



# BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

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ISSUE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY SIX – NOVEMBER 2017

## ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

**As the nights get colder and darker, the chances of severe weather increase. Storms, floods and other extreme conditions can cause damage to network infrastructure and disrupt your energy supply.**

That's why the UK's gas and electricity network companies have come together to launch the 'Be Winter Ready' campaign. The campaign aims to help the public better-prepare for power cuts and gas emergencies that may result from bad winter weather.

To Be Winter Ready, you should:

Know your free emergency numbers.

*Prepare your home* – keep a torch handy and get your appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. Vulnerable households can get extra support by signing up to the Priority Services Register. Contact your gas or electricity network to find out more. Visit [www.energynetworks.org](http://www.energynetworks.org) to find out who your network operator is.

Keep your eyes open – keep an eye on the weather forecast and, if you have a power cut or a gas

emergency, check on your neighbours. Contact no. in event of a Power Cut is 0800-082-9290

In recent years the chances of unplanned problems with electricity and gas supply have reduced dramatically. Since 1990, network companies have invested £80bn in improving the reliability of local energy networks in the UK. As a result, on average, electricity customers have a power cut just once every two years and gas distribution customers will have their gas supply interrupted without advance notice just once every 40 years.

Despite this, our gas and electricity networks can be affected by natural events, with severe winter weather potentially causing significant damage. The gas and electricity network operators are urging the public to 'Be Winter Ready'. Make sure you're prepared in case you have a power cut or gas emergency.

### St Andrew's Night Party

Walkerburn Village Hall Saturday 2nd December at 7.00 pm All invited!

"To commemorate St Andrew's Day, St Andrew's Episcopal Church is hosting a night of music, dancing, games and celebration for the community. Several local musical acts will be performing - there will be some ceilidh tunes as well as skiffle, rock 'n roll and more contemporary sounds. There will be various games, with prizes to win - and entry is completely free! Soft drinks and snacks will be provided and guests are welcome to bring suppers and alcoholic drinks to enjoy while the festivities are going on. There is no need to book in advance, but please do come, and please bring your families and friends!

As well as being a chance for the community to come together, the party is intended as a fundraiser for 'Social Bite', the Scottish homelessness charity. Rev Jim will be sleeping out in Princes Street Gardens (with one or two other folk) on the night of Saturday 9 December to raise money for this important charity and so there will be a chance to donate on the evening."

*For more details, please speak to Rev Jim Benton-Evans on 07702 842727*

### Congratulations to the Windlestraw

It is a pleasure to be able to congratulate John and Sylvia Matthews on receiving the AA's highest accreditation when the Windlestraw was recently awarded five Gold Stars for accommodation and service. Not only that, but they have also been nominated for the Most Hospitable Hotel accolade in the Visit Scotland Thistle awards. With the help of Elizabeth Fraser and her Walkerburn team, plus chef Stu Waterson, they are well set to build on this terrific achievement. Well done!

### Charity Photoshoot Event

*(A Hall Fundraising Event)*

Sunday 3rd December 10.00am- -4.00pm

"Step, into the limelight and get a professional portrait!"

Each sitting is £10 (more if you wish to contribute!). Please note: this will be on a first-come-first-served basis. On arrival, you will be asked to fill in a form with your details so that we can send your photos to you via e-mail. For more information, please e-mail [wvhcharityshoot@gmail.com](mailto:wvhcharityshoot@gmail.com)

### Walkerburn Primary School

'Walkerburn Parent Council Christmas Shopping Night'  
Thursday 23 November 2017

6.30pm – 8.30pm

£2 per ticket (includes tea/coffee/mince pie)

Stalls – Raffle – Cake and Candy

### Walkerburn Guild Coffee Morning

Village Hall Saturday 18th November from 10.00-11.30am  
Various stalls. Tickets £1

Proceeds split between 'Breaking the Cycle of FGM', 'Feed the Minds' SCO46591, and Walkerburn Public Hall

SCO20747

### Burning Issues Contributors

Please remember to submit any articles, letters or other material for the December 2017 issue **AND** January 2018 by the last day of November. As normal, there will not be a January issue.



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Latest news on Facebook: Walkerburn RFC

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**Walkerburn Bowling Club**

**The Petanque players are taking advantage of the year-round facilities to make the most of social games and practice on Friday afternoons.**

Until we have deep snow, it will take a lot to deter the hardy bunch who turn out regularly and it is good to see the amenities being used so much..

We are always looking for new members, and anyone wishing to join will be made most welcome. We also have junior sets of boules for younger players to use.

Work will continue over the closed season to complete the clubhouse rebuilding and refurbishment, and to carry out necessary fencing and groundworks as we prepare for a grand opening at the start of our 120th year next Spring! The fencing along the roadway will be erected by mid-November and will greatly improve the look of the grounds.

Once again, the annual Duck Race has been a big success. Thanks are due to John Smith for organising

everything and to all who sold tickets, bought tickets, or helped in any way to turn this into a record year. We were able to raise over £500 for club funds. Also, we are very grateful to the Innerleithen Co-Op for letting us hold an in-store collection.

Congratulations to the three winners: First Prize (£100) was ticket 339; Second prize (£50) was ticket 359; and Third prize (£25) was ticket 653. Well done!

Again, the committee would like everyone to know how indebted we are to all who have supported us in any way. This includes a large number of individuals, and local businesses. Thank you all so much.

*Anyone wanting more details can contact us on 01896-870251 or e-mail [geoles2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:geoles2@tiscali.co.uk).*

**November Wild Side**

**November already! I love that 'nip' in the air at this time of year.**

My excitement this past month has been down to weasels. One afternoon, I decided to watch some catch up TV when there was quite a horrible screaming noise outside the side living room window. Leaving my superheroes for a minute, I looked out to see a weasel pop out of the ivy grasping a rabbit by the throat. Over and over they tumbled, the rabbit still screaming until the weasel lost its grip and the rabbit made its escape across the flower bed and behind the greenhouse. It was still there much later, looking a bit the worse for wear. It spent the next day under the strawberry planter near the hedge, recovering. Whether it went on to make full its escape or the weasel found it, I'll never know. A couple of days later, my better half and the dog saw another weasel playing hide and seek in the grass tussocks on the banks of the Tweed. I'm always glad to see these mammals. They are ferocious predators for their size and if they want to help keep rabbits out of our garden, great! They are very acrobatic and great fun to watch. Natural superheroes.

Another occupant of the ivy is the wood mouse and it occasionally runs out to grab some seed that the birds have spilt from the bird table or feeders. I don't want mice in the house but outside, I love seeing them. I like seeing rabbits out in the fields just not in my garden. Everything has a purpose and a place!

Bird-wise, it's great to have the coal tits back and the feeders have been as popular as ever with them, as well as great and blue tits. The woodpecker occasionally visits and we seem to have a couple of resident wrens and robins as well as chaffinches and a couple of greenfinches.

There are quite a few flocks of wee birds about now but it's difficult to see what they are. I need to dust off the binoculars!

Feeding the birds is now more important as their wild larder comes to an end. For the fruit eaters, such as blackbirds and thrushes, there are still plenty of berries, in the form of hawthorn in particular.

Driving along the A72, in either direction, there are some trees that just have a red hue because of the masses of berries and, of course, now that many of their leaves are away, it's even more obvious.

I haven't seen any migrant thrushes yet, but we have seen a few skeins of migrating geese fly north overhead. Sometimes you can just hear them, if it's misty or, of course, at night. So, during November keep a lookout for migrant birds and, as the temperatures drop, plant growth is less and more mammals become visible as they move farther afield to find food, be it deer, otters or weasels.

There's always something to see.

## The Board of Walkerburn Community Development Trust

The Board of Walkerburn Community Development Trust has decided not to pursue the planting scheme which would have commemorated those in the armed forces who gave their lives during the First World War.

This decision was taken following a public meeting on 18th October. The idea received a good deal of support when discussed informally before the meeting and when presented to the Community Council. However this view was not expressed by the majority present, who said that the planting would reduce the area available for children to play, create a danger to those on the paths by obscuring the pathways and allowing the possibility of children being kidnapped. However, the area being taken by trees would have been comparatively small and there was only a single line of trees planned, which would easily have been maintained to prevent obscuring of the pathway.

There was criticism of the Trust for the standard of maintenance of the site, and of the paths themselves which were deemed not adequate to give access to those with less mobility and those pushing buggies. The Trust recognises, and acknowledged at the meeting, that the site has presented difficulty regarding maintenance, and has, on many occasions asked for help from volunteers. Unfortunately it is reliant on a tiny number of individuals who give their time freely in order to do what the Trust was initially intended to achieve: i.e. to improve the environment of the village in whatever way is

possible within the limited resources available.

Those criticising the Trust were invited to join in and work to improve the planning for the site, but there was an unwillingness to get involved. Ideas for a children's play area on the site were mentioned. This was something which the Trust did discuss with residents some years ago, but was not taken forward on the grounds of lack of funding for the ongoing maintenance of the equipment and the responsibility of health and safety of the children who would use the playground. We all agree that it would be good to see something for children on this site, but the Trust is always reliant on grant funding, and although it is relatively easy to fund a new project it is near impossible to access funding for the maintenance of an existing project, as the Trust has discovered with the maintenance of the Jubilee Park site.

However if there is anyone who would like to take this idea or any other proposal for this site, forward and work with the Trust to obtain the backing of the community, apply for funding and fundraise for the project and any associated future maintenance, please get in touch with any member of the Trust Board.

See [www.walkerburn.com/Trustees%20WCDD](http://www.walkerburn.com/Trustees%20WCDD)

## Walkerburn Old Age Pensioners Association

Walkerburn Old Age Pensioners Association's next meeting will be held on Tuesday November 14th in Walkerburn HB Club starting at 2.30 – all members welcome.

Arrangements for our Pantomime outing to Cinderella on December 12th in The Kings Theatre, have been finalised, the coach will leave the HB Club at 12.15 and make the usual pick-ups en route to Edinburgh. After the show, we will return to Innerleithen for a meal in the

Unionist Club.

*Tickets are limited, so if you have not already done so, please contact President Mary Baillie on 01896 870246 or Treasurer Anne Kenyon on 01896 870757 to confirm your name is on the list.*

## Rural Round-up

This month we welcomed Alisa Corbishley from Macamoon.

Ailsa enthusiastically spoke about the skill and science behind the making of macarons and the trials and tribulations of running a small business. Competition winners on the night were:

Meringues: 1st L McDonald, 2nd H Paterson, 3rd A Watson

Attractive cake stand: 1st L McDonald, 2nd A Watson,

3rd M Millar.

Next month's meeting will be on Wednesday 6th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Moira Stark will demonstrate bracelets made from safety pins. Competitions will be a banana loaf and a pin cushion, any craft.

*Heather Shepherd*

## Walkerburn Guild

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28th November at 2pm in Walkerburn Public Hall and the speaker will be Brenda Lambert from Lavender Touch. (Guests especially welcome at this meeting).

## WALKERBURN COMMUNITY CRAFT CENTRE 'CRAFTS4U'

Walkerburn Old Mill Car Park

**Tuesday:** 1.00pm- 4.00pm (Quilting).

**Wednesday:** (Your Choice) 7.00pm-9.00pm.

**Thursday:** Class in knitting and crochet for beginners and more experienced people 2.00pm-4.00pm.

**Friday:** 1.00 pm – 4.00pm (Craft-for-Club)

Cost: Members £1.00 per hour, Non Members £1.50 per hour. Because of the continuing success of the Club, Membership now costs £20.00 per calendar year and allows you access to the cabin at all times and Social Membership is £5.00 per calendar year. Newcomers always given a warm welcome. Any queries, please contact Jenni Brown on 01896 833883.

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## School News

### **News from Nursery**

The nursery children have been very busy learning about dinosaurs and they created a dinosaur swamp and cave which they all had great fun exploring! The Mobile Library now comes on a regular basis and the children have been enjoying visits to it and choosing books to take home. Joining the rest of the school, parents, grandparents and members of the community for the recent Harvest celebration and lunch was a great experience for the children. We have been developing the indoor and outdoor areas of the Nursery, creating more space and opportunities for the children's learning and we are looking forward to receiving some new equipment that will help us progress this even further. Many thanks to everybody who donated to our 'mud kitchen', we now have enough pots, pans and kitchen utensils but if anybody has any small wooden crates or wicker baskets that are no longer required we would gratefully receive those in order to develop a more 'natural' setting for the children.

### **News from P1-4**

In the Primary 1-4 classroom we have been very busy making our reading more fun! We are learning how to share our enjoyment for reading with others and find new and exciting ways of improving our learning experiences. We have welcomed Jeffrey the Giraffe into our reading time. He helps us talk about what we have learnt! We have begun to wind down our topic on 'My Senses' and we are looking forward to a new topic of 'Rainforests' which we are very excited about! Having looked at all our learning for the 'My Senses' topic, we have realised how much we have already managed to cram in, in just a few short weeks! We know how our eyes work, what our taste buds are for and we even had a go at exploring different foods that had a sour, bitter, sweet and salty taste to them! In our Numeracy, we have been looking at the value of numbers. Our new P1s are very clever and are already writing and counting their numbers up to twenty! Next we are all going to learn how to do addition and subtraction! We are also going to work with money so remember to let us help you count when you go to the shop or supermarket!

### **News from P5-7**

Our topic on the 'Romans' is a little behind so our plan is

to continue with it until the November INSET days. Our next project will be looking at 'Electrical Circuits'. During the past month we have been practising our rugby skills with Mr Blair and learning ukulele with Mrs Borthwick. New reading initiatives have been added to our classroom routines and we are also programming robots (BeeBots).

### **Parent Council – Christmas Shopping Night**

This year's Christmas Shopping Night will be held on Thursday 23rd November from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. We have a wide variety of stalls that range from Usborne Books, Soap Matters, handmade cards, crafts, knitted items and much much more! Tickets cost £2, which will include tea/coffee and a mince pie. There will also be a cake and candy stall, and raffle held so any donations of home baking and/or prizes would be gratefully received.

### **NHS Flu Campaign**

The annual flu vaccine helps protect against the strains of flu virus that are likely to be circulating each winter flu season, which lasts from October to March. The free flu vaccine is offered to all children in Scotland aged 2–5 years (and not yet in school) at their GP practice. Find out more about the childhood vaccine and its benefits here: <http://www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/flu>

### **Fundraising**

The latest collection of our textile recycling point generated £76.80. Thank you to everyone who has donated! Thank you to all the pupils, staff, parents and members of our community who wore jeans on Friday 22nd September for Jeans for Genes Day and donated money – we raised £36.00 to help transform the lives of children affected by life-altering genetic conditions! Thank you so much to everybody who contributed so generously by bringing in items of food for the Peeblesshire Foodbank during our week of Harvest celebration. 41kg of food was collected which will help families in crisis across Peeblesshire. Peeblesshire Foodbank have been in touch to express their thanks and have stated that they are currently experiencing an increased demand of 4-6 referrals per week, so this extra food is very much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who collected Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers, we were able to order skipping ropes, speed hurdles, bean bags, target balls and tennis balls!

## **WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 18th October 2017**

*(Full Minutes are also on the Community website)*

**Present:** Miss M. McIntosh MBE (Chairman), Ms M. Daykin, Mrs I. Ogilvie-Wilson (Treasurer), Mr. D. Thomson, G. Thornton (Minutes), Mrs L. Thornton (Secretary), Mr P. Waller.

**Ex Officio:** Cllr. S. Haslam, and Cllr. S. Bell.

### **Apologies and Notices.**

Apologies for absence received from Dr S. Henderson, Mr I. McVean, P.C. Burnside, Cllr. R. Tatler.

### **Open Questions.**

A member of the public enquired about Planning Procedures and the need to get Planning Permission for erecting structures such as what she perceived to be a bunk house, or to build holiday wigwams. Cllr. Bell was able to point out the necessity to enquire of Planners at SBC before contemplating any building. He was aware of the situation which was being discussed at the meeting as it adjoined the village and he had in fact previously visited the site in question. He was able to point out that what may have appeared to be a Bunk House was in fact a legitimately constructed garage. He

did assure the questioner that any development of the site with new structures would need Planning Permission.

He pointed out that if there are questions relating to Planning, the SBC website has an excellent Planning portal with information on Planning Regulations. It is also possible to speak to Planners directly by telephone.

### **Notices.**

Scottish Water is holding a Public Meeting at the Peebles Hydro at 5.45pm on Thursday 26th October at the Peebles Hydro to update members of the public on recent and future planned developments and to invite feedback. Mrs Thornton will be attending and will report back at the November meeting.

### **Police Report.**

PC Chris Burnside report, covering period 18th September 2017 to 20th October 2017, stated that there have been 22 calls to the area.

*Parking & Speeding: No Reports*

*Note; Local officers and Road Policing Officers continue to give attention to the major roads in Tweeddale and the Camera Safety van can frequently be found at various locations. To find out where the camera safety vehicle will be located go to [www.lbsafetycameras.co.uk](http://www.lbsafetycameras.co.uk)*

Drug Use: No reports.

*Note: There is currently a pro-active drugs unit working within the Scottish Borders area that continues to actively trace and process accordingly.*

Vehicle Accidents: During this period there has been one non-reportable vehicle accident.

The report also included the following reminders:

Dog Control - It is an offence to not have your dog under control, particularly when around livestock. The owner of the livestock can shoot any dog worrying livestock. This is basic countryside etiquette (law). Please be considerate when walking your dog.

Fraudulent Telephone calls - there have been numerous reports of persons receiving calls on their telephone landlines with culprits attempting to gain personal information under various guises. Do not give this information to anyone either by phone or e-mail

Personal Safety - When posting items on Social media sites be careful when identifying items of high value – i.e. mountain bikes, and sale or purchase of such items, identifying home addresses and vehicles.

Home Safety - There have been a number of Housebreakings within the Peeblesshire area over the past 12 months. Members of the public are reminded to remain vigilant and contact Police by 'phone on 101 if they have any suspicions regarding person(s) or vehicles.

Please e-mail any feedback to:

[christopher.burnside@Scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:christopher.burnside@Scotland.pnn.police.uk)

### **Approval of the Amended Draft Minutes of September's Meeting.**

Acceptance of these minutes was proposed by Mrs I. Ogilvie-Wilson, seconded by Mrs. L. Thornton and passed by members.

### **Matters Arising from the September Minutes.**

a). Concerning the question raised about regulations about discharging Fireworks, and a further query concerning '30 mph' stickers for kerbside bins, Mr Thornton stated that he had sent an e-mail to PC Burnside, who had hoped to be able to answer these matters at the meeting. As he was unable to attend this month, this will be raised again in the future.

b). It was confirmed that there will be a fence to separate the proposed extended path to Innerleithen from the fields where sheep and cattle are kept. (See also Cllrs. Report)

c). A planning proposal has been submitted for erection of a mobile phone mast at Glendinnings yard and it was noted that the mast would be painted green to help it blend in with its background. A member of the public had written to suggest that a screen in the form of an artificial tree might also be appropriate to reduce the impact of the structure. Any resident who felt that this was necessary should put forward their views on the Planning website. Members accepted that the proposed installation would provide improved (G4) signals to the village and, as such, would be a welcome improvement. Mr Thornton pointed out that he had visited the site and

it needed to be in the proposed position to receive and distribute signals for maximum strength and coverage for the whole village.

d). Mr Thornton reported that he had attended a recent Tweeddale Locality Committee meeting where grants had been allocated to other local communities for improvement works. As this is relevant and important for Walkerburn, he will be making copies of a poster setting out ways to apply for similar grants, and he will also pass on information directly to a number of local groups. Information can be obtained on to SBC website by looking at the **Funding section** and looking at both the **Localities Bid Fund section** and the **Capacity-Resilience Fund section**.

e). Mrs Thornton reported that the Village Clean-up on 7th October had been a success and thanked all the volunteers for their efforts. She was pleased to note that village was considerable tidier than on previous occasions. There also appeared to be less dog fouling around the village, and members hoped that that there might be a continued improvement in correcting this ongoing problem. She thanked Jason Hedley for his help and advice, and also SCB Local for taking away all the bags of litter that had been collected. Finally, she expressed thanks to Iain Weir who supplied black bags, equipment and safety clothing from the Resilience shed.

f). Mrs Thornton reported that, in respect of the allocation of £1086 from the Walkerburn War Memorial fund, she and Miss McIntosh would be arranging a site meeting with someone from the Beltane Studio to get a quote for cleaning and maintenance of the War Memorial. It was also suggested that Beltane be asked whether installing an overhanging lip above the bronze plaques might help to prevent staining caused by drips of rainwater.

g) With regard to the question of tree-planting in Jubilee Park, Dr Henderson had chaired an open meeting which was attended by members of the Walkerburn Community Development Trust and village residents, particularly from Tweedholm Avenue, at which objections had been raised and contentious matters discussed. The Development Trust noted what had been said and the matter will be carried forward for further discussion. It was pointed out that the Community Council are not part of this discussion but are willing to assist if it is deemed within their remit. The Development Trust will report in due course on any outcome.

h). Mrs Thornton reported that she and Mr Thornton had attended the Local Development Plan drop-in session at Peebles Burgh Hall on 28th September. Although it was not particularly relevant to Walkerburn village, as suggestions about the allocation of possible building land had been submitted previously, this was still informative. She pointed out that she had completed a survey from online and provided hard copies of the survey for members to view. It is open for any member of the public to forward suggestions regarding possible new building sites.

i). Mrs Thornton pointed out that SBC Roads Dept. had visited Caberston Road to look into solutions for providing improvements to the drains.

j). Mr Thornton reported that, further to requests for improvements needed on the Alexandra Park to Caberston Road Pathway, Glendinning Groundworks have carried out a survey and will submit a quote for the

works. This can then be submitted SBC for a Local Communities Maintenance grant.

j). Mrs Thornton reported that she had looked at the benches sited on the back road, at the entrance to Glenbenna, and the 'Old Men's bench' on the A72 to the East of the village. Apart from the A72 bench, which is now beyond repair and also not in a feasible location because of its proximity to the main road, the benches are presently in good condition.

#### **Correspondence List.**

Mrs Thornton provided members with the List covering August and September. (All e-mails had been already distributed to members):

1. E-mail from David Torr, SBCCN Secretary attaching a copy of the SBCC Minutes.

2. E-mail from Claire Penny, Funding Officer, Chief Executive's Department, SBC regarding Making Places Funding.

3. E-mail from Kirsty Robb, Capital & Investment Manager, Finance, Chief Executive's Department, SBC asking if we have decided how we wish to spend the Walkerburn War Memorial Fund of £1,086.

4. E-mail from Jacqui Ramage, Volunteer Coordinator, Borders Services, Alzheimer Scotland regarding Volunteer Befrienders for the Community Connexions Befriending Service

5. E-mail from Kieran Johnston, Scottish Water, Corporate Communications regarding a Community Event taking place at Peebles Hydro in Peebles on Thursday 26th October.

6. E-mail from Cath Shephard, Community Consultant, Eastgate Theatre & Arts Centre regarding the plan to develop both its space and services and looking for ideas and suggestions from groups in Tweeddale. She would like to come and meet us to discuss this. (She would be free to speak to us at the November meeting)

7. E-mail from David Richardson, Asset Manager, Asset & Infrastructure, SBC attaching a list of the current Programme of Planned Revenue and Capital Works for 2017/18 for the Tweeddale area.

8. Copy of e-mail from Ed Shoote, DMBinS Tweed Valley MTB Co-ordinator, MTBCoS to Steve Henderson regarding a project for investing in mountain biking in the Innerleithen area. He would like the opportunity to discuss this in more detail.

9. E-mail from Clare Malster, Strategic Community Engagement Officer, Communities and Partnerships Team, Customer & Communities, SBC regarding updating our Data Protection Registration. Secretary gave her the up-to-date information and our registration has been renewed for another year.

10. E-mail from Callum Hay, Acting Board Chairman, Borders Community Broadband Project. Which is a community-led project that aims to deliver superfast broadband services in the South-West Borders

11. E-mail from Laura Bell, Planning Officer, Forward Planning, Regulatory Services regarding sending an electronic copy of the recent Pre-Main Issues Report Questionnaire to all Community Councils. The deadline for completion of the Questionnaire is Friday 27th October 2017.

12. E-mail from Scott Fraser, Corporate Affairs Regional Manager informing residents of planned Scottish Water work in our area on Wednesday 18th/Thursday 19th October between 10.30pm and 4.30am. They advise that customers prepare in advance by filling containers with water.

13. E-mail from Clare Malster SBC regarding the Localities Bid Fund. Scottish Borders Council has allocated a total of £500,000 to this fund. It will be split across the five Locality Committee areas and support community projects and initiatives using public voting. The fund's aim is to fund new ideas and projects which will improve the lives of people living in the Scottish Borders. It is aligned to the Community Plan. The first release of the fund opens to applications from constituted and non-constituted groups on 15th October and closes at 3pm on Friday 1 December. Flyer and poster attached.

14. E-mail from the Scottish Community Development Centre regarding Community Council Research – Regional Workshops. Working with 'What Works Scotland', and with support from the Scottish Government, they wish to explore how community councils can be even more relevant in Scotland's evolving policy context. Our local workshop will be held in Edinburgh on Thursday 23rd November at 6.30pm.

15. E-mail from the Countryside Alliance asking for nominations for the Countryside Alliance Awards 2017. Nominations have to be in by 13<sup>th</sup> November. You can nominate a local food producer, village shop or Post Office, rural enterprise, butcher or pub by completing a simple Nomination Form on their website.

<http://www.countryside-alliance.org>

Note: You can nominate multiple times.

#### **Planning and Notices.**

a). Proposed formation forestry access road at Upper Caberston plantation to enable thinning of a stand of mature conifers. Members did not raise objections to this proposal, but pointed out that all residents could express an opinion or raise an objection by accessing the SBC Planning website.

#### **Remembrance Sunday**

Mr Thornton reported that the Remembrance Sunday preparations were almost complete. He has been liaising with Mrs Purves, who has organised the catering, as well as the necessary Insurance and Police cover for the morning of 12th November. Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Mary Coltman, will lay the wreath on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant; Cllr. Bell will lay the Scottish Borders Council wreath. Other relevant bodies have also been contacted. Wreaths have been ordered and will be collected by Mr Thornton in the next week. Col. Purves will again put up the excellent photographic display in the hall.

#### **Reports by Members.**

a). Mr Waller enquired about the possibility of having 'No Cold Caller' signs, similar to those in Clovenfords, displayed throughout the village. Members agreed that this was a good idea and asked Cllr Bell for advice regarding this. He pointed out that Clovenfords were able to succeed in getting their signs accepted, but only after considerable efforts by a resident who had managed to get agreement from every householder, zone by zone, in the village and after much dialogue with the local police. It is possible, but will require considerable effort if Walkerburn is to emulate Clovenfords. Members thanked Cllr. Bell and agreed to leave further discussion for a later date.

Mr Waller commented that the non-slip surface on the Alexandra Park raised walkway was excellent, but wondered whether the same could be done on the short flight of steps beyond the walkway, at the East end.

Also, the railings have been broken and need replacement. SB Local will be asked to attend to this.

b). Ms Daykin enquired whether it would be possible for Walkerburn to get a metal stand for locking up cycles, similar to one she had seen in Clovenfords. Initially, it was suggested that the area by the Steading coffee shop would be ideal, but it was pointed out that it was private property and not within the remit of the Community Council. However, the empty land to the south of the village hall might be a feasible alternative and the Hall Committee should be asked for their opinion about this.

#### **Reports by SBC Councillor(s).**

a). Members thanked Cllr Bell for his ongoing help and advice regarding the Eastward extension of the 30mph Limit signs. The Community Council wanted to pursue this matter vigorously and appeal against the SBC decision not to go ahead with this request. Both the Council Chief Executive and the area Police Chief Superintendent need to be consulted and Cllr Bell agreed to assist. It was mentioned that Annex 'C' of the relevant regulations was, in fact, merely an 'interpretation' and should not preclude the right to appeal this decision, which would be an obvious denial of natural justice.

b). Cllr Bell replied to recent concerns about the increased frequency of Power cuts in the area. Scottish Power acknowledged that there were problems between Cardrona and Yair, some of which had been rectified by replacing power line fuses. Although they are confident that the problem has now been solved, they will nevertheless leave diagnosed equipment in place for some while yet to keep monitoring the situation.

c). Cllr Bell referred to previous requests by residents for a proper resurfacing of Caberston Road have been registered by SBC Roads dept. However, it was not a high priority because of the costs involved and pressure to complete more urgent work elsewhere before this can be attended to, but it will still be on their future works schedule.

d). Cllr Bell drew attention to the recently completed feasibility study for the Pathway extension Eastwards from Walkerburn to Clovenfords. This is a long and very

thorough document and explains different routes and varying costs entailed in the work. He will ask Graham Johnston, Deputy Chief Executive of SBC, to attend a future meeting and talk about it. As this has implications for improving a local section the National Cycleway (Route 1 Dover to North of Scotland), it is of more than local importance.

e). Cllr Bell replied to a question concerning a possible experimental 'chicane' method of combining pedestrian and vehicle road usage in Tweedholm Avenue by pointing out that, there is merit in such a scheme, the cost would be prohibitive and so this is unlikely to happen.

g). Further to previous concerns about fencing on the pathway extension to Innerleithen, Cllr. Tatler has ascertained that there will be a fence to separate the path to Innerleithen from the fields where sheep and cattle are kept.

f). Cllr Haslam referred to the recent serious accident on the A72 near Walkerburn. Problems had arisen because normal convoy systems had not been triggered this time. However, measures have been taken to prevent any recurrence in future.

#### **Any Other Business.**

a). Mr Thornton reported that he had spoken to Jason Hedley about the 'Give Us A Break' replacement signs at either end of the village and was told that this is in hand..

b). The perennial question of traffic speed through the village was again raised. Suggestions for adopting rumble strips or other measures were discussed. It was pointed out that rumble strips were not a suitable method when in the proximity of houses as they generate a lot of noise that can cause considerable disturbance to residents.. It was suggested that there might be an opportunity to apply for one of the new Local Community grants to help regarding this ongoing problem. It was agreed that the Secretary should contact local groups for suggestions regarding this.

#### **Date of the Next WDC Meeting.**

The next meeting will be at 7.00pm on Wednesday 15th November.

All residents are always welcome to attend.

### **Letter from a Resident**

**I'd be interested to know whether anyone else has had any damage done to their gardens.**

Looking out of my window today, I realised that there were fruit trees missing from my usual view. Going down into the garden, I discovered that 4 (approx 3 year old), fruit trees had been cut down and left lying on my garden. This was not just vandalism, the trees had not been pushed over, but malicious damage, the trunks had been sawn through. Having been unwell, I have not

been out in the garden as much as usual, but, from the state of the trees left lying, I would think that the damage had been done in the last few days. I have informed the police, so if anyone else has reported any 'bizarre' damage I would be interested to know.

Jude Coles, Tweedholm Avenue, Walkerburn

## **Home Basics - your local furniture reuse charity.**

We collect good quality furniture and working electrical white goods free of charge, or you can deliver to our depot.

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### WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Date	Event	Time
<b>November</b>		
Wednesday 15th	Walkerburn & District Community Council	7.00pm
Saturday 18th	Walkerburn Guild Coffee Morning	10.00-11.30am
Sunday 19th	Church Service	10.00am
Tuesday 21st	Lunch Club	12 noon
Wednesday 22nd	Cllr Robin Tatler – Community Forum (open to public)	7.00-9.00pm
Tuesday 28th	Guild Open Meeting – Lavender Touch with Brenda Lambert	2.00pm
<b>December</b>		
Saturday 2nd	St Andrew's Party for Hall Funds & Homeless	7.00pm
Sunday 3rd	Charity Photoshoot for Hall funds	10.00am-4.00pm
Tuesday 5th	Lunch Club Christmas Lunch	12 noon
Wednesday 6th	Rural	7.30pm
Thursday 7th	Walkerburn Primary School Christmas Show	
Sunday 17th	Church Service	10.00am

### REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS IN WALKERBURN VILLAGE HALL

Sundays	Table Tennis	6.00 – 9.00pm
Mondays	MindfulYoga	7.00 – 8.45pm
Wednesdays	Tai Chi	10.15 – 11.45am
Thursdays	Youth Club	6.30-8.30pm

### Walkerburn Christmas Carols 2017

Note for Your Diaries: The Walkerburn Village Christmas Carol Singing will take place on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December, ending up at Caberston Café afterwards. For full details, please see village notice boards and December 'Burning Issues'.

### Walkerburn Community Website

If you want to know "What's On" at the village hall, who to contact about a particular local group, or want a number for a local tradesman, the community website is the place to go.

If your group is not on the local contacts list, please send details to [mail@walkerburn.com](mailto:mail@walkerburn.com).

Note: If you want to advertise an event in the village you don't have to wait for the next issue of Burning Issues, but can send information direct to [mail@walkerburn.com](mailto:mail@walkerburn.com) for posting onto the "what's on" page.



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