

Crailing, Eckford Nisbet Community Council

Chairman's Report – 2016

(June 2015 – May 2016)

Over the past year the Community Council achievements are as follows:

1. **THREE YEAR PLAN (2014-2017)** Significant progress has been made and a number of items have been concluded. The plan will be reviewed during the course of 2016 so anyone with any ideas for projects should let their Community Councillor know or email cencomms@hotmail.co.uk

a) Jubilee Path: The path will now formally be called “Jubilee Path” under the header of Crailing, Eckford & Nisbet paths project. The route is complete with all signage etc in place. A formal launch ceremony will take place on 17th June 2016 with celebrity Rory Bremner performing the official opening. Local residents, sponsors, walking groups, the press etc are being invited to attend the launch and walk, if they wish, all or part of the route. The Community Council wish to formally thank everyone who has been involved in making this vision happen, in particular Charlie Robertson, Landowners/Factors, Tenant Farmers, Criminal Justice Team, SBC Countryside Ranger Service, Donald Linton and the numerous volunteers who are assisting with the launch preparations.

b) Website Development: The new Community Website will be formally launched in the next few weeks, user group testing has been done and final amends are being made. The website is interactive enabling people to view and add information e.g. events or historical facts/photos and has sections to promote local businesses, the group purchase schemes, Resilient Communities projects etc. It also includes behind the scenes management tools tailored to the needs of the Community Council, Village Halls, Resilient Communities Group and AED (defibrillator) testing group. Once the site goes live we will be encouraging everyone to use it and provide feedback. Thanks to Sandu Media, Galashiels and Sheila for all the hard work that has been put in to this project.

c)AED (Defibrillators): These are being tested on a regular basis by volunteers in Crailing, Eckford, Nisbet and Ulston – thanks to everyone involved. During the coldest days in winter the AEDs had to be taken indoors so the CC is currently investigating alternative methods of providing heated cabinets. AED training is being offered on an ongoing basis by Elliot Smith, Resilient Communities volunteer.

d) Group Purchase Schemes: The Oil Scheme continues to work well thanks to Elliot and Vera Smith for administering this scheme. A new deal has been negotiated on LPG with both Avanti and FloGas offering special deals. Residents have been made aware of The Big Deal where there is potential for savings to be made on electricity.

e) No Cold Callers: With the assistance of the Police signs have been erected in Eckford, Nisbet, Crailing and Ulston and stickers were made available to all householders.

f) Resilient Communities: The register of participants continues to be updated.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

e-groups/e-news: We now have 368 contacts on our e-list but are more than happy for this to grow further. These are split into areas (Craising, Eckford, Nisbet, Ulston and wider). Twenty Community e-updates have been sent since the last AGM.

3. BUS ROUTE 20/120 HAWICK – KELSO VIA ECKFORD

Following a successful public meeting when the bus service was threatened to be reduced from 9 buses a day to 3 we were able to negotiate 6 services per day which has been in operation since September 2015. SBC are still conducting a review into all services in the area and the outcome of their review is awaited.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Submissions throughout the year were discussed with the only objection made relating to the proposed site at Bonjedward.

Bucleuch Estates attended a public meeting in Eckford to discuss their proposals for housing development within the village.

5. OTHER

The CC have also dealt with issues such as 30 mph signs for Nisbet, speeding issues in Ulston, planters for Ulston, road repairs throughout the CC area. We hosted the annual Crailing Rideout and given support to local resident, Margaret Jeary, with her quest to add WW2 names to the WW1 memorial at Eckford Parish Church. A rededication service was held in memory of the fallen and another name has come to light which has now been added. The Parish Church has been sold and the new owners plan to utilise the many artefacts within their design. They plan to post a blog to keep locals up to date with progress. A grant application has been submitted to Paths for All to further enhance the walking route.

6. THANKS

During the course of the year the Secretary/Treasurer Sylvia Seivwright right suffered a shoulder injury so has been assisted by Sheila Campbell and both are working on an unpaid basis. Diane Taylor resigned in December 2015 as she now lives out with the area. My thanks to all Community Councillors, SBC local members (particularly Cllr Rory Stewart), SBC officials, grant funders and local residents for their contributions and help and support over the last year.