



## Lauderdale Community Council

Minute of Meeting of Lauderdale Community Council on  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in The Black Bull at 7.30pm

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Jack Ponton, *Chairman*, Irene Thomson, *Vice Chairman*, Anne Hogarth, *Secretary*, Edward Maitland-Carew, Judi Gunn, Craig McBeth, and Councillors David Parker, and Kevin Drum

Apologies received: Lorraine Crawford, *Treasurer*, Alistair Smith, Allan Pryde, Steve Aitchison and Councillor Tom Miers and PC Norrie

18 members of the public

2. **Declarations of Interest.** Edward declared an interest in the public exhibition discussion.

3. **Police Report.** This had been circulated. Jack asked for any items concerning the Police.

- 3.1 As a result of comments about speeding on the A68 through Lauder, SBC had asked AMEY to look into this problem. Traffic measurement devices have been set up throughout the town and when the project is complete AMEY will pass on findings and recommendations which will be circulated. David noted that speed was usually perceived as faster than actual fact but concern was raised about the narrowness of both the roadway and footpaths at certain places in Lauder. However, David also reported that there is going to be a Pedestrian Safety Audit and it was suggested LCC hold an extraordinary meeting to inform the public on the outcome of that. SBC would call a public meeting to combine the results of both audits.

4. **Minute of previous meeting.** These were proposed by Craig and seconded by Judi.

5. **Notification of items not on Agenda.** There were several.

6. **Matters Arising.** – None.

7. **Paths.** There was nothing further to report this month.

8. **Eildon Area Partnership.** The next meeting is not until 10<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 in the Melrose Corn Exchange. However Kevin reported that the new setup is working well.

### 9. Reports

#### 9.1 Planning.

9.1.1 There were 2 applications this month – Alterations to boundary wall and erection of gates from the Avenue into St Serfs which is in the Conservation Area and addition of velux windows at the rear of 9 Crofts Road. These applications were recommended for support.

9.1.2 Public Exhibition by Persimmon Homes for addition of 35 houses off Thirlestane Drive. (Edward left the meeting for this item.) David explained how this land had been laid aside in 2004 as one of the sites for the new Lauder Primary School but had been turned down in favour of another site. SBC has a legal option over this site for 20 years owing to this and this means that the owner can sell the land but that SBC has a profit share arrangement.

9.1.3 Noted from the floor. There was concern about the lack of parking spaces and doubt about the actual number of houses as 30, 34, 35 and even 39 had been mentioned. There was anxiety about the number of houses and how, in this open-plan development, children

played on all the free space including roads and drives. There was disquiet about the density of houses and the overlooking of the present scheme and the practical engineering problem of digging foundations for new houses which may damage present walls. A suggestion was made about a pre-meeting with SBC planners to emphasise this point. 'A number of residents stated that they had no objection in principle to housing on the site. The Community Council would try to alert as many residents as possible when the actual planning application was presented. The public were also advised that the planning should be available to view on the SBC website once submitted. (Edward returned to the meeting).

- 9.2 **Treasurer's Report.** None.
- 9.3 **Lauder Common Good.** The Sheep Company are in consultation with LCG about the tree planting on the Common.
- 9.4 **Revitalisation.** – The Lego Club will restart after the school holidays.
- 9.5 **Lauderdale Community Council Outreach Meetings.** – Judi reported on various problems. The path beside the Health Centre to the Public Park has become very rough and Kevin agreed to look into this. Oxtan owns a min-tractor for snow clearance and other work and the question was asked if Lauder could buy one and maintain it through grants. There was a request for a post box at the south end of Lauder and concern about the lack of cash facilities. Anne agreed to write to Royal Mail about a letter box. Nina from the South Gardens Trust was very willing to help anyone with support if needed.
- 9.6 The Partnership for Youth which is based in Earlston is offering volunteers to help with any sort of project and help with the Lego Club and the Paths Group was suggested.

## **10. AOB**

- 10.1 4G at 800MHz has been interfering with on Freeview for TV reception in certain areas particularly round Factors Park and it was noted that the company were willing to add a filter to each set if contacted personally at AT800.
- 10.2 Lauderdale Community Shed. This group is thriving although temporarily housed in a room at the Fire Station. A classroom (portacabin) from the old Duns Primary School has been offered and will be accepted if local residents around Factors Park do not object to losing a few parking spaces in the old Doctors Surgery car park where it may be sited. The Men's Shed Objectives seem commendable.
- 10.3 It was agreed that Anne would send a formal letter to Jamie Simpson, the window cleaner, to thank him for his work around Lauder, cleaning bus shelters and road signs.
- 10.4 It was noted again that the wall on Castle Wynd is becoming dangerous with large stones falling into the roadway. Thirlestane Castle Trust is aware of the need for repair.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Lauder Primary School at 7.30pm.