



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

walkerburnnews@hotmail.com

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WALKERBURN VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION

The committee are pleased to say they are holding their Annual Show this year on Saturday 10th September in the Village Hall.

Bright yellow schedules are available in the Post Office and Caberston Cafe and we hope you will be able to have something to exhibit on the day. This is our first show for three years and we have put in quite a bit of work to make the event worthwhile. Not too many changes on the schedule but we are accepting Industrial articles (knitting, sewing etc.) over a longer period due to the lockdown. We are hoping for a good display of Flowers, Vegetables, Plants and Fruit. Our Junior section has always been well

supported and we will be contacting the school on its return from their holidays to request the usual paintings for display on the day of the show. We hope to see you on the 10th!

Irene (Secretary)

* * * * *

PS We do hope you will be able to come to support us on the 10th. Posters will be distributed in the village and Innerleithen.

An Update on Scawd Law Wind Farm

Fred Olsen Renewables has been exploring the potential to develop Scawd Law Wind Farm on the Holylee Estate, approx. 4km north of Walkerburn.

Our proposals consist of eight turbines up to 180m to tip, alongside associated infrastructure and battery storage. The plans will provide over £8m in community benefit throughout the lifespan of the project. This will allow us to explore how we can support local projects – such as playpark improvements, hall improvements and address local challenges, such as fuel poverty and connectivity. Our plans have evolved since they were first proposed and this includes revising the access route, which will now ensure that traffic does not come through Walkerburn and that the site is accessed approximately 1km south of Colquhar. We had anticipated that the proposals would be

submitted earlier this year. However, this has been delayed as a result of two eagles being identified on site. We are undertaking monitoring on site and we hope to have an update on this in late summer. We are confident that we will be able to submit an application and when we do so this will be undertaken in close consultation with 'NatureScot', the Council and the South of Scotland Golden Eagle Group. We will continue to update the project website www.scawdlawwindfarm.co.uk and if you have any questions please get in touch by emailing communities@fredolsen.com or calling 07435 763 900.



Walkerburn Pump Track

The Development Trust would like to thank those who came along to the pop-up pump track on 6th August and for the completed surveys. The vast majority of people are in favour of the idea. The track is seen as a great addition to the village, and good for young people to have something more to encourage them to get exercise. If you have not yet completed a survey then go to: <http://www.walkerburn.com/pumptrack.htm> to access the survey.

CRAFTS4U EXHIBITION

Crafts4U Walkerburn are holding an exhibition on **Saturday 3rd September** to celebrate 12 years of crafting in the community. It is being held in Walkerburn Public Hall from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Entrance Fee: £3 payable at the door. Children free.

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

The local Rotary Club is holding a Quiz Night in the Union Club, Innerleithen at 7.00pm on Friday 23rd September in aid of local charities. ALL WELCOME. Please come along and support these worthy causes.

LAST CALL FOR WALKERBURN CALENDAR 2023 PHOTOS

Photos of Walkerburn and surrounding area are needed for next year's calendar. Images should be in landscape orientation and be at least 3MB in size to be included. Please send any images you think might be suitable for the calendar to mail@walkerburn.com Thanks in advance. The calendar is an important fund raiser for the Development Trust

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WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

The busy Walkerburn Bowls and Petanque Club summer season have been making the most of the unusually sunny weather.

The Bowlers have regular friendly games at 2.00pm every Monday and Saturday and at 11.00am every Wednesday, each with a 'half-way' break for tea or coffee and a biscuit. If you would like a game, irrespective of any experience, just drop in and we can supply bowls and anything else you might need. Dress code is 'casual' – so there is no need to worry on that score!

Friday afternoon Petanque games are increasingly popular and more people are welcome to come along and join in. The local Rotary clubs staged a friendly game on August 11th and we invite any other organisations to do the same.

We also offer our congratulations and best wishes to our friends, including a number of fellow members, of the Selkirk club on being able to celebrate the opening of their new piste.

The club continue to follow the Bowls Scotland and Scottish Petanque Covid advice and is particularly well set up for members to be safe, with electronic monitoring and adequate disinfectant available.

* * * * *

For more details please contact George Thornton on 01896-870251 or e-mail geoles2@tiscali.co.uk

Walk It Walkerburn

Gentle Walks Every Monday 10am Alexandra Park by the playpark

Our small group have continued our walks and been lucky with the weather most days. It's been great to be out and looking at the lovely landscape in different lights and seasons. Cheers us up every week!

We'd be delighted if you want to join us. Give it a shot! Alice Pringle - Mobile or text 07974 782016

'Walk It' is the 'Paths for All' project in the Scottish Borders, supported by Scottish Borders Council and NHS Borders. The aim is to help people become more physically active through providing low level and friendly led walks. We identify local routes suitable for most abilities. 'Walk It' walks are safe, social, low level, led and free. Walks are led by a first aid trained 'Walk It' Leader and are dementia friendly.

You can find out more online by searching Scottish Borders Council 'Walk It'.



USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Borders Storm Emergency Helpline 01835 826549

SBC 0300-1001800 or 01896-752111 for out of hours emergency help

NHS Covid status 'phone: 0808-1968585 (10.00am to 6.00pm)

Gas 0800 111999

Police Non-Emergency 101 Emergency 999

Samaritans phone or text 116123 www.samaritans.org.uk

Scottish Borders Council 0300-1001800 www.sbalert.co.uk

Pollution Report Line 0800-807060

Electricity SBNetworks 0800 0929290
In Instances of Power Cuts Call 105

Scottish Water 0800-0778778
www.scottishwater.co.uk

St Ronans Health Centre 01896 830203

Childline number is 0800-1111

NHS 24 Tel 111 or 0845-242424
www.nhs24.com

Floodline 0845-9881188
www.sepa.org.uk/flooding

Community Action Policing Team <https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities>.
email: saferrcommunities@scotborders.gov.uk

Please let your Community Council know about specific problems so that the Action Team can be informed

WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 20th July 2022

Present: Mr. P Waller (Chairman), Mrs. L Thornton (Secretary), Mr. G Thornton (Treasurer and Minutes Secretary), Ms. M. Daykin (Vice-Chair), Mrs. S Horsburgh, Mrs. H Maniam, Ms. S. Sedgwick, Mrs. P. Purves (Co-Opted).
Councillor Douglas, Councillor Pirone.

Apologies and Notices

Apologies:

Mr. C. Kerr (Co-opted), Mr. M. Wilcox (Co-opted), Councillor Tatler.

Notices:

i. Tweedholm Avenue restriction for duration of re-surfacing between 25th August for 5 days between 08.30 am and 5.30 pm. ii. Peebles Show A72 restrictions in vicinity of Horsburgh Ford on 13th August. iii. Restrictions in Innerleithen at Damside and Strand during annual festival from 10th to 15th July.

Open Questions

Mr. Trousdell gave a report on Walkerburn Community Development Trust's progress regarding planned improvements to the village.

In particular, he gave an update on progress towards getting a cycle pump-track for the village. This will be for the benefit of children in the village. The Trust had a very helpful and informative recent meeting with Kenny Harrow and Hannah Lacon from S.B.C. as well as Lorna McCullough (The Bridge) and Emma Guy (Tweed Valley Tourism Improvement Co-ordinator). Mr. Waller and Mr. Thornton also attended on behalf of the Community Council.

It is hoped that plans will be submitted after possible sources of funding have been identified. This scheme will be supported by 'Sport Scotland'. No provision will be made for parking as this will be a small project which is only for the use of residents. Residents will be consulted and there will be an 'Open Day' in the village on Saturday 6th August from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. This will include a 'pop-up' track demonstration. Improvements to the footpath from Alexandra Park are included in the plans. Also, a leaflet with all the details of the project is being prepared.

If plans are approved and funding is in place, it is expected that this project should be completed next year.

In answer to a query about maintenance of the pump track, Mr. Trousdell said that the project would be built to a high standard, needing little maintenance and a life span of over twenty years. The Development Trust will also seek funds at a later date if any repairs became necessary. Finally, he added that basketball hoops were also expected to be included in this project.

Police Business

No report received. Sergeant Granger is no longer heading up the local community policing team and Councillor Pirone informed members that Sergeant Corinne Bird has now been appointed. She will start on 25th July.

June Minutes

Three corrections: i. Councillor Tatler remarked that councillors' have proposed fact finding visits to communities, including Walkerburn. ii. Date of Meeting was amended to read '15th June'. iii. The place name for Peebles Show road restrictions should be 'Horsburgh Ford'. Proposed: Mrs. S. Horsburgh Seconded: Ms. M. Daykin

Matters Arising

i. Secretary has spoken to Neil Pringle at S.B.C. regarding faded street signs in Hall Street and Peebles Road and awaits an answer.

ii. Secretary reported that she has updated details of S.B.C. Councillors and Community Councillors and copies have been posted on notice boards and Walkerburn website and sent to SBC Office.

iii. Secretary reported that she has written to Duncan Morrison regarding the large tree lodged under the bridge over the river. He replied to say that this is being dealt with. Resilience Group had also been in touch with him regarding this.

Chairman said that this removal of debris should be dealt with urgently while the Tweed is very low and access is not a problem. Also, there was an increasing pile-up of branches and debris adding to the obstruction and diverting the water course into new channels. This could have damaging repercussions if not dealt with promptly.

iv. Steps at the East end of Alexandra Park are deteriorating further and now in a dangerous state. This is a public footpath. Neil Pringle has informed the Chairman that this is on his 'To Do' list. Also, vegetation in that vicinity needs to be cleared.

v. The shrubs intruding onto High Cottages have been cut back.

Chairman also pointed out that overgrown vegetation is an increasing problem at this time of year and asked that householders please try to keep hedges and bushes cut back. Where problems arise, residents are also able to contact S.B.C. pathways Department for assistance.

vi. A letter of complaint had been received concerning parked vehicles in High Cottages causing an obstruction. This has been a problem for some while and the advice given is for residents and visitors to be aware of the difficulties that larger sized emergency vehicles and delivery lorries might encounter if vehicles obstruct the road. There are only three allocated parking spaces at the East end and residents are advised to liaise with other to mitigate this problem.

Correspondence

15 items of Correspondence had been circulated to members throughout the month.

Planning

Mr. Thornton reported that there was a S.B.C. Planning update notice concerning Traquair Forest South of Glenmead Farm Walkerburn. The application has previously been discussed by members.

This was a reference to a Forestry and Land Scotland application dated 30th June 2022. It confirms that no details are required in respect of this proposal and work may commence in accordance with the details provided in the original notification and the submitted plans/drawings. Drawings can be found on the Planning pages of the Council website at <https://eplanning.scotborders.gov.uk/online-applications/>

Before commencing work, the applicant should ensure that they have obtained any other consents which may be required, for example any Building Warrant in terms of the Building Regulations.

Scawd Law Update

Mr. Wilcox is continuing to monitor the Scawd Law situation. There have been no further developments in the past month but it is expected that a Planning Application will be submitted towards the end of the year. It is not yet known if or when any further meetings will be arranged locally. Kirsty Leiper from Fred Olsen has contacted secretary to say that she will forward an update for publication in Burning Issues', as well as the Walkerburn website and Facebook.

One further issue has arisen at this late stage because there is a possibility that Golden Eagles are nesting close to where the turbines will be sited. It is understood that this is being investigated and there should be more information available before the next Community Council meeting.

It was also pointed out to members that even if the turbines are erected there is no capacity on the local grid for the power that will be generated. This has raised further doubts about the viability of this scheme and members will want to know more about what is intended before any informed opinion can be offered.

Ukrainian Refugees Update

Mrs. Purves mentioned that S.B.C. have been slow to carry out checks and have still not carried out checks in the village to confirm suitability of accommodation that has been offered as long ago as March. As a result, a couple of local offers of accommodation have had to be withdrawn because of this uncertainty.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kerr is continuing to liaise with the Ukrainian Club in Edinburgh and with the 'Ukrainians in Scotland' group.

Reports by Members

Mr. Waller (Chairman):

Mr. Waller reported that some residents have complained about firework displays in the village which are causing distress to dogs. Also, two residents complained that, having gone to bed at their usual bedtime, they were wakened at about 11.00 by the unexpected noise of fireworks. It was pointed out that these occasional displays are not illegal, but it would be helpful if residents were warned well in advance. It was agreed by all that notice of firework displays should be publicised in Burning Issues, the Walkerburn website and Facebook in addition to informing neighbours.

Mrs. Thornton (Secretary):

Mrs. Thornton raised three issues:

- i. She reported that Hannah Lacon has accepted an invitation to give a presentation at the September meeting and to discuss ways in which help is available for communities.
- ii. Mrs. Thornton confirmed that the Bus Shelter at the West end of Peebles Road had been repaired and was no longer a danger. She thanked S.B.C. for carrying out the work and preserving the bus shelter.
- iii. She also reported that the missing door on the 'phone box in Galashiels Road has now been replaced and thanked B.T. for their help.
- iv. She reported that there have been three serious complaints about excessive barking by dogs. This is very disturbing for many residents and she asked councillors to enquire when Rose Hogg will be returning to work or, alternatively, who is covering for her. She needs to be able to pass on complaints as soon as possible.
- v. She reported that a resident had asked whether it would be possible for another street sign to be erected in Galashiels Road on the wall in front of the old mill car park? Delivery drivers are having difficulty delivering parcels and are regularly leaving parcels at wrong addresses.
- vi. She reported that there have been complaints by motorists exiting High Cottages onto the A72 Peebles Road. Vegetation on the banking to the west has become overgrown and this obstructs drivers' views of oncoming traffic. She asked councillors if this could be cut back?
- vii. She enquired whether anything was being done by S.B.C. to repair the wooden edging on the path between Caberston Road and Alexandra Park. This is thought to have been damaged by a council grass cutting machine. Councillors advised that she inform Neil Pringle.
- viii. Finally, she asked whether members could look into the possibility of organizing a village-wide litter pick for some time in the Autumn. Members agreed that this was a good idea and recommended the second Sunday in October. Notices will be posted in Burning Issues, the website and Facebook nearer the time.

Mr. Thornton:

Mr. Thornton referred to the recent meeting organised by the Development Trust. Both he and Mr. Waller had attended and added to what Mr. Trousdell had earlier mentioned.

It was a helpful introduction to what Place Planning for Walkerburn could do and a way of understanding village needs. For instance:

* Looking at good development for the village

* Understanding how the Scottish Growth Initiative can assist

Lorna McCullough commented that, unlike the larger towns included in the initiative, small communities usually have less formal structures in place and there is more social involvement. Progress usually takes slow steps forward! Kenny Harrow mentioned that there are investment funds available to all groups and requests would be evaluated by the Council's Economic Development Department.

In respect of Walkerburn, these may possibly include;

- i A Pump Track.
- ii Acquisition and development of the George Hotel.
- iii A 'Balance Bikes' scheme for smaller children (possibly in conjunction with Innerleithen).
- iv A school shelter – a better place for children to meet.

Mrs. Purves asked that members again consider whether the community council should organize and support the annual Remembrance Day ceremony and village get-together afterwards. Sadly, Covid restrictions limited the event to a short service and wreath-laying in the past two years. However, it may be possible to have both a Remembrance Ceremony and to also resume the very popular lunch and get-together in the village hall. For several years, the community council

has funded the cost of a wreath and the cost of the lunch and she asked members to vote on whether this should continue. Members agreed unanimously to fund the event. She will complete the required paperwork in anticipation of the event being allowed this coming November 13th. Secretary will enquire about the availability and cost of hall rental. Ms. Daykin confirmed that she was still in discussion with the Minutes Secretary to set out the monthly minutes in a more concise style. They will consult before the next meeting.

Reports by SBC Councillors

i. Councillor Pirone informed the meeting that she has been assisting the Craft Club to access funding. Other issues is concerned with are traffic speeding through the village, parking problems, pedestrian crossing difficulties and the new Police set-up.

She will be taking part in the village walk-about on 5th August. She also mentioned that new Peebles High School rebuilding and sports improvement plans have been submitted.

ii. Councillor Douglas reported that he has been busy with constituency matters and dealing with a variety of general complaints. He has also been engaged as Chairman of the Licensing Board and the Tweeddale Area Committee. The next meeting will be on 27th August and is again accessible live on Microsoft Teams.

He also informed members that there is a meeting on 11th August in Innerleithen Memorial Hall at 6 pm on the subject of 'Community Conversations'. Walkerburn residents are also encouraged to attend.

Any Other Business

A survey examining bus services in the Borders is being evaluated and new look at the evening bus service timetable will be an important part of the discussion.

Ms. Daykin pointed out that there should be more consideration of the economic loss to both S.B.C. and local businesses that are affected by the last bus service ending too early. For instance, many events at the Eastgate Theatre in Peebles are negatively impacted because they end after the last bus has left.

Chairman's Closing Remarks

Mr. Waller thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting and again thanked all Councillors and members who had attended. He pointed out that, as in previous years, there will not be an August meeting unless any urgent matters should crop up before the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 7.00pm in Village Hall

Residents are welcome to attend and to raise any questions concerning village matters.

WCDT E-Bike hire

Want to use your car less? Want to get more outdoor exercise? Fancy hiring an e-bike for a month?

WCDT has 8 e-bikes which village residents can hire for £20/month. We can provide a helmet and lock with the bike which has good panniers on it. We just ask that you take good care of the bike and ensure it is kept secure while you have use of it. Interested? Contact: Emma on 07519 603121, tweedvalleyemma@gmail.com

Non-residents can hire the bikes for £20/day and £10/day per additional bike.



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August WILDSIDE

I thought this month I would have a look at what “International Animal Celebration Days” are celebrated in August and see if any were relevant to us in Scotland.

Orang Utangs and elephants aren't really Borders occupants but two creatures of the night are in: Owls 4th and Bats (Night of 27-28th).

In Scotland too we are celebrating the Scottish Wild Cat on 8th which is international cat day (to keep the balance it's dog day on 24th) You can celebrate it by ensuring your cats are vaccinated, neutered, and micro-chipped. This helps to protect the Scottish Wildcat from disease and hybridization. I believe the wild cats I've seen here are unfortunately hybrids.

You'll be luckier spotting bats and owls on the wing or at least hearing owls. Children can hear bats but it's an ability we lose with maturity. We're still seeing quite a few bats in the evenings but I don't think they're in as large numbers as they once were. Perhaps the insect population has fallen although the amount of houseflies and 'night-time nibblers' would indicate otherwise.

We have quite a few white butterflies about at the moment just as the buddleias are in full bloom everywhere. I have a buddleia quite close to some cabbage plants (bad planning) so the cabbages are netted off to hopefully stop cabbage white butterflies laying their eggs. They do have some damage from pecking pigeons and pesky slugs but things can be cut out or washed off for eating. Good eating they are too! Hopefully my purple sprouting and runner beans will be as successful as we come into the harvest season. I have some small green tomatoes on the outdoor tomatoes and the outdoor cucumber plants are growing well and just coming into flower, so, I'll just order some more sunshine to finish everything off nicely!

My annual foray up north for a summer holiday was in one way disappointing. We went further north into Sutherland this year and I was hopeful of seeing orca (Killer whales) as there had been so many sightings in that region. Despite a trip to John O'Groats, which I enjoyed, we saw nothing in the way of whales or dolphins. I'll have to try my

luck on the Firth of Forth again. There have been plenty of sightings off the coast from Dunbar down to Eyemouth - so fingers crossed this won't end up a 'dolphin-less' summer.

We did see some Red Kite, which are beautiful birds of prey. I hope they reach the Borders at some stage. They would love it here with all the road-kill, their 'speciality'. They would give crows a run for their money! There are still only 300-350 breeding pairs in Scotland and to my knowledge there haven't been any reintroductions to the Borders, so we'll have to wait for them spreading from Dumfries and Galloway where they have been reintroduced.

In the garden, the bird feeders/tables are busy and we've kept our wee families of siskins and greenfinches throughout the summer. Amongst the regulars were gold finches, although there are plenty thistle and willowherb seeds for them in the fields and margins just now.

In the night sky we have the Perseids meteor shower peaking between 12th & 13th which can have up to 60 meteors per hour. Unfortunately the nearly full moon will block out many of the less bright ones but there should still be a decent show after midnight and it is known for its very bright meteors.

The gas giant Saturn reaches opposition on 14th August. When a planet is in opposition, it means the Earth is directly between it and the Sun, making the planet appear bigger and brighter to us. This means that this is the best time to have a look at the second-largest planet in our solar system. Saturn will be visible to the naked eye, but grab a telescope or even just a pair of binoculars to have a spectacular view of it and it's stunning ring system.

Keep an eye out for the moons of Saturn and see if you can spot Titan, Saturn's largest moon. It is the only moon in the entire solar system that has an atmosphere, and the only other solar system body besides earth that has liquid on its surface as far as we know.

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: August/September

Mondays	Mindful Yoga	7.00 - 8.45pm
Thursdays	Table Tennis	6.00 - 9.00pm
Sundays	Table Tennis	6.00 - 9.00pm
Sunday 21 st August	Church Service	2.00pm
Saturday 3 rd September	CRAFTS4U Exhibition	10.00am - 4.00pm
Saturday 10 th September	Walkerburn Association Vegetable Show	2.00pm
Tuesday 20 th September	Lunch Club and Craft Session starts up again.	1.00pm

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Burning Issues Contributors

Please remember to submit any articles, letters or other material for the September 2022 issue by the end of August. Thank you.