

Chairman's E-News – May 2023

Your Community Council – Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet (CEN CC) - has been working away over the past 12 months to improve our area, in line with your responses to the community engagement.

All are invited to our

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.00 pm Monday May 22nd 2023

Eckford Village Hall

A chance to:

- Hear what we have been doing in the last year
- Understand how we've used our funds
- Elect new Councillors for Crailing (2) and Eckford (2)
- Elect the Chair, Treasurer, etc. for 2023-4
- Look at what we are doing with the residents' feedback received last year

If you can, let us know you are coming via email to:

cencomms@hotmail.co.uk or call 07749 833942

You told us:

- You liked the environment - rural, quiet, peaceful and safe
- There was no overall desire for major change but a number of areas for improvement were identified
- You asked for development in keeping with the area such as speed limits to be observed or changed, 20mph areas to be extended, walking paths, improved public transport, more opportunities to

socialise as a community, etc. Only 6 issues were raised by more than 5 households and these are now in the short term plan

A flavour of what we've achieved so far:

- Helped revitalised the Lothian Hall by assisting to set up the new, very active Lothian Hall committee
- Discovered that over 50% of the population live outwith villages; that of the few children living in the CEN CC area, almost all live outwith the villages, and that almost 50% of the population is of working age, although not all currently working
- Developed a short-term plan to push forward requested changes that can be tackled quickly
- Developed a longer-term plan of opportunities to be tackled gradually as councillor/volunteer numbers permit
- Set up projects to link the Jubilee Path with the President's Ride (potential for 26 miles of linked footpath); to review 20 mph boundaries in Nisbet; to seek to change CC boundaries to embrace all of Wester Ulston; check out pothole reporting; provided information on how to improve your broadband; committed to a CEN CC Constitution review
- Developed an Annual Calendar of events including annual reviews of the website and IT Support, the Oil Purchase Scheme, Resilience and Footpaths
- Developed a glossary of terms for new councillors
- Negotiated with a Jedburgh CC project linking Ancrum, CEN and Jedburgh CC areas by off-road footpath to Jedburgh
- Providing advice (see below) on access to Super-Fast Broadband and on pothole reporting.

You can find out more by coming to the AGM.

Anyone interested in standing for election or helping as secretary, use contact below for more information.

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Advice from CEN CC on Fibre or other access to Superfast Broadband

Households in a number of areas outside of the three main settlements expressed concern at low broadband speeds (notably Kalemouth, Easter Wooden, Grahamslaw, Bowmont, Nisbet Mill Farm Cottages and Garden, Monteviot). Based on others' experience, there are two steps which could help you understand how faster broadband might be obtained (apologies if you have tried these already):

- 1) Your broadband supplier should be able to say if they can supply a faster broadband speed. This may depend on the network the supplier uses to provide you with broadband. Not every supplier uses the Openreach fibre network that seems to be in the three main settlements. If your near neighbours have a fibre connection, and you don't already use BT, it may be worth checking with BT about a fibre broadband connection as they certainly use the Openreach network.

- 2) Visit the Scotland Superfast website (<https://www.scotlandsuperfast.com>) and use the online address checker to check if there is already a plan to provide a fibre network connection to your post code and house. Late last year it seemed that '2024' was being quoted as a date for fibre installation in some of CEN's outlying areas. If no plan for fibre is in place, this website may indicate funding is available via the Scottish Broadband Voucher Scheme. This includes a variety of other technologies to provide superfast broadband. Details are given about a connection via a mobile network, satellite or fixed wireless installation. Some residents have paid for these options themselves via their broadband providers.

Although the Community Council cannot accelerate broadband rollout, we are interested in hearing about, and sharing, the experience of outlying residents who have successfully obtained faster speeds.

Advice from CEN CC on Reporting Potholes

Residents in many parts of the Crailing Eckford and Nisbet Community Council area have complained about potholes and other deterioration on the minor roads. Scottish Borders Council is responsible for all roads which are 'adopted' (except trunk roads). There is an on-line facility for reporting road problems including many other issues as well as potholes. Recent experience suggests that SBC is dealing with some pothole reports within 2-3 weeks of a website notification. Here is the link:-

On the main Scottish Borders Council (SBC) website (<https://www.scotborders.gov.uk>) click on "Roads, Travel and Parking", then "Report a pothole", then "online".

Fill in the form with as much detail as possible, including location, size and depth of pothole, and any other relevant information e.g., width of road, width of verge. Mark the exact location of the pothole on the map provided. There is also the facility to add photographs.

The Community Council is interested in hearing your experiences about the reporting of, and repairs to, adopted roads.