

E-Mail: *James.Anderson2@scotborders.gov.uk*

Mob: *07773 619746*

Date:



Cllr James Anderson first quarter 2024 update.



Eyemouth

A viable 7 year land supply has been identified for Eyemouth Cemetery with Engineering/Estates through Officer working group, and with engagement with local members and the community.

Eyemouth Harbour Trust

The EHT board have been engaging with the local community to look at developing the Harbour and expanding it. The sea bed puts Eyemouth in a good position to create an extension with deep water thanks to the sudden drop to 25m in depth just outside the Harbour. I have supported this venture 100% and will continue to do so. The board are knowledgeable and have an excellent team to move forward. The NnG contract has been a good boost to the Harbour and the town with locals starting to see the benefit of well paying jobs. Chairman Donald Duggan from EHT said the following.

“Eyemouth with its favourable position on the coast has provided safe harbour and shelter to vessels over the generations and now has the potential opportunity to develop further and support the supply chain to the North Sea and continued expansion in the offshore wind sector. This potential opportunity to play an increased future significant role to the North Sea and beyond presents the possibilities of major economic benefits to the town and community, whilst securing further the harbour’s legacy for future generations.” Donald Duggan, Chair, Eyemouth Harbour Trust.

Border wide

4 new sweepers have arrived; staff training completed for deployment by the street cleansing team. This will see our teams of staff better equipped to tackle the many cleansing tasks in the larger populated areas.

A Greener Gateway Volunteers Networking Event was held at Inspire Learning on 1 February with a good turnout and positive feedback; A Schools Award will be included this year. It was agreed by all attending there was a need for in person judging in line with Keep Scotland Beautiful judging in the first two weeks in August.



The Roads Team have received 2 new vehicles, 1 new sweeper and 1 new tipper. The tipper will be used to support winter maintenance and contribute to better fleet utilization.

Eyemouth

Road repairs continue to be reported and thanks go to the many people who attend the community councils and email regularly.



Homearms car park.

A resurfacing program is being looked at for the Homearms car park. Due to lack of budget we are looking to work with the CO-OP to enable a complete resurfacing plan. The elected members discretionary budget will likely be used to bolster the work and make it possible. Given the many years of neglect, the resurfacing of this extremely busy car park is vital for the safety of everyone using it. Personally I have been asking for this work to be completed since 2015. I am now pushing for this to be completed ASAP.

Coldingham

A temporary Acting HT for Coldingham and Cockburnspath Primaries has been appointed. Rachel Foy (substantive DHT at Duns PS) will be taking up the Acting role with effect from 15th April. As previously mentioned, Grace Frew (QIO) will be supporting the handover and transition to this role.

Eyemouth

Live Borders and Scottish Borders Council have been working closely on the investment works to Eyemouth Leisure Centre.

The installation of the Air Handling Unit at Eyemouth Leisure Centre is progressing. However, the work to install the Air Handling Unit has subsequently identified additional works that now need to be investigated. In my opinion it is vital to make the building safe and workable while ensuring a long term future. Once this work is completed there should be no further closures for a considerable time. Upgrades to be carried out are as follows.

- Freemotion: engages with vivid imagery, motivational coaching and auto-adjusting technology that delivers an immersive and interactive cardio experience.
- On demand workouts – an expansive library of workouts led by expert fitness coaches from around the world. Users can search or sort by location, trainer, exercise type, workout duration, intensity and more.
- Global Workouts – users can explore the world without leaving the facility with thousands of inspiring training videos beautifully filmed in stunning locations around the globe, including 60+ countries and all 7 continents.
- Google Maps – users can train anywhere in the world with Google Maps™. Create a route, and iFIT will adjust your machine to match the on-screen terrain, allowing you to virtually explore 10 million miles (16 million km) of mapped locations.
- Equipment includes – 2 x Treadmills, 1 x Crosstrainer, 1 x Recumbent Bike and 1 x Spin Bike that will complement the existing cardio and resistance machines.



East Berwickshire coast

The Coastal paths survey part two is now live. I would ask as many people and groups as possible with an interest in our coast line to take five minutes to look at the survey and thank those who have already taken part. .

https://scotborders.citizenspace.com/assets-and-infrastructure/berwickshire-coastal-change-adaptation-plan/start_preview?token=62e617daf72376e37b51ec012656e4394e091ae7



Berwickshire Coastal Change Adaptation Plan

Consultation

Saturday 24 February to Saturday 23 March 2024

Scottish Borders Council is inviting you to input into the new Berwickshire Coastal Change Adaptation Plan. The plan **aims to address** the impacts of **coastal erosion** and **flooding** on the local area. It will propose policies to **support future life** on the coast.



We would like to hear what you think about the plan.

Come along to our information event held on:

Tuesday 27 February
From 11am – 7pm

At Eyemouth Hippodrome Harbour Road, Eyemouth TD14 5HT

This consultation is open from
Saturday 24 February to
Saturday 23 March 2024.
Please submit your views in time.

Go to
<http://tinyurl.com/BerwickshireCCAP> or
scan the QR code to view the consultation
materials, the BCCAP report, and the
feedback survey and leave your feedback.

Note this link will only work during the stated
consultation period.

Contact us at:

To request a printed copy of the consultation
materials and survey or to ask us any
questions, please contact us at:

Email: flooding@scotborders.gov.uk
Phone: 01835 826701



Berwickshire Coastal Change Adaptation Plan: Consultation

Tell us what you think

We would like to gather your **feedback** on the **BCCAP** to understand:

- The level of community support.
- Address potential issues, if there are other triggers which aren't included or others which should be monitored more closely.
- Incorporate your feedback into the final BCCAP.

Contact us

To request a printed copy of the consultation
materials and survey or to ask us any
questions, please contact us at:

Email: flooding@scotborders.gov.uk
Phone: 01835 826701

**The consultation is open for
your feedback for 4 weeks
from Saturday 24 February to
Saturday 23 March 2024.**

Please complete a **feedback survey** and hand it
to a member of staff. Alternatively, **take the
survey** with you and send it back to us using
the envelope provided. Please also **ask a
member of staff** if you need help to complete
the survey.

If you would prefer to respond online,
you can access consultation materials,
the BCCAP report and the feedback
survey at
<http://tinyurl.com/BerwickshireCCAP>



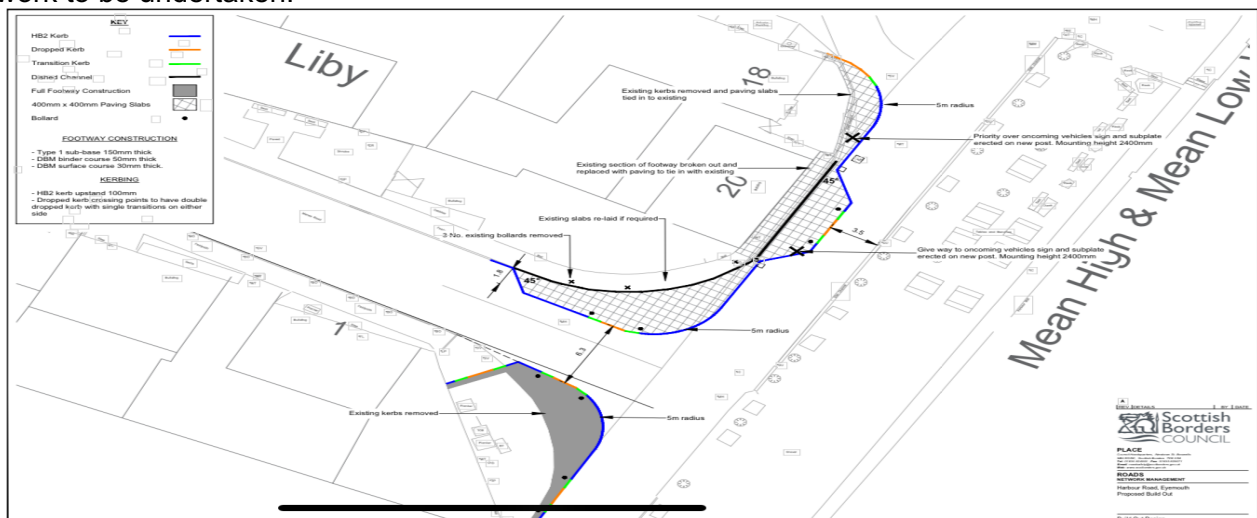
I Will be holding drop in surgeries from 10am until 12 noon and residents from the East Berwickshire Ward are invited pop along to the next Surgery and raise any issues or concerns. The surgeries are being held on:

Monday 4 March 2024 at Chirnside Community Centre, Chirnside
Wednesday 20 March 2024 at The Cross Inn, Paxton
Tuesday 2 April 2024 at Foulden Village Hall, Foulden
Monday 6 May 2024 at Cockburnspath Village Hall, Cockburnspath
Monday 3 June 2024 at Whitsome Ark, Whitsome

I will also be attending Reston Coffee morning at Reston Village Hall on the last Friday of each month from 10am – 1130am.

Eyemouth

Road and pavement safety improvements are being made outside Giacobazzis. The harbour front is a huge tourist attraction and I was happy to be part of the decision making that enabled this work to be undertaken.



Eyemouth high schools trophy cabinet now holds the towns awards from 2023. A new town web site is being put together by the community council and Eyemouth High School students that will showcase groups, businesses and events in the town over the year.



My Attendance rate for the first part of 2024 is 100% attendance.
Community councils attendance has been difficult due to conflicting diaries. I have made an effort to get the days for community council meetings in the diary. However it is not always possible.

Ayton CC			1st Tuesday
AytonCommunityCouncil@gmail.com			
Allanton, Whitsome & Edrom Community Council			3rd Monday trixcolin@aol.com
Burnmouth CC			1st Wednesday burnmouthcc@gmail.com
Copath and Cove CC			2nd Wednesday secretarycccc@live.co.uk
Coldingham CC			3rd Tuesday
coldinghamcommunitycouncil@outlook.com			
Eyemouth CC			last Monday eyemouthcc@outlook.com
Grantshouse CC			2nd Thursday grantshousecc@gmail.com
Hutton & Paxton CC			Thursday March 14th
7.30	Hutton		
Thursday	May 2nd	7.30	Paxton (Annual General Meeting)
Thursday	June 20th	7.30	Hutton
Thursday	August 8th	7.30	Paxton
Thursday	September 26th	7.30	Hutton
Thursday	November 14th	7.30	Paxton huttonpaxtoncc@outlook.com
Reston & Auchencrow CC			3rd Monday loganinglis1072@gmail.com
Foulden Mornington & Lamberton CC			2nd Monday enquiries.FMLCC@outlook.com
Chirnside CC			4th Wednesday wrightsj060253@gmail.com
St Abbs CC			1st Wednesday bneill@phonecoop.coop

The new budget was passed in February at full council. The administration works well with the majority of Elected members and work continues to ensure the budget for next year is under way. Unfortunately, what we can see at full council is all political parties submitting to cut after cut rather than addressing the situation with their party leaders. The Administration lead the UK and Opposition Lead Scotland, the situation in my opinion should be addressed by the political parties rather than rolling over and submitting to the will of political leaders.

"Dear Cll Anderson

I've just had a quick call with Gordon Grant from Passenger Transport as I was pretty sure that I've seen residents of the Steading standing at their access and I've presumed that they were waiting on a bus. Having checked with Gordon he confirmed that residents do already use their access as a hail and ride as there is no need to walk along to the bus shelter. Gordon will drop the bus operators an email to remind them to look out for residents at this Steading.

Residents may also want to download the Borders Buses App that provides real time information on bus manoeuvres to reduce the amount of time they need to spend on the roadside awaiting a bus.

Hopefully this information is useful.

Many thanks

Philippa"]}

Follow up with Ayton CC in March.

Structure / storage shed has been built in the Eyemouth swimming pool car park.

can someone find out who is building it, what it is for and why it is taking up space in the car park and removing much needed parking. The home owner whos wall it is built against is also asking why this has been made, does it require planning and why nobody was consulted.

If this is live borders please let me know and i will take it up with them. I spent considerable time moving recycling to get more space for parking. It is ridiculous after creating space it is used in this way.

12/03/2024

"Dear Councillor Anderson, Thank you for your enquiry. This is a Live Borders issue so yes, the matter should be taken up with them.

Sincerely, Christina Harper, Estates Support Assistant.

Follow up with Live Borders

Ayton community council are up and running as of December 2023. who would deal with what annual grant allocation they are due?

21/02/2024

"Communities & Partnerships will pick this up and contact Ayton Community Council."}]

Follow up with Ayton CC in March.

Points raised by members of Copath and cove community council can i have an answer tot hem please.

"1. The SBC page for updates on refuse collection, did not put up until 6.30pm on Wednesday 10th January 2024. Surely by doing this on the day when problems were known it would save SBC have hundreds of reports re missing bins and numerous phone calls. It would actually make them look professional and up to date with current issues.

2. Parts of the out skirts of Cockburnspath ie Hoprig and the Cove had a collection yesterday. This was mentioned at the CC meeting last night. Surely having parts of Cockburnspath and the Cove have refuse collected on different days is not cost effective. Not good on the environment as 2 refuse trucks have had to travel on different days. Incidentally apparently they have always been collected on different days."

25/01/2024

"Councillor Anderson

We do apologise if the customer feels that there was a delay in communicating the operational issues that were experienced on Tuesday 9th January. The Daily Alert information was emailed through to the Communications Dept. and the frontline customer advisors late afternoon on Tuesday. The communication officer has confirmed that the information was updated at 9:10am on the Scottish Borders Councils website on Wednesday 10th January. The crews inform the Foreperson of any problems on arrival back at the Depot in the afternoon. This information is then communicated to the Advisors who inform the relevant departments. We do apologise for any delays, we do try to update the information on the website the day that the missed collections do occur. In this case there were four incidences to report on due to capacity problems that were

being experienced by the crews. Not all emails processed through to the comm's team managed to meet the same day cut-off deadline time for the website.

In response to question 2, I can advise that the vehicle routes are following a route matrix structure based on the number of the bins to be collected, tonnage capacity of the vehicle and the number of hours it takes to complete the route. For example, the Tuesday route covers Manderston, Preston, Co'path & Abbey St Bathans areas. It takes the vehicle 6.47 hours to complete. On Wednesday the route covers parts of Eyemouth, Coldingham, St Abbs & rural areas. It takes the vehicle 6.12 hours to complete. For the vehicle to complete both areas in one day would not be feasible due to the distance needing to be covered and both areas collections are close to reaching the maximum tonnage capacity of the refuse collection vehicle. I hope that clarifies the reason why the two areas are collected on separate days.

Deborah Berry
Waste & Recycling Advisor
Follow up with Copath CC

Missed bins have been reported in the following areas,
Church court , church street Eyemouth pic attached. general waste bin for 8 flats has been overflowing for a week.

Ayton , has missed recycling bin collections all over the area.
other Eyemouth residents have reported missed bins on the web site.
do you have a time scale for missed bin collections?

24/01/2024

"Councillor Anderson

Thank you for getting in touch regarding the bin issues that have been raised within your area. We are sorry to hear that residents have experienced refuse collection problems.

We will arrange for the bin to be emptied at Church Court before the next scheduled collection day and we have asked our colleagues in Neighbourhood Services to remove any excess bags in the meantime.

Ayton was not collected yesterday due to excess recycling being presented as a result of the festive period, which meant that the vehicle ran out of capacity and had to return to the depot to tip the load. This resulted in the scheduled run not being completed within the normal working day. The collection has been rescheduled for today.

In terms of other missed collections reported on the website, we will try and recover these where possible. If the reported bins have not been recovered within 5 working days then the crew will collect excess bagged waste placed next to the bin on the next scheduled collection day.

We do apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Deborah Berry
Waste & Recycling Advisor
Follow up with Ayton CC

Berwickshire area Partnership

The last meeting of the Berwickshire Area Partnership was held in Duns at the volunteer hall. NHS were in attendance and had a good Q&A session with over 30 attendees from various organizations across Berwickshire. The NHS will have a £28m saving to make minimum after 16 years of austerity and cuts. Although NHS staff would not make comment it was clear from the answers to questions around funding that multiple years of purposeful cuts were responsible for the failures within the NHS organization.

Thanks to Duncan Morrison for his informative talk on the coastal paths review as well as ReTweed who came along to let us know about their new venture in the old Bank of Scotland building in Eyemouth.

Thankyou to everyone for coming along and making it a good positive meeting with views free flowing from the communities.

Motion to council

In an effort to fight the banks at every turn I proposed the following to full council in January 2024.
Motion Summary:

The Scottish Borders Council recognizes the ongoing transition towards a cashless society, primarily driven by Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs). This motion aims to address the social and financial implications associated with this transition. One major concern is the potential exacerbation of revenue inequality and the digital divide. It is crucial to ensure that vulnerable populations have equal access to digital financial services to prevent marginalization. Therefore, the Scottish Borders Council urges the UK Government to take necessary measures to mitigate these concerns and ensure a fair and inclusive transition to digital currency with the retention of cash based finances.

Motion Details:

1. Acknowledging the Transition: The Scottish Borders Council acknowledges the ongoing transition towards a cashless society, primarily driven by the introduction of Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs). SBC acknowledges the removal of cash will have a detrimental effect on our rural population.
2. Social and Financial Implications: Recognizing that the transition towards a cashless society has social and financial implications, including concerns related to revenue inequality and the digital divide.
3. Exacerbation of Revenue Inequality: The Council expresses concern that the transition towards a cashless society may exacerbate revenue inequality, as vulnerable populations may face difficulties in accessing and utilizing digital financial services. Which shows a need for cash based finances in rural areas.
4. Digital Divide: The Council acknowledges the potential for a digital divide to widen as a result of the transition towards a cashless society. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring equal access to digital monetary services for all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic status.
5. Preventing Marginalization: The Council emphasizes the need to prevent the marginalization of vulnerable populations during the transition towards a cashless society. It highlights the importance of providing adequate support and resources to ensure equal access and inclusion. The CBDC must be an addition to cash not a replacement to prevent marginalisation.
6. UK Government Action: The Scottish Borders Council urges the UK Government to take necessary measures to address the social and financial implications associated with the transition towards a cashless society. This includes implementing policies and initiatives that promote equal access to digital financial services and mitigate the potential exacerbation of revenue inequality and the digital divide.
7. Collaboration and Consultation: The Council encourages the UK Government to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including local authorities, financial institutions, and community organizations, to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to the transition to a cash and CBDC society.
8. Reporting and Monitoring: The Council requests that the UK Government provide regular updates and reports on the progress made in addressing the social and financial implications of the transition towards a cash and CDBC society. This will enable transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.
9. Dissemination of Information: The Council emphasizes the importance of raising awareness among the public about the transition towards a cashless society and its potential Negative impact. It encourages the UK Government to engage in public participation events to ensure that individuals are given the chance to have their say and prepared for the changes ahead.

10. Adoption and Implementation: The Scottish Borders Council calls upon all relevant authorities and stakeholders to adopt and implement the necessary measures to address the social and financial implications of the transition towards a cashless society, in line with the principles of equality, inclusivity, and social justice.

By passing this motion, the Scottish Borders Council aims to contribute to a fair and inclusive transition towards a cash and digital currency-based society, ensuring that vulnerable populations are not marginalized and that equal access to digital financial services is guaranteed.

Cllr James R Anderson

Passed full council.

Public transport Motion.

Scottish Borders Council welcomes the Free Bus Travel Concession Schemes provided by the Scottish Government – but it is clear that the level of reimbursement provided to Bus operators is insufficient to support many rural routes. The legislation is clear:

“12.(1) It is to be an objective (but not a duty) of the Scottish Ministers to provide that operators are financially no better and no worse off as a result of their participation in the Scheme, taking account of the costs (including a reasonable profit) of a well-run undertaking that is adequately equipped with the means to provide the eligible service.”

This Council agree that the Leader write to the relevant Minister for the Scottish Government requesting that a review be carried out with regard to reimbursement and the disproportionately adverse effect this is having on rural local authorities.”

COMMENTS

Rural areas like the Scottish Borders are disproportionately affected by low reimbursement rates. Free bus travel is NOT free, nothing in life is free, Someone always has to foot the bill. It only makes sense those who gifted free travel should foot the bill and that lies with the Scottish government.

With no busy city bus services to support them the tax payer is left to foot the bill. Reviews are under way and now is the time to make the voice of the Scottish borders heard.

We must get ahead of this issue to ensure a sustainable bus service for the future.

For members information:

The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Young Persons (Scotland) Order 2021 Notes: Under 22 concessionary card scheme has two reimbursement rates 43.6% for under 16s and 81.2% for over 16s.

The National Bus Travel Concession Scheme for Older and Disabled Persons Order 2006 Notes: Currently the reimbursement rate is £55.0% per fair which is significantly low adding immense pressure to services.

Members you are here to represent the Scottish borders, please put your political affiliations aside and vote for what's right for Scottish Borders Council and the people we serve.

Passed full council with one small amendment.

Meetings attended.

Attendance rate for Council meetings 100%

Area Partnership x 1

Community councils x 15

Other in person meetings with community groups x 17
Meetings with organizations x 5
External services monitoring group x 1
Audit committee and development sessions x 1