Innerleithen and District Community Council  
Minutes of Meeting held 7th January 2019

Those present: Cllr Stuart Bell, George Brown, Jim Calder (Treasurer), Jackie Couchman (Minutes Secretary), Neil Dalgleish (TweedLove), Gordon Daly (Secretary), Marshall Douglas (Chair), Cllr Shona Haslam, Susan Meikle (Vice Chair), Cllr Robin Tatler

Two members of the public were present

Absent: PC Christopher Burnside

Marshall Douglas wished everyone a Happy New Year.

1. Public forum:

Excess of traffic lights on local routes: the process of consulting prior to installing traffic lights was queried in the light of the recent glut with resultant disruption to bus timetables. There is no specific consultation, but major schemes are consulted on and discussed within SBC and notification given to the Community Council for advance publication. An example given was the major work at Dirtpot Corner which, Cllr Shona Haslam confirmed, was going well and on target to finish as scheduled. An example of a smaller scheme given was the rollout of superfast broadband around the Eshiels area which had been given general approval to allow for a big push forward during December. Reported disruption in Cardrona, around Nashy’s, had been taken up and resolved (with the developers) by councillors.

Mountain bikers’ behaviour: was still giving cause for concern. There had been an improvement during last year, but recent examples of muddy bikers stripping off in residential streets, using public land for toilets and foul language in response to reasonable representations was creeping back. A meeting had been held at the end of October 2018 between Hall Street residents, the police, Cllr Robin Tatler and Community Councillors to discuss the issues. Actions had been agreed as follows (extracted from 3rd December minutes):

“ACTION:
- Cllr Robin Tatler to follow up the possibility of visitor parking at the Co-op.
- Philippa Gilhooly to report back on her assessment of Hall Street car park (surface, lighting, foliage) along with any proposed improvements. Initial response was for improvement to be added to the SBC list for possible works programmes and for the lighting to be looked at.
- Jason Hedley to explore the potential for the Small Schemes budget to be used for improvements.
- Gordon Daly to write to event organisers (including Tweedlove, Bike Enduro series, Music Festival) to explore the potential overlaps for 2019. This should be used to inform a process for planning for extra visitor numbers and explore the possibility of securing extra parking in the town.“

The police and the Community Action Team are aware of the issues (Cllr Robin Tatler has a meeting with the latter on 8th January 2019 and will make sure this has been drawn to their attention), but rely on the public reporting instances, via the “101” police telephone line, to build a picture and inform their response.

Cllr Haslam identified two types of mountain bike visitor to the town: firstly, those taking part in specific cycling events: secondly, the weekenders, coming alone, or with groups of friends, to enjoy the local facilities. It was recognised and appreciated that event organisers plan carefully to mitigate perceived problems, but felt that more could perhaps be done outwith registration areas.

It was felt that it was important to maintain momentum to tackle the minority who do not behave considerately and responsibly, particularly in the light of current major initiatives to develop the mountain biking industry in the area.

2. Minutes of last meeting and approval: the minutes were approved by Gordon Daly, seconded by Susan Meikle.

3. Notification of items of AOCB: several items were identified for consideration.

4. Matters arising from previous minutes:

Hall Street Car Park: improvements are pending, to be funded through “Small Schemes”.

Innerleithen to Walkerburn Path – Signage requirements: to be funded through the “Quality of Life Scheme” are still pending.

5. Cycling Events: Neil Dalgleish, of Hillside Outside Limited, distributed a comprehensive schedule of events planned for 2019 (more details to be found at http://tweedlove.com). There are three main events centred on
Innerleithen. He explained how the process of planning for these events was taken very seriously and that all go through the safety advisory group. Experience over a number of years was constantly feeding into the process and feedback from local perspectives was sought and welcomed.

7th – 9th June 2019 is the main, festival style, event of 2019, the Second TweedLove weekend, “Transcend Festival”. A new venue on the outskirts of Innerleithen is under development. The intention is to have a safe, one-way traffic system to and from the site. Facilities for attendees will be onsite (camping, toilets etc) but the proximity to the town allows for participants to easily access local businesses. Participants are told that there is “No Event Parking” in the centre of town and signage will be put up to reinforce this.

18th – 19th August 2019 sees the second main Innerleithen based event: BEMBA National Enduro Series – Round 5 and King and Queen of the Hill – mountain bike endure (part of the Triple Crown Series). This will be centred on Victoria Park as before and runs concurrently with the Innerleithen Music Festival https://innerleithenmusicfestival.org/.

30th August – 1st September 2019 is the weekend of the Tour O The Borders (closed road event) with a similar format to previous years.

Neil was thanked and left the meeting at this point.

6. Police report: No report had been received and no officer was present.

7. SBC Councillor’s reports:

Cllr Shona Haslam:

Cllr Robin Tatler:

Innerleithen High Street road markings: the roads officer is being chased to get the remaining road markings High Street finished.

Locality Bid Fund: Cllr Robin Tatler reminded everyone that the next round is open for business https://www.scotborders.gov.uk/info/20076/community_grants_and_funding/822/tweeddale_localities_bid_fund.

Tweeddale Area Partnership meeting: is to be held on Wednesday 6th February at 7pm in the Church Hall, Leithen Road, Innerleithen. The meeting will be considering the first draft of the Tweeddale Locality Plan.

Cllr Stuart Bell:
Byelaws concerning alcohol in public places: the process of considering this issue was to be restarted, having faltered some time ago. There will be a process of consultation (last time around Innerleithen opposed such byelaws).

Recyling: Cllr Stuart Bell and Cllr Robin Tatler had attended an informative presentation on recycling at Clovenfords Community Council meeting where they had learned more than they’d expected. An open meeting is being hosted by PEEBLES COMMUNITY TRUST at the Eastgate Theatre on Thursday 7th February at 7.30pm entitled “Recycle – Reuse – Renew”. It is free to attend and no ticket is required https://eastgatearts.com/events/recycle-reuse-renew/:

“Ever thought, before throwing something out, someone else might make use of this? Or, if only someone could refurbish that, it could be used again?

Yes?

Then come to this open meeting to hear what Peebles Community Trust (PCT) is thinking and to add your views and comments.”

8. Planning: there were no new planning applications during the period.

9. Community Council Website and Facebook page:
Marshall Douglas confirmed that the new Community Council website is now up and running: https://www.innerleithen.org.uk/ and would be developed further over time.
There had been growing concern that the Facebook page was being hijacked for local business advertising/promotion and lost pet discussion which was not its intention or purpose. This had arisen from how it was set up, as a group rather than a page. After discussion, it was agreed that the Community Council presence would be split into two separate pages: one set up for direct public messaging, information and alerts; the other set up as a discussion forum. It was felt that this would cater for all in a more clearly defined and appropriate way.

**ACTION: Marshall Douglas to reconfigure the Community Council Facebook presence.**

10. **Correspondence:** there were no items of correspondence reported.

11. **Thanks and congratulations (standing item):**

   - Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to the Christmas Lights squad on providing “The Best Display of Christmas Lights in the Borders”. We thoroughly enjoyed them.
   - Thank you and well done to St Ronan’s Silver Band and Tweedvale (Innerleithen) Pipe Band who turned out in force on New Year’s Day to rouse and entertain.

12. **AOCB:**

    **Free poo-bags on the High Street:** Gordon Daly had spoken to a number of high street businesses who were supportive of an initiative to provide and promote poo-bags to try and prevent the habit of faeces being left on the main shopping street. He was told that the Council Contact Centre in Peebles would provide free bags on request. This anti-social problem had been reported on a number of residential streets, namely Chapel Street and Strand and was an ongoing issue to be tackled.

    **ACTION: Gordon Daly to source and distribute poo-bags and signage to local businesses.**

    **Bottle bank overflow:** Gordon Daly had garnered support for a post festive season glass clear up in the Co-op car park. He then spoke to Viridor (the uplift company) and arranged for the whole area to be cleared and cleaned, which they made an excellent job of. He flagged the need to plan for this for next year.

    **ACTION: Gordon Daly to speak to Co-op management to future plan glass uplifts at busy times of year.**

    **Gritting between Co-op car park and Cowford Court:** Gordon Daly highlighted a gap in gritting plans along the footpath from the Co-op car park to Cowford Court. It was unclear whose responsibility this was, but felt worth exploring with the Co-op initially.

    **ACTION: Gordon Daly to speak to Co-op management to establish appropriate gritting plans for routes from their car park.**

**Date of next Meeting:**

- 4th February 2019 at 7.15pm in Council Chambers, Leithen Road, Innerleithen.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, except August, starting at 7.15pm in Innerleithen’s Council Chamber unless otherwise agreed.

Chairman…………………………………….   Date ……………………………………….  
