

Heriot Community Council

Wednesday October 4th 2017

Present: J Williams (Chair), F. Connelly (Treasurer), G. Whittaker (Secretary), Cllr Anderson (SBC),
plus 4 members of the public.

Apologies: P. Hood, S. Sharp, K. Findlayson, I. Hall, Cllr. Aitchison, Cllr. Scott, Cllr. Jardine.

1. Minutes of previous meeting: Agreed.
2. Police Report. There was no police report. Following the departure of PC McNair, Police Scotland have informed us that we have a new community liaison officer, PC Roger Changleng, who was brought up in Stow and knows the area well.
3. Borders Railway.
 - a. Underpass: There has been no progress on the underpass, the SBC officers who had agreed to report back on the issue to the Eildon Locality Committee failed to turn up to the last meeting, so we are no further forward.
 - b. Water supply at Falahill. Residents from Falahill reported that Network Rail were working with Scottish Water to install a new mains supply to the houses affected by the borehole issues. Houses 3,4,5, 5B would be connected to the new supply, the remaining houses would have pipework installed, but would not be connected.
4. Windfarm Funds Report:
 - a. Bus shelters, GW reported that, because SBC had requested a change in the position of the main shelter, confirmation was now needed from Network Rail that the CC had permission to install the bus shelter there. Once that was obtained, a planning application could be prepared and submitted.
 - b. Toddleburn-Carant windfarm panel had agreed to part-fund an application by the Community Broadband Company to extend the roll-out of their service to the last parts of the community and to replace existing equipment. A decision on the corresponding application to the Dun Law Trust was deferred by the Trust pending more information.

5. SBC Local Plan consultations JW, FC and GW had attended the SBC Local Plan consultation in Galashiels. A new draft of the local plan will be published early in 2018 for consultation, and after any amendments, will be adopted by 2021 for the following five years. At present, there are no changes to the Local Plan that affect Heriot.

There is an awareness in the Planning Department that Network Rail may wish to add a station between Stow and Gorebridge, in the future, but in the absence of any firm decisions this does not currently impact on the plan. It was recognised that any station would almost inevitably be accompanied by very significant housing development in the area adjacent to it.

[Details on the procedure for the Local Plan are available at https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/downloads/file/100/development_plan_scheme As yet, there is no online submission available for comments, but details of how to submit comments are provided in the document]

6. Wind Farms
 - a. Gilston wind farm – Refusal of this application was advised by the Planning Officers, and was subsequently unanimously refused permission by the SBC Planning Committee. The grounds for refusal were the scale, landscape impact and cumulative impact, and the high potential for interference with air traffic control radar systems.
 - b. Greystone Knowe scheme. This is a prospective scheme on the hills above and to the West of Haltree Farm by Corolis. Indicative photomontages were viewed, based on the positions and heights (145m) of the turbines suggested by the proponents. The visual impact on many Heriot properties would be significant, but this is *not* a live application and is not expected to be so until 2019.
7. Heriot Community Broadband

JW and FC reported that most work on expanding the network would cease until after the winter. There is a prospect of the network being expanded down towards Stow and north into the Moorfoot region. Some discussion took place about BT proposals to install fibre connections to the community but, at present, these are similar to promises that BT have made before but have failed to follow through on.
8. AOB

- a. Landscaping group. GW reported that a local farmer had been extremely cooperative in being willing to make some land available for tree planting. Details are yet to be worked through, but more meetings are planned to follow this through. At the same time, work is ongoing in communicating with Network Rail to see whether some land for tree planting could be made available at Falahill.
- b. “The Train Ride 2018”. This is a proposal, deferred from last year, by an events organiser to arrange a family cycling event one Sunday in July 2018 to run from Newtongrange through to Galashiels. The event has the support of SBC, Midlothian Council and a number of other relevant bodies. It would require a rolling programme of closures along the A7, but at the same time there will be opportunities for local organisations to use this as a fundraising event. Provision will be made for access of emergency vehicles, should the need arise, and where people absolutely need to get in or out during the closure, provision may be made for that also. More details will be available closer to the event, and all directly affected properties will receive mailings explaining the situation.
- c. Bonfire: The current plan is for the village bonfire to take place on Saturday 4th November. The organisers of the fireworks display reported that the event was essentially self-funding but were encouraged to apply for additional money for fireworks nonetheless.
- d. Community Council Elections. It was agreed that the November meeting would be the last of the current community council. GW agreed to arrange the next round of nominations.
- e. It was reported that the planned holiday cottages at Falahill had been refused permission on approximately 14 points of conflict with planning policy.

The meeting closed at 19:45