

Hutton and Paxton Informal CC / Community Hub
Note of Meeting
18th January 2024
Paxton Village Hall

Our second community hub meeting was held on 18th January 2024 and the weather was kind to us so we had a good turnout! You may recall we held our **first** 'Big Meeting' in January 2023, and once again this year, representatives from the various groups attended and we were delighted so many residents came out on a cold winter night.

We were fortunate in having two liaison officers from Police Scotland attend and colleagues from Scottish Borders Council (SBC). The idea behind the community hub is to provide an opportunity for people to get together to find out what various groups do (village hall committees, community council, village improvement groups, village green, grass cutting committee etc) and how we can all work together to make our community stronger. It's an opportunity for everyone who lives in our area to have their say and suggest community priorities for 2024.

Update on HPCC progress

We are delighted to welcome our new co-opted member to the Community Council: Robin Allison (Paxton).

- The Community Justice Team have done excellent work replacing bus shelters in Hutton and Fishwick and have also put their skills to good use building benches and a shed for the graveyard in Hutton.
- We have been working with SBC on a number of fronts: consultation on the new constitution for community councils, the Scottish Government's 'Democracy Matters' consultation ([Democracy matters phase 2 consultation - local governance review - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/democracy-matters-phase-2-consultation-local-governance-review/pages/1-2-introduction.aspx)), and, on a very practical level, everyone's bugbear: grass cutting! SBC have agreed to do additional cuts in the children's playgrounds in our villages this summer.
- Traffic calming measures have been discussed with SBC's traffic department and there's a plan in place to emphasise the 20mph limits.
- We continue to liaise with the SBC Planning Department about planning applications in our area and will be attending their stakeholder meeting in February to ensure we are up to date on current legislation.
- The picnic on the village green was so successful last year that we've been asked to organise another event this year! Date for your diaries: **Saturday June 1st 2024**

What's the plan for Paxton play park?

We first mentioned the likelihood of funding for upgrading Paxton play park in 2022. The Scottish Government committed £50m to develop children's playgrounds as part of the Covid recovery plan. Paxton play park was allocated £60,000 so please keep a look out for

consultation notices, Scottish Borders Council lead on this process which includes online consultation in addition to in-person discussions. We estimate there are around 25 children living in the area and possibly 5 young people attending high school - it's important our children and young people are involved in decision making. Once we have final confirmation of council funding, the HPCC will be undertaking further fundraising. A single piece of 'kit' can cost £10 - £15,000 so we need to raise some serious money!

The Resilience Group

The Resilience Group is part of the Community Council. Our role is to support people during emergencies such as prolonged power cuts or heavy snowfall when people might be cut off. We have a new lead for the group: Keith Pattison.

Keith extended grateful thanks to June McGregor for her leadership and support of the Resilience Group over the years. Keith will be undertaking a stocktake of what equipment/skills the group members have so we can plan accordingly.

A successful pop-up cafe held in Paxton Village Hall once a month over the summer last year. Those who came along said it was missed when it closed down so this year some of the members of the Resilience Group have volunteered to start it up again. Last Thursday of the month - come along for a coffee and some cake.

If you're interested in possibly joining the Resilience Group and would like to have a chat about it, please contact huttonpaxtoncc@outlook.com and add *Resilience Group* in the subject line.

What's the plan for our churches?

Hutton Church closed last year and the building will be sold. Paxton Church is a community resource where services will still be held on a rotational basis. It turns out that the Church of Scotland do not own Paxton Church. Ali Birkett updated the meeting on his understanding of plans for the church's future: one option is the *Gateway* group which is looking to establish a Trust to manage the church. Ownership of the land and building was apparently 'gifted' to the people of Paxton in the early 20th century. It appears, however, there's some uncertainty about who made the gift. It's possible it might have been a member of the Storey family who apparently lived at Paxton House at the turn of the century. We are sure some readers will *definitely* know the history of the gift of the land and church so please, share your knowledge about this interesting part of Paxton's history. An article in the next edition of the magazine perhaps?

Environmentally friendly projects - funding

The community council has some funding to spend on environmental projects. The funds (£2,500) could be spent on tree planting or something similar so please contact us by email huttonpaxtoncc@outlook.com with your ideas and add *environmental project* to the subject line.

Cycle path to Berwick

A number of residents are keen to explore having a cycle/foot path from Paxton to Berwick avoiding the A1. Scottish Borders is committed to the development of cycling in our region and extensive work has been undertaken both in towns and rural areas in the Borders. We have been in initial discussion with Tweed Forum, a multi-agency, cross-border group charged with the integrated land and water management around the River Tweed <https://tweedforum.org/>. The group are already looking at sustainable walkways from Paxton House to the Chain Bridge and have now identified possible routes that *might* have the potential to be developed to provide a pedestrian/cycle path into Berwick. It's very early days and we've a long way to go but we are at least now talking to the right people!

Priorities for 2024 - what matters to you?

It was suggested that the environmental grant money could be used to buy and plant trees.

Please contact us with your ideas and let us know what matters to you:

Website: <https://huttonandpaxton.wordpress.com>

Email: huttonpaxtoncc@outlook.com