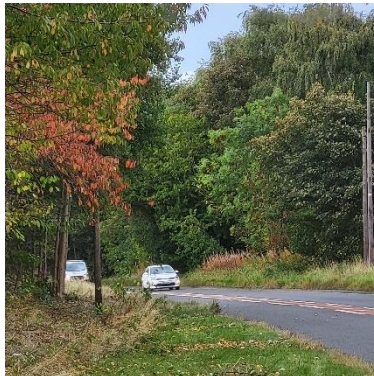


Community Council - Chair's Chat November 2023

Crailing A698 Speeding Petition



Crailing Residents used the oxygen of publicity by making ITV Borders news and the Border Telegraph front page. The Community Council supported the petition for a reduced speed limit, better sightlines and improved signage, at the 19th October Scrutiny and Petitions Committee. Result? We achieved 2 of the three aims.

1. SBC agreed it owned land on the Kelso side of the junction and will maintain it with improved sight line up old toll house. Residents will reduce beech hedges to improve sightlines to the west.

2. New signage by SBC - "Welcome to Crailing Please Drive Carefully" – plus additional "Slow" signs painted on the carriage way.

A plea to all road users: please help by reducing speeds to 50mph as you pass through this village, residents would be very grateful – and safer.

Lothian Hall

Currently hall refurbishing work is underway - restoring stage, opening up old windows, removing ceiling and painting throughout. The transformation is a much brighter, welcoming and modern place – a great venue for social activities. Bear it in mind if you are planning a party!

Informing Residents

A green and white A5 leaflet should have landed on all households' doorsteps – with up to date Community Councillor contacts and useful emergency contacts. If you didn't receive one, drop me a line at cencomms@hotmail.co.uk

Kalemouth Bridge Discussion

A contentious matter for residents is the current closure of the Kalemouth Bridge. In September we brokered a meeting of SBC engineers and residents. A presentation was given on the current state of play. The Power Point presentation is available on our website at this link <https://www.craingeckfordnisbet.co.uk/files/council/e13a8d5de5e05fc4f63717.pdf>

The well attended was lively! The SBC engineers were left in no doubt about residents' feelings regarding the inconvenience and personal costs of the continuing diversion. Not to mention increased traffic through Nisbet and Roxburgh. A considerable number of "re-opening options" were voiced; SBC has committed to consider these in detail. I'm currently awaiting costed options and a date for the next update. Watch this space.

CC Website

We have been reviewing the website helped by Sheila Campbell the administrator. A findings' report with recommendations will go to the January meeting. The aims are to improve accessibility, have an accessible, dedicated area for CC document storage and ensure value for money. We're also looking at the email support. It's taken a long time as the Minute Secretary and I are not IT experts! *If*



anyone is out there who would like to lend their expertise or help support the email administration and/or the Community Website, please get in touch. We could do with your help!

SBC CC Scheme Review

As part of this review we sent in comments on a number of issues including:-

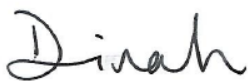
- Requesting a boundary change to bring all of Wester Ulston Farm dwellings into CEN CC. Currently the border between Jedburgh and CEN runs right through the middle of the converted farm buildings, which makes no sense at all.
- Lobbying for an increased annual administration grant from SBC (unchanged for at least 10 years despite inflation) and for a larger Paths Maintenance grant. I'm pleased to tell you that SBC has been agreed that these recommendations will go forward for budget consideration.

Community Council Members

I regret that I have tendered my resignation as Chair from 16 January 2024 onwards due to family commitments. I can no longer manage the role of Chair plus 50% of the secretarial work. Our systems are designed around a secretary, and whilst we have made some adaptations to manage without one, it is insufficient to make the role of Chair tenable for me. Over the years I've made a number of pleas for new councillors, and whilst this has resulted in a minute secretary stepping forward (which made a huge impact) and I've filled vacancies for Ulston and Nisbet, and found a new Treasurer, we have run with two Councillor vacancies for several years. If we could fill all 9 councillor places, it would help share the tasks ensuring that no-one is overloaded.

So I ask once again – do we have any residents who would be interested in this vital work and would like to join the community council as an active member? We are looking especially for chair skills, and administrative/secretarial skills – but a willing attitude to help support our community is the main trait we seek. We meet every 2 months.

If you are interested please drop me a line or call me to discuss. It's a great time to join, as the SBC Community Council Review has been carried out and there will be a new handbook, plenty of guidance notes and training opportunities for anyone willing to give it a try. Email or call me on cencomms@hotmail.co.uk or mobile: 07749 833942. I look forward to hearing from you.



Dinah Faulds

Chair Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet Community Council