

Minutes of Carlops Community Council

Thursday 29th September 2022, 8.00pm
In Carlops Village Centre and by video link

Present:

Committee Members: Guy Walters (Acting Chair for this meeting),
Hannah Walters (Secretary), Kate Morss
Community: Anna and Peter Woolverton, Patsy and Murray Campbell,
Jean Hunter, Jean Ritchie-Arulanantham, Peter Raine, Deb Kohn,
George Archibald

In attendance: Viv Thompson (Councillor)

Apologies: Marty Lee (Chair), Jim Eccleston, Mary Clare McMillan, Mairi Nye, Becky Gibby

Matter arising from meeting of 4th August 2022:

Matters arising covered in Standing Items (Projects)

Standing Items:	
Secretary's report: Emails received regarding reduction of 20mph zone – see 'Roads'	Info
Treasurer's Report: Outgoings: £16 Scotways subscription £178 paint and parts for phone box restoration Balance: £263.23 Application has been made to SBC for the annual grant (£540)	Info
Police Report: <i>Post meeting note: The barn was broken into between 6th and 8th August - tools and cash stolen.</i>	
MCM has been in touch with Community Sergeant, Corinne Bird, who is arranging for us to borrow the 'Pop-up Bob'.	Info
Roads: As there is such a short deadline (Friday, 7 th October) for responding to SBC regarding the reduction of the 20mph zone, this was the main discussion of the meeting. All present wanted	

the 20mph zone to be kept as current or strengthened.

Comments as follows:

- Final decision is not with SBC as trunk roads are the responsibility of BEAR who are answerable to Transport Scotland – TS will be the final arbiter.
- Studies throughout the UK show that '20mph is best' in residential areas. It should not be for us to argue why the current speed limit should be kept, but for TS to provide evidenced justification for why it should not.
- Places for People and the Place Plans initiatives are about improving living environments and quality of life, and giving people a say in what happens in their communities. Reducing the limited speed to just the village centre completely flies in the face of this.
- TS should provide a reasonable justification for why the speed surveys were mostly carried out where traffic is already slow or slowing due to parked cars, not where speeds are actually a safety issue.
- We should write to TS and the Scottish Gov't Minister for Transport demanding answers before retrograde changes are made. Richard.Perry@transport.gov.scot
MinisterFT@gov.scot
- TS are reluctant to increase journey times on the A702 – reducing our 20mph zone will save only seconds and if all the 20 zones between Edinburgh and Abington are added together, the additional journey time is still only a few minutes – we should calculate the exact number.
- We should ask our MSP Christine Grahame and MP David Mundell to intercede on our behalf. Anyone contacting them should remind them of the deadline (and provide address to show they are constituents)
christine.grahame.msp@parliament.scot
david.mundell.mp@parliament.uk
- Midlothian is currently applying for funding to put 20mph zones in, it makes no sense for SBC to be removing them.
- SBC has just won a prize for their 20mph zones initiative.
- The Peeblesshire News reported on Sept 9th that across the region there had been a 36% decrease in accidents, and 50% decrease in accidents resulting in serious injury or death, since the introduction of the trial 20mph zones.
- A significant proportion of drivers will always travel at a few miles per hour above the speed limit – 25mph is far preferable, safer and makes for better quality of life here than 35mph.
- Why is there no speed camera? Drivers won't stick to any speed limit if there are no consequences.

- Documents forwarded by SBC show that the decision for the flashing message to change from actual speed to Slow Down above 26mph was due to a theory (put forward by the Napier Uni study) that showing the numbers encouraged drivers to see how high they could go (they have a speedometer in the vehicle...) – this was universally considered to be ridiculous in our situation and that the majority of speeding drivers here are either in a hurry or not concentrating and most would be pulled up by an excessive speed being shown.
- Public money is very tight, why waste it by removing an initiative that is improving residents lives significantly?
- The shape of the village, with blind corners at both extremes and the centre, and the paths/tracks which cross the road at these blind spots, make raising the speed limit unjustifiably dangerous.
- The momentum, especially of heavier vehicles, created by the downhill approach at both ends makes slowing even less likely without warning signs.
- The rise in the number of electric vehicles is making approaching traffic (around corners) harder to hear, so slower speeds are necessary.
- Residents at the south end have no choice but to cross from their properties as there is no pavement on their side to take them to a safer crossing point.
- We should contact other organisations whose members will be affected by safety issues, e.g., the Ramblers Association.
- SBC does not currently have an appointed CEO, which is why letters should be addressed to:
David Robertson
Director of Finance and Corporate Governance,
Scottish Borders Council HQ
Newtown St Boswells
MELROSE
TD6 0SA
Sadly, the reason we are being asked to post written comments is that SBC staff have received a lot of abusive emails on the subject from across the region.

Planning:

No planning applications have been notified.

Projects:

- Memorial Well: GW will speak to JK regarding lime

<p>mortaring as an interim measure. PC will speak to CG about using trainee masons. There was no formal arrangement with JK regarding the orchard planting across the road.</p>	<p>GW PC</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rock Field: Gravel has been delivered, a request for help with laying will be circulated in the next fine spell. • Little Sparta concessionary entry: believed to be a set day/time - HW to check with MCM/Laura Robertson • Phone box: Paint and parts have been delivered, HW to circulate request for work party shortly. 	<p>HW</p>
<p>AOB:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scroggy Brae (Rogers Rigg – Newhall) footpath. Ongoing - <i>Scroggy Brae is the only way into Newhall and to link to the Core Path. GW to contact Erica Niven regarding status of Core path if bridge collapses (already condemned by her dept at SBC).</i> Cllr VT advised that Erica Niven has moved on. Paths officer is now Ben McCallum. 	<p>HW</p>
<p><i>ML will speak to JN about stabilising path at Rogers Rigg with Hardcore.</i></p>	<p>GW</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid/Defibrillator training – Ongoing. Chris Forster has offered to hold several smaller sessions. MCM will liaise with CF re: existing training materials and HW establish his availability and circulate dates. 	<p>ML</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill Lane mirror – Ongoing. (query raised again as to whether this could be replaced as it is no longer very effective) 	<p>HW</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was again raised that the Patie’s Hill footpath has a treacherous stretch in wet/icy weather. It is on the N Tweeddale Paths group list, though actually in Midlothian. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request has been received to link Rutherford with Carlops and the path to W Linton, which currently stops at Hazliburn. The old cinder path was allowed to grow over, leaving no safe, manageable walking/cycling route between Carlops and facilities in W Linton. Cllr VT will look for a contact and funding for this. 	
<p>Councillor’s Report:</p>	
<p>VT informed that all 3 Councillors have agreed that their focus is to be local benefit, not party politics and as such will be working together in the best interests of the communities they represent. They will be holding surgeries together.</p>	
<p>Current items:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buses: They are campaigning for the retention of the full route, but will fight for the retention of local buses as a minimum if the longer route is rejected. 	

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication re: buses is still an issue, but they are pressing for information, especially with the shrinking timescale.• SBC is currently recruiting for new CEO, in the meantime David Robertson is acting head of the council. | |
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Date and Time of Next Meeting: 8pm, 24th November 2022

Meetings will be held in Carlops Village Centre and via Zoom – link on Carlops.net

<https://zoom.us/j/96119152788?pwd=NGF5YjgxNHkySS9PZDIKMTI6N212UT09>

Meeting ID: 961 1915 2788

Passcode: 091464