

Crailing, Eckford Nisbet Community Council

Chairman's Report – 2015

(June 2014 – May 2015)

Over the past year the Community Council achievements as follows:

1. **THREE YEAR PLAN**

The plan has been updated for 2014-17 and significant progress is being made.

2. **GROUP PURCHASE SCHEMES**

Group Oil Purchase Scheme Participants now stand at 135. Savings to residents in 6 month period Nov 14 to April 15 = £8,642 with households making savings of up to £200 in this period. Average savings per litre (before VAT) 5.36 per litre based on the average price on the day, average price per litre was 37.90. Thanks go to Elliot & Vera Smith, Ulston who have undertaken all the administration of the scheme over the last year.

Group Purchase for Boiler Servicing Three suppliers continue to offer service deals.

LPG Gas Scheme There are currently around a dozen participants benefitting from the scheme 4 of these are new customers so the CC are due to receive £200 from the supplier as a result of their introduction.

Electricity: *By promoting the opportunities with The Big Deal, a nationwide switching collective, residents in our area have made savings of over £3,000.*

3. **GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS**

Environmental Project: This project funded by Scottish Borders Community Grant Scheme was concluded in September 2014 providing:

- ☞ Planters, plants a new housing for the notice board and replacement millennium plaque in Crailing.
- ☞ Screening, plants and new housing for the notice board in Eckford.
- ☞ Plants, repositioning the millennium plaque and repairs and repainting of the phone box in Nisbet
- ☞ Notice board for Ulston

Defibrillator Project: This project was funded By Scottish Borders Community Grant Scheme and the Kelso Community Council Grant Scheme (funded by Sainsburys). It is ongoing but to date has provided

- ☞ Defibrillators to Crailing, Eckford and Nisbet phone boxes and a private property in Ulston
- ☞ Training has already been undertaken by 40 residents with more on the waiting list
- ☞ An ongoing training programme will be provided through the Resilient Communities team

(Note: Outstanding = training unit which is on order and painting of Crailing & Eckford phone boxes)

Website Project: Funding has been secured from Awards for All for this project and Sandu Media appointed as the developer. The brief includes management of Community Council work including Oil and other Group Purchase Schemes, Resilient Communities Scheme etc where individuals can update their own personal details. There will be functionality for Village Halls to conduct their operations and promote their events and activities. Any surveys required will be conducted and analysed online and we have plans for the site to be interactive with mechanisms for people to add historical content such as photos and editorial relating to this area over the years.

John I Campbell – Chairman (27th May 2015)

4. **COMMUNICATIONS**

e-groups/e-news: We now have 265 contacts on our e-list but are more than happy for this to grow further. These are split into areas (Crailing, Eckford, Nisbet, Ulston and Oxnam & wider). Around a dozen e-updates have been sent since the last AGM.

5. **RESILIENT COMMUNITIES SCHEME**

Participants: There are 72 participants on the register and the Coordinator and Deputes have met to discuss how this scheme will grow and develop. There are plans to conduct an exercise to test the robustness of the scheme.

Defibrillator Monitoring and Training: This is being conducted by volunteers from the Resilient Communities team.

6. **CRAILING, ECKFORD & NISBET PATHS - WALK**

Significant progress has been made, over the last year with consent, in principle, now received from all of the landowners and tenant farmers along the route. Some signposting has already been put in place across Wooden Hill.

7. **BUS ROUTE 20/120 HAWICK – KELSO VIA ECKFORD**

We have campaigned to ensure that cuts to this route are minimised.

8. **COLD CALLERS**

Following an incident at Crailing – a survey was conducted throughout the whole community with the conclusion that the vast majority of residents wished to discourage Cold Callers. Discussions will be held on the best way to move this forward.

9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Submissions throughout the year were discussed the only objection made related to access at West Nisbet Stables.

10. **OTHER**

The CC have also dealt with Nisbet speeding issues, fly tipping, hedge trimming, grass cutting and issues with ruts in verges and pot holes in roads. We hosted the annual Crailing Rideout and given support to local resident, Margaret Jeary, in her efforts to add WW2 names to the WW1 memorial at Eckford Parish Church.

11. **THANKS**

During the course of the year the Secretary Susan Elliot stood down, Sheila Campbell took on the role on a temporary unpaid basis. Co-opted member Doreen Ovens from Eckford and Carole Double from Nisbet resigned for personal reasons. Sylvia Seivwright from Nisbet and Diane Taylor from Crailing were co-opted. 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.