

EAST TYNEDALE COMMUNITY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on 18th July 2019 at 7.00pm in Newton Community Hall

Present: Tom Martin (Chair), Graham Curry (Corbridge), Maggi Hunt (Stocksfield), Chris Cuthbert (Mickley), Charles Roe (Horsley), David Mckenzie (Riding Mill), Adrian Smith (Ovington), Colin Percy (Wylam):In attendance – Dennis Peel (Wylam), Greg Gavin, NCC Head of Neighbourhood Services and Monica Anderton, Secretary.

1. **Apologies:** Mike Senior (Horsley), Lisa Robinson (Albemarle), Neville Grey (Ovingham), Louise Pringle (Heddon), Graham Pyle (Heddon), Peter Pescod (Ovington) and Graham Holyoak from Tyne Rivers Trust.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** none
3. **Minutes from 25th April 2019:** these were approved as a true record. It was recorded, with sadness, the recent death of Eileen Birt, whom many knew from all her work with Prudhoe Council.
4. **Matters arising:** A69 issues: The Working Party set up in Bywell has concluded its survey with a fairly high response rate. It will be published in due course but Bywell PC had a brief overview of the results – generally against all the proposals to varying degrees. The work on the Hexham roundabout is due to begin at the end of July as talks between Highways England and the County Council have broken down over the re- routing of traffic etc and the likely problems for Hexham whilst the work is ongoing.
5. **Greg Gavin:** Greg summarised a number of ongoing issues, reminding members that the sub groups set up by the Parish Liaison Working Group into Services and Planning are going into matters in more detail and that various documents will be released as they become ready. The first of these, into core service standards regarding Grounds maintenance is almost ready to be sent to councils. This will help in budgeting matters. Verges are being done to a better standard overall, although not everyone is always pleased. Ecological verges are also being increased at the request of councils. It was asked if there was a digital map of these. In the towns, there are more wildflower meadows. The Blyth TC Team Leader is the go to person for other councils who may wish to try this in their area. Junctions with important sight lines are being cut more than once for safety reasons. Weed Killing has been improved. However, the only chemical allowed by law has limited effect. Local Councils can get the equipment to do their own thing if they wish – with their own insurance and liability. The question of who does what re county council land and social housing land was raised. There are no set rules as each area has developed independently. Regarding invasive species in East Tynedale, David Hunt is person to call on and trees cannot be inspected regularly – there are too many and only one officer, Neil Alderson. Ownership of public toilets was raised. The County is trying to get some

funding towards upkeep of some of these before releasing a document about them. This is a discretionary service. Greg also mentioned the waste strategy that is being undertaken that was discussed at the last PLWG meeting. Possible pilot schemes for glass recycling for instance may be considered.

6. **Member Agenda items:** Invasive Species: Giant Hogweed, Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam are all proliferating, often borne by the Tyne. Not much is inland. Dealing with these is specialised and time consuming. Dennis Peel went through a number of ways in which local councils and volunteers can help to restrict their spread. Information about a large area of Himalayan Balsam on private land – often an issue- in this case Allendale Estates, was forwarded by the Secretary to the estates Manager who would forward to their estates people.
7. **Reports from other bodies:**
 - a) Tynedale LAC: the recent meeting was mostly planning issues being decided;
 - b) NALC – notes had been circulated from recent meeting; Arising from this meeting, there has been a suggestion that the constituencies and representations of members on the NALC county Committee could be reviewed as there are some areas of overlap such as Prudhoe and the East Tynedale Forum, and also areas where there is underrepresentation. Bywell PC has submitted a resolution for the NALC AGM in September that the matter be looked at. The Forum endorsed this suggestion. Cllr Cuthbert also offered to put the resolution to Prudhoe Council's next meeting.
 - c) Parish Liaison group: Notes had been circulated from the last meeting.
8. **Finance:** The Current account balance before payments is £754.88
The Secretary's payment of £105 was approved.
It was noted that future funding by donation should be considered at the next meeting.
9. **AOB:** ~ MH noted that the planning application going against their survey in Stocksfield had been refused;
~ Prudhoe has held an Art Trail which was very successful and would be extended to 2 weeks next year;
~ The proposed Clean Air Zone in Newcastle/Gateshead was mentioned as it does not appear to be have been thought through for commuters or people from the rest of Northumberland using city facilities. A letter had gone from NALC on this matter;
10. **Next Meeting:** this is **confirmed** as 16th October 2019 at 7.00pm at Newton & Bywell Community Hall.