



BURNing Issues



www.walkerburn.com

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WALKERBURN PUMP TRACK

We have finally secured funding for the Pump Track & all being well, construction will commence in April and be finished by June. Perfect timing to keep the kids occupied over summer.

A huge thanks to everyone involved in particular to The Community Council who supported the planning application. Our local Councillors got behind this and all the positive feedback in the village pushed it forward.

The funding has come from Sports Scotland & from Scottish Borders Council (SBC) as part of their Park Improvements programme. SBC as the landowners will project manage the build and maintain it long-term.

We are also getting basketball hoops & new football goalposts thanks to those suggestions at the Public consultation.

It is fantastic that for the first time in a very long time, Walkerburn gets something new & it will be a real asset not just for the young of the village but for everyone who wants to have a go, you are never too old to use it.

It will hopefully mean that our young people who currently don't have much to do in the village & often want to escape to Innerleithen to see friends there will be keener to stay & bring friends here.

We will work with school to run sessions purely for our local kids to build confidence and skills.

Charlie Nisbet Festival Lad 2022 said 'I think the Pump Track is a great idea for the community & I am looking forward for the opening of the track. I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make this happen.'

In conjunction with SBC we are holding a small exhibition in the Public Hall between 1.30 & 3.30 on Friday 24th November to show the final design plans for the track & answer any questions.

Please come along and find out more about it.

WALK IT WALKERBURN



**Mondays 10 am Alexandra Park by the swings
(Except 1st Monday of month 'Walk Away', - book by text 07974 782016)**

Our small walking group enjoy friendly one-hour walks, most starting from Walkerburn, to Glenbenna, Plora, Alexandra Park and around the village or towards Innerleithen. Then we stop at the Caberston Café for a drink and chat. We also have 'Walk Aways'

The group is usually about 5 people, the speed is stroll rather than march and there are breaks when needed along the way. We enjoy the company, fresh air and views and always feel better for it.

Walking helps both physical and mental health so if you'd like to, please come and give it a go.

Christmas isn't far away, but a couple of our walks would be a good way to move towards the New Year!

For more information or to book in for Walk Away, call or text 07974 782016.

Alice (Walk Leader)

BORDERS ARTS COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION & OPEN DAY

Saturday 25th November, 10am to 4pm Walkerburn Public Hall

As well as an art exhibition, there is a charity raffle and refreshments on offer. There will also be two children's art workshops and a tombola. Please do come along and say hi!

(A percentage of funds raised in the raffle will be donated to the Parkinsons Charity.)

See www.bordersartscollective.co.uk

PROBUS

Any retired person living in Peeblesshire who is interested in attending a wide variety of stimulating talks might like to know that the Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair Probus Club meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday mornings of the month between October and April at the Union Club in Innerleithen. doors open at 9.45 am for a 10.30 am start.

Martin Eldon is the President for the 2023-2024 season and the Probus Club of Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair is always ready to welcome new members. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Club Secretary at probus.sec@gmail.com or by phone on 01896 830 166.

The Club's website can also be accessed at www.probusborders.org.

PEEBLES & DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Appointments available at Walkerburn Public Hall, Thursdays from 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

Call: 01721 721722 for an appointment.

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WALKERBURN BOWLING & PETANQUE CLUB

The Bowls season ended on rather a damp note as the unusually wet end to Autumn resulted in a premature end to most of the club members' competitions, leaving some of the trophy competitions having to be finished at the beginning of the 2024 season.

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the many friendly games and tournaments and to the organisers: John Smith and Bill Nicholson, Mike and Christine Tucker for the catering. Also, special thanks their back-up helpers who looked after everyone so well. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year.

Meanwhile, Petanque sessions are will continue every Friday at 1.00pm throughout the winter (depending on the weather!) in addition to the occasional 'melee' event and some challenge matches against local clubs. The club enjoyed a recent win in an excellent match against the Reivers Petanque club from Selkirk.

As always, we extend a warm welcome to all Walkerburn residents and invite them to try their hand at petanque – or both! Non-members can also enjoy a few practice sessions before deciding whether to join. We can supply all the equipment you need. Dress code is 'casual'.

The club also wants to encourage more community involvement, to include local organisations, adults or children. It is open the whole community. Please come along and take a look at what we have to offer and do not hesitate to ask if you would like to know more.

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

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

Borders Storm Emergency Helpline 01835 826549	Pollution Report Line 0800-807060
SBC 0300-1001800 or 01896-752111 for out of hours emergency help	Electricity SPNetworks 0800 0929290 In Instances of Power Cuts Call 105
NHS Covid status 'phone: 0808-1968585 (10.00am to 6.00pm)	Scottish Water 0800-0778778 www.scottishwater.co.uk
Gas 0800 111999	St Ronans Health Centre 01896 830203
NHS 24 Tel 111 or 0845-242424 www.nhs24.com	Samaritans phone or text 116123 www.samaritans.org.uk
Scottish Borders Council 0300-1001800 www.sbalert.co.uk	Floodline 0845-9881188 www.sepa.org.uk/flooding
Police Non-Emergency 101 Emergency 999	MAK Locksmith (24hour Service) 07926 559296
Community Action Policing Team https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/customer-communities . email: saferrcommunities@scotborders.gov.uk <i>Please let your Community Council know about specific problems so that the Action Team can be informed</i>	

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WALKERBURN PUBLIC HALL

If you are a resident of Walkerburn or nearby and have anything you feel could contribute to the Hall, then feel free to get in touch at walkerburnpublichall@gmail.com or have a chat with one of our Committee Members. Walkerburn Public Hall Management Committee Members: Jade Turner – Chairperson; Mike Wilcox – Treasurer; Cathie Hart – Secretary; Dawn Rodger – Bookkeeper; Sheilagh Sommerville; Kath Keddie; Cat Worsley

WHAT'S ON IN THE HALL: November/December

Anyone interested in booking the hall, please contact walkerburnpublichall@gmail.com

Date	Event	Time
Mondays	Mindful Yoga For more info, please tel. Sue Cotterill on 07983 167075 or email reverendsusancotterill@gmail.com	6.00pm - 9.00pm
Tuesdays (weekly)	Youth Club (except for last Tuesday every month) Christmas Break 19th Dec to 9th January 2024 Walkerburn Primary School Christmas Show 12th Dec	6.00pm - 8.00pm 6.30pm - 10.00pm 6.00pm - 10.00pm
Wednesdays	Community Council Meeting 15th Nov Walkerburn Vegetable Association AGM	7.00pm 7.00pm
Thursdays	Cyrenians Community Pantry and Cook Club (Christmas Break 14th Dec to 11th January 2024) Citizens Advice Bureau in Ante Room 16th, 30th Nov & 14th Dec Walkerburn Community Development Trust AGM 30th Nov Borders Community Action 7th Dec in Office	1530 - 1730 7.00pm 11.00am - 3.00pm
Friday	WCDT and SBC Public Consultation re. Pump Track 24th Nov.	6.00pm - 10.00pm
Saturday	Borders Art Collective Exhibition & Open Day 25th Nov	11.00am - 4.00pm
Sundays	ITW Church Service 19th Nov and 17th Dec Festival Christmas Party 10th Dec Table Tennis	2.00pm - 3.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm 6.00pm - 9.00pm

WALKERBURN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

Draft Minutes of Meeting held in Walkerburn Public Hall on Wednesday 18th October 2023

Present: Mr P Waller (Chairman), Mrs L Thornton (Secretary), Mrs S Horsburgh, Ms M Daykin, Ms G Jones, Mr C Kerr, Ms S Sedgwick, Mr G Thornton, Mr M Wilcox, Mrs P Purves, (Co-opted), Councillor Douglas, Councillor Pirone, Councillor Tatler.

Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed all present.

Open Questions

i. A member of the Walkerburn and District Development Trust reported that he had noted that, at a previous Community Council meeting, a resident raised a concern about the steel containers located at the west end of Alexandra Park. There had been a query as to whether this followed Planning procedures and if the land-owner had granted permission. It was pointed out that the containers were located there on behalf of the community to provide secure storage for equipment belonging to Walkerburn Festival and the Development Trust. However, it was agreed that enquiries should be made to confirm whether permission had been granted.

As a result, the Development Trust SBC Planners have been able to confirm that SBC Planners are now suggesting that retrospective planning permission should be sought. The Development Trust will pay for retrospective planning permission and Members were asked whether the Community Council could pay this fee as there would be a reduction in fees. Members agreed that, as this was a benefit to the community as a whole, WDCC would submit the application forms; the cost being borne by the Development Trust. As this involves Community Benefit to Walkerburn, it might be possible to obtain a grant towards the fees.

Chairman thanked the member for his input.

ii. Another member of the public then gave a short talk about how initial enquiries that were being made to find out whether there would be sufficient local interest to set up a 'Maker-Space' and 'Tools Library' in Walkerburn.

There is an identical project in Edinburgh which is very successful. Walkerburn would be particularly suitable as it has a pool of talent and experience to draw upon. If a suitable space could be found to house equipment such as 3-D printers, laser cutters, lathes, computers, a pottery and ceramics kiln, a sewing machine and metal working equipment it would be a great opportunity to discover, experiment and play.

There will be further meetings and discussions in the near future to progress these ideas and the Community Council were asked to support this project.

Members agreed to do so and will help with advice, publicity and where to access grants. Chairman thanked him for taking the time to put forward these ideas.

Police Business

The monthly Tweeddale East Area Police Report had been distributed to members. There were no incidents reported in respect of Walkerburn.

Councillor Pirone pointed out that the 'Speed Watch' programme for the Tweeddale area is nearly ready to be implemented and she will report back to members in the near future.

September Minutes.

i. Amendments:

Secretary pointed out that she had received a letter from a resident asking that a small amendment be made to the last Minutes. She pointing out that, although the last Minutes correctly stated that letters of concern about parking problems in High Cottages had been distributed to everyone in High Cottages, they had also been distributed to Caberston Avenue. The Minutes have been amended and the resident thanked for pointing out the omission.

ii. Proposed by Mr Kerr and Seconded by Ms. Jones

Matters Arising.

i. Chairman pointed out that badly overgrown hedge in Alexandra Park had not been cut in time for the Walkerburn Festival events but was pleased to note that it had now been done. Unfortunately, hedge-cutting is confined to late-Autumn schedules because of concerns about wildlife and other factors and this delay had been necessary.

ii. At the previous meeting, Chairman pointed out that the Alexandra Park pathway alongside the river had been resurfaced with a layer of whin dust that is not level and is difficult to walk on.

Mr Thornton informed members that he had mentioned this to Campbell Johnstone when he had met with him to discuss other Alexandra Park matters. He informed Campbell that there had been complaints about the quality of the work on the footpath alongside the river and that they were barely adequate. Campbell said that he was aware of the problem. However, this was not a permanent solution but only a short-term option. The Council had a very restricted budget to carry out repairs. Also, as the time allowed to complete the work was very short, this was the only available solution. The long-term solution is for a much more robust surface to be laid. He will be liaising with other groups regarding future pathway projects in this area.

iii. Mrs Thornton reported that the overgrown bushes obstructing the Peebles Road footway adjoining Eden Lodge had been cut back.

iv. Chairman has written to Mr Aikman regarding issues arising from the Planning website and from the Minchmoor mast application which the Community Council had considered to have been badly handled as it appears that some of the views of residents who had written to complain about the siting of this particular mast had been overlooked. He awaits a reply.

v. Secretary reported that she had spoken with Forestry and Land Scotland regarding the missing 'Muckle Mouth Meg' sculpture at Thornielee forest car park. It was agreed that an information board would be an acceptable alternative to a new sculpture. However, Forestry Scotland are hoping that a replacement sculpture can be commissioned, hopefully, from the original sculptor.

vi. Following the previous discussion about the problem of overgrown vegetation along the multi-use pathway beyond the old river dam, Mr Kerr agreed to enquire whether the equipment donated to the Innerleithen Pathway Group some years ago could be used on the Walkerburn section.

He said that he had spoken with the Innerleithen Volunteers Group who maintain the Innerleithen section and had learnt that specialist equipment needed to deal adequately with the whole length of pathway would cost in the region of £4,500. The annual Pathways Maintenance Grant available, would not be adequate. Councillor Tatler advised that an application could be made to the Neighbourhood Support Fund scheme to cover the cost. However, it was necessary to show that this endeavour could be sustained for at least five years after the equipment had been purchased.

An application could be made by Walkerburn Community Council, as a Constituted Group, or as a sub-group of the Community Council.

vii. After concerns had been raised about inadequate repairs to the gas pipeline by the south side of the bridge, Councillor Douglas had contacted Scottish Gas to pass on these reservations. It is hoped that SEPA will agree to much larger sized 'riff-raff' boulders being used in future.

vii. Secretary reminded members about an August email from WDCC to all members and councillors informing them that BT are decommissioning 32 red telephone boxes in the Borders. And that the one at Galashiels Road, Walkerburn is potentially one of them. However, a final decision has still to be made regarding this. The box can be adopted by the communities for £1 if it is decommissioned. The closing date to "Adopt a Kiosk for £1" is 30th November 2023.

Members agreed that, if the box is to be decommissioned, the community should adopt it because there are several options for how it can be used to benefit the village. This can be seen in several other communities, such as the one in Auchendinny.

viii. Secretary confirmed that an article had been published in 'Burning Issues' and on the Walkerburn 'Facebook' page and website regarding inconsiderate use of the multi-use path by some cyclists and occasional off-road vehicles used by local businesses.

It was suggested that bells should be compulsory. However, another suggestion advocating a compulsory maximum speed limit was deemed unenforceable.

ix. Mrs Purves reported that SBC had been informed that work was still needed to repair potholes on the back road. This still awaits attention by the Roads department.

x. Mr Kerr suggested that it might be more cost effective if the lade was to be filled with pebbles taken from the large deposits in the area of the river upstream of the bridge.

xi. Chairman wrote to Stuart Moir, SBC's Chief Structural Engineer, to learn more about SBC proposals regarding the Jubilee Lane bridge problem and to ascertain whether a decision had been made to in-fill the lade by the HB Club or to install a replacement bridge.

Mr Moir promptly sent a very detailed response in which he explained that, at this stage, SBC are "still developing the design proposals and will get in touch with the Community Council and local Councillors once plans are further progressed:

"As part of this design development, engineers have met with property/land-owners who would be directly affected by the works to understand what requirements they might have, given the likely interaction with their walls/boundaries/land, and in case their requirement materially affected SBC plans.

In regards to infilling a portion of the Mill Lade for the creation of a 'causeway' instead of a bridge, this was considered but discounted as it is felt:

- *Infilling would block easy access for maintenance purposes to areas of the Mill Lade west of the bridge;*
- *the material imported for infilling would exert a horizontal force on the walls bounding the dry Mill Lade, for which the walls were unlikely designed for such;*
- *the infilled material could increase dampness in the walls on which the infilled material rested;*
- *infilling will require notable construction plant and ground disturbance which would require reinstatement on completion of works;*
- *the infilled portion would be on non-SBC land so land purchase or agreements would be required in respect of future maintenance responsibilities and;*
- *infilling would result in a change to the Public Utility arrangement across the bridge, so instead of the gas and electric ducts suspended from the bridge (i.e. a like-for-like arrangement with a bridge replacement) they would become buried, therefore, requiring additional permissions from the utility companies, increased costs and increased interaction with them, possibly even a costly utility diversion.*

On balance, a bridge replacement is the preferred solution. In the quest for improvement and maintenance reduction, whilst giving consideration to sustainability, we are keen to see a glass reinforced plastic bridge installed, albeit coloured and textured so it closely resembles timber. These can offer a 75-year design life, are highly durable, have good aesthetics, require minimal maintenance requirements and have parts formed of recycled plastic bottles.

We have listened to initial feedback from the Henry Ballantyne Club and our Passenger Transport Team and, as such, are currently targeting works for the Easter 2024 school holidays to minimise disruption."

Correspondence.

The correspondence list for 21st September to 18th October 2023 had been circulated to members.

Planning.

i. Mr Thornton reported that there were no new Planning Applications in the past month:

ii. Members were asked to consider whether to support the following 'Proposed Motion that will be put forward by an adjoining Community Council that will be put forward at the next Borders Council meeting on Thursday 26th October. The background to this is as follows:

"Notwithstanding an overwhelming workload on our planning staff, whilst wind-farm applications decided under the Electricity Act S36 are administered by the Energy Consents Unit [ECU], the relevant Planning Authority is a significant consultee.

As normal practice, other Planning Authorities report on all known external consultee responses, including from members of the public; helping Councillors decide based on best evidence.

SBC don't put public representations to such applications on the SBC website – indeed officers on occasion asserted that "...third party representations are submitted direct to the ECU and it is for them to account for these matters. You will be aware that we have received a number of representations in relation to this application and I would remind members not to allow these representations to influence your decision making today."

By not taking into account important external consultee responses, our Councillors are potentially not appraised of the full picture of the representations; an approach that is certainly not "best practice" compared with other Planning Authorities.

When will Scottish Borders Council adopt best practice in respect of S36 applications?"

'Proposed Motion'

"Walkerburn and District Community Council strongly supports the question put to Council by Mr Stuart Bell and urges Councillors to change the current policy followed by Planners in dealing with S36 applications in the interests of maintaining an open and democratic planning process."

Members were unanimous in their support for this motion but were also mindful of how the Scrutiny Panel should also be involved.

Scawd Law Wind Farm Application

The main news is that SBC has been granted an extension until 6th March 2024 for their response. This has been agreed between the applicant, the ECU and the Council.

This agreement is a relief from a number of angles: Under the legislation, if SBC objects to the proposal there has to be a public enquiry. From our point of view this is highly desirable because it means an in-depth examination of the application, which we think may lead to rejection.

i. Having already been granted an extension until 9th October, if SBC had not gained a further extension it was possible that the ECU would have declared that the consultation had closed and would have proceeded to a decision by officials.

ii. The applicant has not completed all the extra work requested by the ECU but has already indicated a willingness to make changes to their proposal in an attempt to persuade consultees to support the application.

iii. The number of wind farm applications, at various stages, both S36 applications and smaller ones, is enormous and in danger of completely submerging SBC Planners. This could lead to rushed examination and mistakes being made.

However, there are also some disturbing developments which suggest that Fred Olsen Renewables is determined at all costs to achieve planning permission for Scawd Law, in spite of the expense involved in this small development. This suggests that our surmise that Scawd Law is a stalking horse for other development in the Moorfoots, and potentially on all the local ridgelines, is correct.

In a separate development SEPA have now written a strong note proposing that they would withdraw their objection if strict conditions are attached to any permission granted. David Mundell MP has lodged an objection.

Reports by Members.

a.) Ms Jones referred to the issue concerning the multi-use path from Walkerburn to Peebles. She pointed out that many cyclists seem to regard the path as being primarily a cycle path. It is important to be aware that, although it used by many cyclists, equally many pedestrians, children, disabled people in wheelchairs and horse-riders also regularly.

Local residents are aware of what it is intended to be, but it may be that visitors and a small number of locals are treating it as their sole right of way. This is a potential danger to non-cyclists and there have been occasional confrontations.

Consequently, could attention be given to better signage and making all users aware that it is 'Multi Use'?

Secretary informed members that there is an article in Burning Issues, as well as on the Walkerburn website and on the Walkerburn 'Facebook' page, emphasising that **it is multi-use** (and not just for cyclists) and that all users should treat others with courtesy.

Chairman has previously asked that SBC put more notices along the Multi-use Path emphasising that **it is multi-use** (and not just for cyclists) and all users should treat others with courtesy. Ideally, he would like to see "*pedestrians have priority*" signs, but has been advised that this is not feasible.

Members agreed that this should be looked at again.

b.) Ms Daykin again referred to the problem of cyclists failing to heed 'Cyclists Dismount' signs on the narrow pathway from the Tweed Bridge to Alexandra Park.

Chairman noted that the notices provided by SBC had been very flimsy and had been damaged by recent bad weather. Mr Thornton pointed out that there was a very good sign-making workshop at St Boswells and asked that SBC erect more robust signs.

c.) Mr Kerr raised a number of issues:

i. He reported that a 'Flood Group' with Walkerburn, Innerleithen and Peebles to look at solutions for the Tweeddale Area. Discussions are on-going and SEPA will also be involved. He also mentioned that it was hoped for a Resilience Officer to be allocated to each area by SBC .

ii. He asked Councillors whether the Resilience Group could fund the erection of flood gates on the Tweed Bridge at the junction with Caberston Road. Following the tragic accident earlier in the year on a flooded section of the road near the electricity sub-station, and in view of the increasingly regular flood risk of dangerous floods, this was now a problem that needed to be dealt with urgently.

iii. With this in mind, it was also important that a Water Depth Gauge should be erected just beyond the entrance to Glendinnings yard. The water is deceptively deep and fast flowing across this section.

iv. He again pointed out the need for flood barriers to protect the Primary School.

v. Lastly, Mr Kerr informed members of a Resilience Group training session at Netherdale on 1st November. Among other topics, it will look at ways of communicating better in emergency situations. The big flood earlier in the year had shown up a disturbing lack of co-ordination between Emergency Services and local residents. Chairman thanked him for all the work he had done regarding flooding issues.

d.) Mrs Thornton reported:

That she would like to inform members and Councillors about the forthcoming 'Borders Arts Collective 'Art Exhibition and Open Day to be held on Saturday 25th November 10am to 4pm in Walkerburn Public Hall. This is a very worthwhile initiative and will have displays of some wonderful local talent. A percentage of funds raised will be donated to the Parkinsons Charity. (See: www.bordersartscollective.co.uk)

e.) Mr Waller raised three issues:

i. He drew attention to a problem of some vehicles being driven at excessive speed along the narrow High Cottages road and wondered whether '10 mph' speed limit signs could be erected. Councillors advised that, unfortunately, this could not be enforced.

ii. He pointed out that the 'Speed' sign on the A72 adjoining the entrance to High Cottages had not been working for some time. Secretary said that she had reported this.

iii. Chairman mentioned that a resident had pointed out that a large lorry was parking regularly in the car drop-off space in Alexandra Park. The village does not have any defined spaces for commercial vehicles to park. Unfortunately, the lorry had been parked where it obstructed views from Park Avenue houses. It was suggested that the driver be asked to park it closer to the storage containers and away from the houses.

f.) Mrs Purves mentioned that the War Memorial refurbishment is still ongoing and that it will be cleaned and the surrounding area swept before the Remembrance Day service. However, the iron railings are badly corroded and will soon need quite extensive repairs.

Councillors suggested that the Community Council apply to the 'Neighbourhood Fund' for a grant to cover this once the cost has been ascertained.

g.) Mr Thornton reported on two issues:

i. That he had spoken to Iomhar Maciver at Beltane Studios about replacing or refurbishing the bronze commemorative plaque and ornamental railings in Alexandra Park. He was informed that the plaque did not need to be replaced.

The quote to clean and repatinatate the bronze plaque and to strip and repaint railings was £950 plus vat.

Councillor Tatler advised that this could be paid from the 'Small Schemes' Neighbourhood budget.

ii. He informed members that he had contacted Lorna McCullough at 'The Bridge' about the new set-up. He pointed out that 'The Bridge' had closed their office in Peebles and were now based in Galashiels. Although their new function is to administer the 'Tweed Wheels' projects in the Borders it was suggested that the Community Council should continue to show an interest in this relevant project. There is now no charge for membership and the Community Council had been invited to complete a membership renewal form for 2023-2024. Councillors advised that this was a worthwhile thing to do and members agreed.

iii. Lastly, he reported that, after meeting with Campbell Johnstone to look at issues in Alexandra Park, he was able to confirm that Campbell will speak to the householder concerned to resolve the problem of overhanging tree branches and hedge-planting and a need to confirm the accuracy of boundary lines.

Reports by SBC Councillors.

a.) Councillor Douglas mentioned that the next Tweeddale Area Partnership will be held in Walkerburn Village Hall at 7.00pm on 31st October. There will be important reports giving updates on NHS Borders concerns; a Flood Report update from Colin Kerr; and a Final report from Peebles Parking Group. He invited as many as possible to attend and to put questions to the speakers.

b.) Councillor Pirone reported on 3 issues:

i. She mentioned that the 'Live Borders' review, involving a cross-party group of councillors, was still on-going.

ii. The 'Community Speed-Watch' programme was also progressing, but she hoping for more local volunteers from Tweeddale to offer to take part.

iii. She expressed her disappointment about proposed cuts to Police manpower. At present, there are only 147 Police Officers to cover the whole of the Borders area. This is clearly insufficient and she will be trying hard to improve this situation. It is not yet known if there will be any cuts to the Borders force numbers.

c.) Councillor Tatler reported on 3 issues:

i. Following several complaints by local residents about how badly Haughead Bridge has deteriorated, repairs were starting.

ii. He mentioned that after complaints had been made about the acoustic quality of the refurbished Chambers Institute Burgh Hall, a report had been commissioned and suggested improvements were now on-going.

iii. He also mentioned the parking problems in Peebles and the possibility of using wardens was being discussed.

Date of Next Meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7.00pm.

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NOVEMBER WILDSIDE

November is here.

Once Hallowe'en is past most people's thoughts turn to Christmas which is only fifty odd days away. Bonfire night or Guy Fawkes isn't what it used to be and is less of an occasion than it has been in the past. The warnings used to come out every year to check there were no hedgehogs hiding in your bonfire before you set it alight and if you're having one, please check for hedgehogs sheltering. I'm hoping for some hedgehog visitors and have a new hog house hidden in some shrubs containing some cosy straw for bedding for a hibernating hog. Hedgehogs will wake up if the temperatures are high enough. They'll feed if they can and a saucer of fresh water will provide welcome refreshment. To supplement their diet in the wild, please offer hedgehogs either a good quality meaty hedgehog food, meaty cat or dog food or dry biscuits for cats. Never offer milk as although they love it it gives them terrible diarrhoea and that's not nice on your lawn or for the hogs themselves. Hedgehogs are nocturnal so those out in the day are displaying odd behaviour. It is generally recognised that the hogs need to weigh at least 1lb or 454g to have a chance at surviving through hibernation so this is an important time

of year for them to be feeding up for the winter. Despite their prickles, hedgehogs have lots of enemies besides motor vehicles. Their main predator is the badger and they also provide competition by eating the same wild food i.e earthworms. Foxes, golden eagles, tawny owls, pine martens, rats and stoats and weasels also pose a threat.

Pine martens have recently been seen along the back road and there is footage of a pine marten family on the Tweed Valley Osprey project's page. We're very lucky to have so much variety of wild life here, even the variety of birds visiting the garden feeders. You can tell it's the cooler months now as the coal tits are back in the garden. At present we have goldfinches, greenfinches and chaffinches all visiting daily as well as collared doves, wood pigeons, blue and great tits. My favourites though are a pair of nuthatches. We did have a song thrush visit for a while but I haven't seen it lately. Most of the singing is down to the robins and of course blackbirds. We've seen and heard a few skeins of geese flying over and there are lots of ducks around so there is still plenty going on out there.

For something a little different on a cold day why not visit a wildlife art exhibition on presently at Hawick's Border Textile Towerhouse until the 29th of January by local artist Emma Jolly, Details at https://www.liveborders.org.uk/exhibitions/eye-on-wildlife-by-emma-jolly/?fbclid=IwAR0w0jC_1qp1fNefC8uQ1MemvoltGD8O9Geo6DrNGJWCTcvF2_KtDV-5Lgo

Walkerburn Post Office & Store

Local Shop and Post Office Shop for all your daily essentials including wines & spirits, tobacco, milk & bread, crisps & snacks, confectionery, groceries, and non-food essentials. We get fresh rolls and pies delivered daily from the bakery in Innerleithen, readymade sandwiches and cakes delivered 3 times a week.

Amazon parcels - Banking/Cheque Deposits - Travel Money Orders all can be delivered to PO.

Tel:01896870205

Shop Opening Hours: Mon-Saturday 7am - 8pm & Sun 10am - 8pm

Post Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8am - 5.30pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm & Sunday 10am - 5pm



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