

Heriot Community Council

Minutes of meeting, Wednesday 26th September 2018.

Present: F. Connelly, S Sharp, G. Whittaker, J. Williams, H. Brinkworth, Cllr S. Aitchison + members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Anderson.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting: These were agreed, but with modification to include grant funding discussion.
2. Police report. Attached. There was dismay expressed that a Liaison Officer had again failed to attend the meeting, and Cllr Aitchison agreed to raise this with the police at a forthcoming meeting with them.
3. School bus and bus shelters

- a. GW reported that the planning applications were still awaiting decision from SBC officers.
- b. A complaint had been received at SBC, and copied to the CC, of two incidents where the Galashiels school bus had left Heriot early and departed for the turn-around at Falahill. This had forced the school pupils to cross the A7 at Heriot at a busy and potentially hazardous time of day in order to catch the bus from the southbound carriageway.

Cllr. Aitchison had raised the issue with SBC officers and with Border Buses, the latter having been warned of financial penalties if there were repeat occurrences of the incident. Cllr. Aitchison further reported that he had followed the bus after receiving the complaint and making representations to Border Buses and it had run 'like clockwork'.

A further complaint was made about the response of the bus company following an accident on the A7 that closed the road. The bus had eventually returned to Heriot to drop school pupils off at their normal stops. Allegations were made about failures in communication putting the pupils at risk. [note from after the meeting: SBC officials subsequently reported that the bus company operated as they should, that the event was immediately reported to SBC, who reported to the school and put out an alert and an announcement on Radio Borders, and that the system had worked as intended.]

It was claimed that, even in the absence of buses leaving early, the scheduled pickup from the southbound carriageway created a risk in the process. Following extended discussion, the CC requested that Cllr. Aitchison ask SBC to consider

removing the pickup point on the southbound carriageway in the interests of safety. This would incentivise pupils to ensure that they are at the northbound stop in time, and would remove any need to cross the A7 in future. Cllr Aitchison again reminded parents that it is their responsibility for their children's safety until they board the bus, and for ensuring that their children arrive at the bus stop on time.

4. Broadband provision in Heriot: It is still not clear what BT's plans are for establishing better broadband in the Heriot area. The BT Openreach website claims that FTTP will be installed in Heriot by December, in conjunction with their unicorn breeding program. Meanwhile, JW reported that Heriot Community Broadband had suffered some storm minor damage that was quickly repaired. A temporary loss of signal at the Clints mast was slowing the network slightly, but most people would be practically unaffected. Users were reminded to use the ticket system to report system faults, and not to phone HBC directors.

5. Windfarms:

- a. Gilston – No change. Reporter is yet to publish his report.
- b. Greystone Knowe – no news. Progressing slower than other applications.
- c. Carcant extension is at scoping stage. Reported to involve 9 turbines 130-150m in height.

6. AOB

- a. Angela Mackay-Fletcher reported that she had attempted to clean up the underpass of organic litter, and had filled a couple of wheelbarrows. She was commended for her efforts. Cllr Aitchison pointed out that if the litter was causing the steps to become slippery, it was a safety issue and was SBC's responsibility to deal with.

SA to raise with SBC officers.

- b. Skip. The conclusion of the discussion at the previous meeting was unclear. Sue agreed to look into the practicalities and costs.

SS to determine costs of skips

- c. Gilston Road potholes had been temporarily repaired. It was reported that Skene were potentially responsible for maintaining the road, as part of the planning conditions for the quarry.

SA to discuss with quarry manager

- d. Falahill water. SA and Cllr Anderson are continuing to press those responsible about this issue, but [problems are ongoing and not being resolved. It was reported that the installation of mains water is being held up over issues about access across the land of a third party.

SA to contact media and all responsible parties.

- e. Bus shelter. Following the submission of planning applications for three bus shelters, a request had been made for a fourth at hangingshaw. The CC discussed

the issue briefly, but opted to complete the existing bus shelters before embarking on a further project.

- f. Planning application 18/01243/FUL Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and erection of greenhouse and summerhouse | South Lodge Crookston. This application is not technically in the Heriot CC area, but is within 30m of the boundary with Stow and Fountainhall CC area. The alterations are relatively minor and in the absence of any further details at the meeting, was not discussed. Councillors were invited to pass comment, if necessary, after reviewing the application online.

The meeting finished at 20:10.

Remaining meeting in 2018 (at 7:00pm in the Macfie Hall):

Nov 28th