

## **Hawick Town Team Agenda**

**Burn foot Community Hub, 14.12.23 at 6.30pm.**

### **In attendance:**

Keith Johnson (KJ), Sian Snowden (SS), Ruth Lyle (RL), David Chapman (DC), Colin Telfor (CT), Marion Chrystie (MC), Sharon Renwick (SR), Sarah Culverwell (SC), Colin Hope (CH), Duncan Taylor (DT) Billy Fletcher (BF), Gordon Muir (GM)

### **1. Apologies.**

Lena Scoular, Cllr Ramage, Hilda Wight, Michael Pattison, Caroline Hamilton, Cllr McAteer, Nikki MacArthur, Wilson George.

### **2. Confirm previous minutes.**

Previous meeting minutes confirmed. No amendments.

### **3. Update on Consultants selection process. (CH)**

- Revisions have been made by the consultants for the Proposal for Hawick Place plan & Town Investment Plan. These changes are acceptable to proceed and the proposals have been circulated to the Town Team.
- Paul Hogarth Company soon to be formally appointed for Lot 1 of The Place Making Support Framework.
- Atkins Realis soon to be formally appointed to Lot 2 part A Support for Investment Plans.
- Once formally appointed, a press release will be made by the Town Team through Hawick Paper.
- Paul Hogarth Company consultant to attend the next meeting in the New Year. (DATE TBC.)
- It was confirmed that there was scope for consultants to draw in other professionals such as seen the Hawick Town Plan Consultation Responses that were pulled together by the Town Team.

- The first thing that the consultants are proposing to do is have an inception meeting to establish a working relationship, confirm the methodology, objectives and outputs. They are also proposing a tour/walkabout the town with members of the Town Team.
- Launch in New Year to tell everyone.

**Action: Appointed consultants to attend next meeting / get in touch about inception meeting in New Year**

#### **4. Update on Comms group. (Comms team)**

- Question – can consultants bring in local people to manage communications and the likes – CH discussion hadn't taken place.
- EJW Media Euan was asked about doing communications for the Town Team, but he would wish to be employed by the Town Team to do communications. Town Team are exploring opportunities on how an agreement could be reached.
- Possibility that Euan's could be employed by the Development Trust in joint work for Development Trust and Town Team (DT)
- In the interim GM put himself forward to be interim comms person at present time and willing to produce graphics.
- Discussion raised about the use/state of play of Hawick Online. CH agreed that it needs a complete refresh and confirmed that Future Hawick has now rebranded as Hawick Development Trust and had changed its Facebook 14/12/23. Confirmation that Graeme Webb publishes content on Hawick Online. There is a digital development strategy being worked on by the Trust. It was discussed that buying a domain is very inexpensive but the development of content and keeping it up to date is harder to maintain. General agreement that communications should be on social media and include regular adverts in the Hawick Paper.
- Potential to use the Neighbourhood Support Fund to pay Euan's time. The application would need to be in by 9<sup>th</sup> January and decisions on awarding Neighbourhood Support fund would be made on 20<sup>th</sup> January. Euan to be asked for estimated cost before this can proceed and the possibility of Euan working with the Consultants to be explored.
- SS had previously used Neighbourhood Support fund to employ the Fat Beehive Company to help with Escape Youth Cafes website, branding and digital services.
- The common good fund is another possibility, but next Hawick Common Good Fund Sub-Committee is 20 March 2024. It was discussed that for lower value funds the Common Good committee can sometimes award funds out without meeting.

- The Muirhall Energy Fund was mentioned as a possible source of funding for communications.
- Discussion around the need for a project manager or support for developing detailed proposals. Elected members are supportive. CH to write to head of Economic Development at SBC.
- MC – pledged £500 pounds of her own money to fund Euan (EJW Media) to get started.
- GM asked if everyone was happy to circulate an electronic Christmas Card on behalf of the Town Team – everyone in agreement.
- TD9 radio DC willing to give an update or TD9 could read out a statement. Agreed it's a possibility.
- Attendees agreed that it is still important to communicate through the Hawick Paper. It is believed that it has a readership of 3-4k possibly a lot more.
- SC offered the Town Team to put an update in the SBC Teviot and Liddesdale newsletter (produced quarterly)
- Using TV for promotion was discussed but it was agreed that it would be best suited for key milestones.

**Action: DT to contact Euan and ask for a business case or proposal of what he would be willing to offer and costings.**

**Action: Press release on consultants' appointment and ask for quotes from councillors for press release (DT and GM)**

**Action: CH to write to head of Economic Development at SBC.**

**Action: Muirhall energy – MC to contact ask about money to fund communications**

## **5. Hawick Town team project register.**

- General discussion on need to put forward project proposal ideas and what ones might be eligible for funding. They will require an indepth level of detail for Town Investment Plan stage.
- Discussion on Burnfoot Hub. BF mentioned that legally they can't reopen café for a period of time. Going forward they would look to lease the café. The hub may be able to be used by Escape Youth Café in future.
- Any proposals need to build upon the themes found in the Town Team 'Have your say' engagement to date and presented in Hawick Town Plan Consultation Responses (MC).

#### Potential proposals listed:

- Hawick Moor Development / Improvements
- Hawick Arches
- Teri Bikes
- Reivers Museum
- Bunk house
- Wilton Park – potting shed. New facilities for walled garden volunteers
- Improve access to pump track – ambulance access.
- Burnfoot Community Hub – priority, discussion on café.
- Multiuse sports complex.
- Town wide signage – GM – Discussions with Conor Price Hawick Flood Protection
- Inclusive play area – Discussion that Sleepy Valley Play Park will have wheelchair accessible play facilities, but Wilton Park doesn't at the moment.

#### Wider discussion:

- Make sure there are improvements for all areas of Hawick. MC mentioned that consultation responses aren't linked to postcodes. Therefore, it is difficult to derive spatial interpretation or gauge demographics. Although the online consultation did have postcode and demographic data relating to responses.
- Discussion of what is eligible Borderlands funding.
- Discussion of need to include young people's ideas.
- Improvements needed to connect East and West areas of Hawick.
- Millers Knowe area has scope for improvement to trails, biodiversity, play park, car park. Potential for enhancement. (GM)
- Need to consider quick 'easy wins' as well as larger proposals.
- Need to filter data from spreadsheet of engagement thus far and create spreadsheet of small, medium, and large proposals projects (DC)
- MC confirmed that engagement data is on the SBC/story map pages and Hawick Online
- Need to engage businesses.
- Discussion around the importance of considering and developing sporting facilities. Recognising their importance for developing and supporting sporting talent in Hawick. Hawick has a lot of sporting talent in various fields for example, horse racing, taekwondo, boxing, mountain biking, bowling. Recognising current sporting talent in Hawick could dovetail in with a future museum (CT). CH raised the importance of engagement with the High School and Teviot Leisure Centre/Live Borders re sport facilities. Leisure centre did have multifunctional facilities but perhaps not all space in use now (?).

- GM mentioned about potential to resurrect Green Sky project at rugby pitch. It was to support a wide use of community events and facilities.
- General discussion around their being many groups that potentially do very similar things but don't necessarily talk with one and other and ideally could share resources e.g., every club or group have a committee. In Hawick often events/dinners/meetings clash when you'd like to be able to support more than one (DC). Having a hub for some of these groups in the town might bring some together.
- It was brought up that there used to be club evenings for young people at Hawick Burnfoot Church – Friday Night fever, Monday club and others. Something that might help more young people in the area engage (BF, GM).
- CT – has found it hard to get minis and primary school to come down from Burnfoot area. Transport had been provided in the past. Discussion around inclusion and understanding and empathy. Not all people have the confidence to attend clubs or get involved.
- Many buildings needing brought back into use. Something that consultants could help with

**Action – MC to forward over Hawick Town Plan Consultation Responses spreadsheet as requested by DC.**

**Item 6. Community group contacts. (All)**

- List of contacts evolving. RL has had updates. Will need to ask contacts if they are still willing to be involved and agree to continue to be contacted and willing to be involved. RL will check with NS re GDPR for circulation of lists.
- BF once press release is done it could be used as a way to get in touch with everyone on the group contacts.
- KJ it will also cover GDPR to just check they are ok to be contacted. KJ advised that he had sourced his contact details on public web pages.

**Item 7. A.O.B.**

- Notices / comms - KJ has identified the following places as potentially suitable to put up posters (if agreeable) etc, Sandbed First Light Trust, Chest Heart and Stroke, Coffin End/ Prudential building, SR advised paper documents can go in libraries and contact centres to view publicly. GM mentioned that Morrisons had been helpful with the Golden Eagle Project.

- Community Council to be kept informed and CC has a statutory responsibility that need to be involved mentioned in the Terms of Reference MC.
- SR offered to give an overview presentation/discussion on Place Plans, guidance document and requirements at a future meeting.
- **Action – Hawick and Burnfoot Community Council to receive minutes.** KJ to attend next Hawick CC meeting providing no diary clashes