design criteria from Eildon Housing will be built in – low energy lights, lots of insulation and air source heat pumps etc. The finish on the new block of flats on Duns Road will blend into current housing on the road. Those currently parking on this site and employed by local businesses will be engaged with by the developers over the next three months as part of the community consultation. SRS made a commitment that they will provide on-site parking for all construction related vehicles associated with the development to avoid increasing parking pressure during the build phase.

The development team will look to help local charities on an incremental basis as the development works increase. The Coldstream Community Larder is looking for a container to house the larder on the Primary School plot near the site and the Community Centre needs roof repairs. CDCC made it clear any help would be gratefully received but that they understand the pot is not infinite. House allocation will be through the Council's allocation system. Swaps can be arranged with other housing associations to free up larger properties.

Concerns were made about parking and the road itself near a school during the construction phase and when the development is finished. Traffic management plans will be required by Highways.

Scottish Water connections can be made. Storm water will be reduced on site and that is normally what creates issues in the lines. Foul water will obviously increase but Scottish Water are happy that the pollutants from the scrapyards will be reduced. The quarries are already filled in but poles and concrete will be used to make sure foundations are sound. Soakaways will be put into the area that is currently wasteland not the scrapyards site. There will be gas blankets on foundations of all properties.

CDCC was very supportive of social housing on this site as are SBC.

5 Defibrillators

Martin is Chair of Coldstream Heart Rhythm which was set up to provide defibrillators and to train the public in their use. In the UK less than 10% of those who have a cardiac attack in public survive. Every minute counts. Ambulances rarely provide defibrillation successfully. Norway has raised this survival rate to 25% by increasing availability of the equipment and providing training and making it a requirement for school graduation.

Coldstream and surrounding areas statistically have poor health and a high incidence of heart disease. As an ex GP Martin is aware of many who could have survived locally if defibrillators were available and he himself was successfully resuscitated 5 years ago.

Martin would like to have the support of the Community Council.

We have several defibrillators in the town already but the group would like to try to get another handful in residential areas at a cost of about £1,500 each plus installation. Getting access to an electrical supply could be an issue – photovoltaic

cabinets exist but these are much more expensive. Martin will contact Cllr Greenwell to ask if it is possible to take electricity to power them from street lights.

Training mannequins and training defibrillators would help with training residents to provide CPR.

At some point CDCC will be able to transfer the defibrillator outside the library to the new group. The one on the Town Hall is close to needing to be replaced before long. The group will apply for locality grants to help buy new and replacement defibrillators for a 5th December deadline and have had monies from Hudson Hirsell. There will be an ongoing cost for replacement batteries, pads and insurance. CDCC is happy to support this and will give access to us for help if needed. **WM to arrange that CDCC will pay now to replace the pads and batteries (if required) in the defibrillator at the Town Hall (DONE)** but would look to transfer responsibility for it in the fullness of time.

6 MATTERS ARISING

The following actions were carried forward:-

- **C/F ID to look at what is possible in Market Square with David Shepherd**
- **C/F FS** agreed to ask DS if he could help AC prepare an eye catching poster which will be Coldstream orientated, with a clear plea to fill in the questionnaire. **AC to talk DS directly (DONE)**
- **C/F MH** agreed to investigate **Scotland Starts Here with Chambers of Commerce contacts.**
- **C/F JT** to organise a separate joint meeting with **Community Trust and Gateway to exchange thoughts and ideas.**

7 REPORTS FROM SBC AS APPROPRIATE

All three planning proposals were supported. AC to advise SBC (DONE)

8 POLICE REPORT

Police report is better than last year. The police are looking to try and catch those who are abusing the double yellow lines. It was noted someone had reversed the wrong way up Nursery Lane.

9 UPDATE FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr M had attended Bennecourt for an official ceremony commemorating the British Legion.

The Lennel Brae questionnaire had >150 responses and is progressing to the legal stage.

10 PLACE PLANNING

We have had 70 questionnaires so far which is a little disappointing. Opportunities to fill in the questionnaire online remain on the website and there should be paper copies of the questionnaire with laminated backup documents in coffee shops in the town. This is all being promoted on Facebook and in Community News.

11 QUICK UPDATES FROM OTHER GROUPS IN THE TOWN

There had been a very productive Christmas planning meeting . Raffle prizes are coming in and The Newcastle Arms is providing some wine for the tables. Waitresses and waiters are identified.

12 CORRESPONDENCE

Police Station/bunkhouse –**AC to liaise with Newcastleton bunkhouse to arrange a visit for a Thursday in January (DONE).**

No cold calling zone **AC to put on Facebook the tools needed for streets to put in place no cold calling zones. (DONE)**

Grounds Maintenance walkabout actions

- **AC to ask SBC to rotovate as much of the ground between Bluebell steps and the Tweed Green steps as they are willing to and to quote for wild flower seed for this (DONE)**
- **HW will find out if metal bench still available to replace missing one on Tweed Green as potential Coronation bench**
- **HW to use newly returned sweeper to tackle moss in Market Square**
- Set up of a hit squad for extra grounds maintenance volunteers was discussed but no decision made.
- **AC to report cracked slab near water stank to Scottish Water (DONE)**
- **AC to organise new Grounds Maintenance walkabout.- (DONE – 2/2/23)**

Hudson Hirsell panel representative

Iain Dickson volunteered to be on the Hudson Hirsell panel.

Speed of change of traffic lights outside Parish Council – near accident

AC to email Jason Hedley to ask if the traffic light can be checked. (DONE)

13 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the current position on all three accounts. There has not been much movement on any since the last report. The Common Good Bank Account needs to be used or Bank of Scotland will close the account. Replacement of defibrillator pads and batteries to be paid from this account.**AC to send to WM details of last defibrillator pad and battery purchases (DONE).**

14 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Printer and laptop A suggestion was made that CDCC acquires a laptop and printer for the secretary – ID proposed and GS seconded. **Cllr G to see if a reconditioned laptop is available FOC or at low price (DONE).**

Common Good GS asked about the flat above the museum and whether it should be in Common Good. Officers attending a Common Good meeting had confirmed previously that this flat had been sold before the Common Good Fund was created. Similar questions were raised about the old toilet block on Abbey Road but this had not yet been raised with the Common Good Fund.

Tweed Valley membership Tweed Valley Corporate Membership is £25. GS proposed that CDCC join Tweed Valley as a corporate member and this was seconded by GS. **WM to arrange payment to Tweed Valley (DONE).**

15 NEXT MEETING 15th December at 7pm. Meeting closed at 21:29pm.