

**Galashiels Community Council**

**Zoom Meeting**

**Wednesday 3rd February 2021**

**6.30pm**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

Judith Cleghorn, Tracey Alder, Rick Kenney, Bill White, Liz Jardine, Marion Romeril, Gordon Richardson Dougie Johnston Lorna Hanif

Cllr Aitchison

Cllr Anderson

Cllr Jardine

Michael Thomson- Border Telegraph

Paul Kelly – Southern Reporter

Ally McGilvray

5 Members of Public

**1.Welcome and Apologies**.

Judith welcomed everyone to the final zoom meeting of Galashiels Community Council 2020.

Apologies Cllr Scott, Richard Romeril

***2.* Minutes Approval**

An accurate Minute of the Meeting **2nd December** via Zoom was approved by Marion Romeril and Seconded by Bill White

**3. Matters Arising n/a**

**4. Police Update**

Police update was sent out to all CC members.

QA- If someone may be able to answer or find out the cost of 320 Police hours that had accumulated in to time spent on very few speeding fines, Would the money be better spent elsewhere within Police Scotland?

**5**. **Sub-groups Update.**

**Gala Waterways Group**

Clean up on Saturday December 6th

**Gala in Bloom**

As in report

**Walking Festival**

Tracey reported that there are only a few days left of what is looking to be a great Winter Walking weekend. All walks are sold out and I have been sat putting 100 bells on to 100 Santa Hats for our walkers, just to bring a bit of Christmas cheer. I would like to thank Dougie for organising all the walks through Eventbrite and all of our Walk Leaders.

All other sub groups sent in reports.

**6. Chairs Comments and Questions**

**Drew Tulley**

I know that I have already mentioned the sad news of Drew’s passing in my report, but I could not let this meeting pass without briefly talking about him again.

His influence in this town was second to none and his knowledge of the Galashiels he loved was without question.

He had very strong views which he was not shy at putting forward; he did not always agree with us and had no hesitation in saying so. The annoying thing was, that he was usually right.

But he was extremely helpful and very kind to me – I could always go to him for some sensible advice - and I did so. He will be very much missed, and I consider it an honour to have known him.

Floral Gala

We will be launching an appeal for money from the Galashiels community, starting in early January. I have asked the press to be involved, collecting boxes will be distributed around shops and an online appeal will be started.

As time goes on, and if we can, we will be holding fundraising events too.

The cost of the Floral Gala project is £18.914, which includes a contingency sum of around £1800. The project has been approved by Energise Galashiels and they will financially support it, but it is not known yet to what extent.

From a Gala in Bloom point of view, as you know we had to pay over £1000 to a contractor to cut and dispose of the grass in Bank Street gardens. This money was taken from the pay parking money we received from SBC last year to cover the cost of planting up Bank Street gardens in 2020 – obviously postponed until 2021. I think this money should be refunded to us by SBC and I will be asking that question.

I have also asked for a plan of work that SBC intend to do in the Galashiels gardens and green spaces during 2021 – this will enable us to plan what we can do to help and appeal for more volunteers when we put out our financial appeal in early January.

Local Development Plan

As you will all know, the Local Development Plan for the Borders is on the SBC website – open for consultation until 25th January. With this in mind, I would be grateful if you could all have a look at it – even if you just search for the bit about Gala, which interests us most – and make a note of any comments you have.

I said in my report that we would not be meeting until early February, but I think the LDP is particularly important and if we want a say in what happens in Galashiels, we should meet before then to put our ideas on paper and submit them, together, to SBC. Therefore, I would like us to have a short meeting on Wednesday 13th January at 6.30pm – and the Local Development Plan will be the only issue – unless anything else comes up before then that needs our urgent attention. – All agreed to a meeting on 13th Jan 2021

Gala Academy

We also need to be aware about the proposed plans for the new Academy. Stuart Gordon, who attended our last meeting, has produced a petition that is fast gathering signatures to firmly advise SBC that the No. 1 proposed site for the Academy, in Scott Park, is not the people’s option. I think Stuart had hoped that we would support him by putting the petition on our website – but I felt unable to do this without the approval from the majority of the community councillor’s support. I would like us to discuss this tonight.

I would also like to know when the official public consultation about the school will take place – and what form it will take.

20MPH

I will leave this issue until the item in AOB.

The New Galashiels Academy Development was discussed at length with varying views on the issue, but the generalised agreement was that the public need to come forward at the consultation and let it be known what they would like to see.

The Community Campus is estimated at costing 55 million.

Sports problems that have been issues at other complex’s need to be learned from.

Judith briefly mentioned the Focus Centre and that a compromise needs to be met. All user groups have been consulted with by Judith and Tracey.

QA. Has the planning of the new school stopped until the Local Development plan has been finalised?

Cllr Aitchison, the children ‘s schooling needs to be prioritised and we don’t want kids having to be decanted out , the school needs to be built on the current site.

**7. Treasurers Update and questions**

Financial report was in with the group reports. Annual allotment has been received.

**8.Secretarys update N/A**

**9. Vice Chairs update – Planning and Licensing.**

Rick read out the applications for this month and there were no adverse comments to be added.

Cllr Anderson left at 7.30pm

**10. SBC Councillors Comments and questions**

**Cllr Jardine –** Euan paid respects to Drew Tulley.

Fly tipping seems to be a big problem at the moment and sometimes SBC have already been told about it and acted on it before the Cllrs are aware.

**11. AOB**

**20 MPH Speed limit. –**

Again, varying views on this – but no consultation on this has been sought. The legislation on this was kicked out last year so why now. Not all motorists are supportive of this and there have been times when cyclists have been compromised because of this.

The idea is to get people walking and getting fresh air and not for accident prevention as such.

Cllr Jardine said Napier University are the ones doing the study on this so they will be collating results which will follow a consultation. The results should be conclusive hopefully.

Dougie and Jessie to look at starting a small group of walkers and cyclists to look at 20mph speed limit.

**Trails –** Bill White voiced that there was a meeting regarding the trails just the other night and that a new Committee body needs to be formed to move away from the Community Council. Stow have their own Pump trac k group. Bill will chair a main group and will be needing Office Bearers. SBC, Live Borders and SoSep all onboard

Meeting concluded 8.15pm

**Date of next meeting by Zoom – 3rd February 2021 6.30pm**