

Scottish Borders Community Councils' Network (SBCCN)



April 2009

PRESS RELEASE

HEALTH ON THE AGENDA AT PEEBLES COMMUNITY MEETING

There was a full turn out of key service providers, elected representatives and SBC officials when the first 'Focus on Health in Peebles' meeting attracted 26 people to come along and address the challenges for the future. Peebles Community Council arranged and facilitated the meeting. The catalyst to this partnership working was the bed closures at Haylodge Hospital during the summer and autumn months. It became clear that a partnership consultation meeting with NHS Borders, SBC Executives and SBC Councillors, Jeremy Purvis MSP, Doctors, and Community Councils would allow for key issues to be discussed on how to meet the challenges in Peebles for Health and Social Care in the future. These issues are more usefully addressed by partnership working as one area of provision impacts directly on another.

Janice Pace, health representative on Peebles Community Council clarified:

"Peebles is rapidly growing with associated demands on the Doctors, dentists and Social Care provision. There are currently 11,000 patients registered at Haylodge Health Centre and this is set to grow with Peebles seen as one of the key areas for population growth over the next twenty years due to its proximity to Edinburgh. Alongside this we have an ageing population."

The agenda covered Haylodge Health Centre Challenges, Dunwhinny, Glentress, and Dentistry in a diverse and productive session. Many contributed to the discussion and key officials gave information on the varied topics. Andrew Lowe Director of Social work described the review that is taking place for Transforming Older Peoples services that will inform a 12 year plan. David Hume Chief Executive of SBC volunteered to take away the issue of Planning Gain and discuss with relevant departments.

The Chair of the meeting David Pye, Secretary of Peebles Community Council, said:
"This was a very successful start and

there was a great deal of motivation to act now and work in partnership. If the enthusiasm of the meeting propels closer joint working and puts Peebles Health and Social care in the spotlight then we will have achieved what we set out to do."

Contact:

David Pye, Secretary,
Peebles Community Council
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e-mail: david@meldonifa.co.uk

Janice Pace, Health representative
Peebles Community Council
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e-mail: janice@pacej.demon.co.uk

SBCCN Chairman's comment

I'm sure you will all join me in congratulating the Royal Burgh of Peebles and District Community Council on organising such a fantastic event.

Does your Community Council have a Health representative? Could an event like this be replicated in your area?
Food for thought.

GD

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Training Opportunities

Remember to put 'training opportunities' on the agenda for your next meeting and respond to Graeme Donald with your thoughts to help us and plan a responsive training programme for September to December then March to June.

SBCCN AGM

Don't forget to book your place at the SBCC AGM – 7pm on 13 May at SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells.

To reserve your place e-mail Graeme Donald at chair@sbccn.org.uk by 8 May.

Annual Conference

Theme: Improving your Town or Village Centre

Date: 3rd October 2009.

Venue: Scottish Borders Council Offices; Newtown St Boswells.

Don't lose your right to vote at the European Parliamentary election on June 4.

SBC's Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), Les Walker, is issuing a call for people to make sure they are on Scottish Borders register of electors.

"If you are not on the register you can't vote," explained Les. "Many people wrongly assume that they are automatically on the register of electors just because they pay council tax. Others forget to tell me that they have moved house. I would urge everyone to make sure that they are on the register.

"If their name is not on the register all they have to do is complete a voter registration form and send it to me. And to make sure they are registered in time for the European election, the completed form must reach me by

midnight on 19 May."

Local residents must also be on the register if they wish to become a Community Councillor, be co-opted on to a Community Council or vote in Community Council elections.

The register of electors can be viewed at the ERO office in Scott House, Sprouston Road, Newtown St Boswells and at Council contact centres, which can also provide voter registration forms. The forms can also be downloaded from www.aboutmyvote.co.uk and www.saa.gov.uk/scottishborders/sbc_forms.html.

Return your completed form, which must be signed, to the Electoral

Registration Officer at Scott House. The ERO can also be contacted on 01835 825100, by fax on 01835 825101, or by e-mail at ero@scotborders.gov.uk

In the election, more than 375 million European Union citizens will be able to vote for their chosen representative for a five-year period. There will be 736 MEPs from 27 Member States. The UK will elect 72 MEPs, including six representing Scotland.

Scotland is one of 12 electoral regions in the UK. Each region has a Regional Returning Officer – in Scotland it's Tom Aitchison, Chief Executive of City of Edinburgh Council. The local Returning Officer is David Hume, Chief Executive of Scottish Borders Council.

National Model Community Council Scheme

You will have recently received a copy of the Scottish Government's National Model Community Council Scheme of Establishment, Constitution, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. These were the result of a piece of work that was started by the Scottish Executive and looked at the Role of Community Councils and how that could be supported.

The publication of the Scottish Executive's findings in 2006 showed The Scottish Borders to be ahead in many areas

Following the election in 2007 the Scottish Government tasked officials with working with Community Council and Local Authority representatives across the country to develop a Model National Scheme of Establishment. Six Local Authority

areas, including the Scottish Borders, were selected to join a working group. Graeme Donald, Chair of the SBCCN, and Clare Malster, SBC Community Engagement Officer attended all meetings and ensured that the perspective of a rural area such as the Borders was taken into account throughout the discussions.

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New Ways Scottish Borders Compact

National Model Community Council Scheme (cont).

The resulting National Model is designed to be flexible in places, to respond to local circumstances, but be more rigid in others.

Some Local Authorities delayed reviewing their Scheme in anticipation of this Model. Scottish Borders Council took the decision to proceed with a review of the local Scheme. This decision has been

largely supported with the publication of the National Models which contain relatively minor changes to local practice.

There are no proposals to adopt the National Model in the near future – following the SBC Review and consultation it is clear that many parts would not work at a local level. There may, however, be parts that

we may wish consider adopting at some point in the future.

The National Model have been sent to you for information but should you wish to discuss them please do not hesitate to contact Clare Malster on 01835 826626, cmalster@scotborders.gov.uk

In last month's newsletter Liz Walthew, Voluntary Sector Liaison Officer, mentioned the Scottish Borders Compact Action Plan. The Compact is an agreement between the public and voluntary sectors in the Borders, and was officially launched on 6 June 2005.

The Compact clearly states what each organisation can expect from the other in the form of a list of principles and commitments, providing a platform for improved co-operation, understanding and respect. It recognises the voluntary sector and their roles and responsibilities.

Many areas have a Compact. However, the Borders is one of the few areas where all the major public sector agencies have signed. The Scottish Borders Community Council Network also signed up in 2005 and is now an active member of the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group which meets quarterly to share information and good practice. Graeme Donald is currently the SBCCN representative on this group.

The Scottish Borders Compact is available on line at <http://www.scottishbordersnewways.co.uk/potential/Shared%20Documents/Voluntary%20Sector%20and%20Compact/Borders%20Compact.pdf> or hard copies are available from Clare Malster.

SBC Review of Funding to Community Councils

Membership of the Funding Review Working Group has now been finalised and is as follows:

Berwickshire: Joyce Mclean or Barrie Forrest (Reston & Auchencrow)
Cheviot: Graham Fry (Jed Valley)
Eildon: Raymond du Bois (Newtown & Eildon)
Teviot & Liddesdale: Kevin Ferguson (Hawick)
Tweeddale: Patricia Purves (Walkerburn)

Other Group members are as follows:
Scottish Borders Councillors:

Berwickshire: Frances Renton
Cheviot: Len Wyse
Eildon: Kenneth Gunn
Teviot & Liddesdale: George Turnbull
Tweeddale: Gavin Logan

Scottish Borders Council Officers:

Finance Officer – Andrew Mitchell
Scrutiny Officer – Brian Emmerson
Community Engagement Officer – Clare Malster
Observers:
Scottish Borders Community

Councils' Network: Graeme Donald
Association of Scottish Community Councils (Borders rep): Bob Kerr

Chair:
Cllr Neil Calvert

All meeting papers will be available on the SBC website.

The first meeting of the Group will take place on 28 April.

Any queries regarding the Review should be forwarded to Clare Malster.

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Can your Community Council get involved directly or set up a group to action the following?

The winner in 2008 of the Scottish Borders Award for Innovation in Environmental Improvement, sponsored by Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland, was the Selkirk Plastic Bag Free group. Since then there have been plastic bag campaigns

in Peebles and Berwick.

Scottish Borders Environment Partnership (SBEP) is asking Community Councils in other areas where there are shops to help roll this out across the Borders and make the Scottish Borders the first area in the UK to claim to be free of disposable plastic carriers bags.

SBEP is offering support and is writing to retailers with multiple outlets operating in the Borders. SBEP is also working cross-border as some of us shop cross-border.

The SBEP initiative is supported the Council's Technical Services Department which is responsible for waste. There is a link below to a story on the Scottish Government website which links to the SBEP initiative.

For more information look at

<http://www.onlineborders.org.uk/site/microsites/sbep/home/page>

on left side click on 'Library' then access 'CReW'

www.scottishbordersnewways.com/public/awards/default.htm

<http://www.selkirkplasticbagfree.co.uk>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/03/12092010>

Greater Awareness - Caring Attitudes
Wiser Use of Resources - Better Quality of Life
Scottish Charity SC 027984

Private Water Supplies Grants Available—Scottish Borders Council's Environmental Health team are promoting the availability of Scottish Government grants to improve Private Water Supplies. These can be used for such purposes as the installation of water treatment systems, such as Ultra-Violet or Ceramic filters, upgrading/replacing of Storage Tanks etc., for the provision of new supplies such as boreholes or entirely new domestic distribution systems (within the meaning of the 2006 Regulations). The Grant scheme is non-means tested, but has a limit of £800 per property on the supply (unless there are issues of hardship, where further grant funds may be available). If a supply is shared between neighbouring premises, a combined application can be made on behalf of everyone on the supply. If you would like posters, more information, or for someone to come and talk to your Community Council about the grant scheme, please contact Darren Moore on 01450 364706.

We can provide this document on tape, in large print and various other formats by contacting the address below. In addition, contact us for information on other language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you and explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

Clare Malster, Community Engagement Officer
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