

EAST TYNE DALE COMMUNITY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on 16th October 2019 at 7.00pm in Newton Community Hall

Present: Tom Martin (Chair), Graham Curry (Corbridge), Mike Parker (Stocksfield), Chris Cuthbert (Mickley), Neville Grey (Ovingham), Colin Percy (Wylam), Ian Gillespie (Bywell). In attendance, Rob Murfin, NCC Director of Planning and Monica Anderton, Secretary.

1. **Apologies:** Mike Senior (Horsley), Lisa Robinson (Albemarle), Louise Pringle (Heddon), Graham Pyle (Heddon), Peter Pescod (Ovington), David Mckenzie (Riding Mill), Maggi Hunt (Stocksfield)
2. **Declarations of Interest:** none
3. **Minutes from 18th July 2019:** these were approved as a true record.
4. **Presentation by Rob Murfin:** Having been to talk with a number of Town & Parish Councils (TPCs), he sees a number of recurring issues that need to be addressed to make for a better relationship between NCC Planning and TPCs. TPCs do not feel listened to; S.106 comes up regularly; insufficient action on enforcement issues; the importance of the Local Plan. He explained some differences between the relative benefits of S.106 vs. CIL payments and it is difficult in a County such as Northumberland with a huge rural part for there to be equity. This is being consulted on. It is suggested that any Council that might wish to use S.106 or CIL make a proper list of items in the Parish that might benefit them.
He is doing training sessions with Councillors and will try to broaden this out, probably through NALC, for more training sessions round the County – groups of 20-25 are best. The issue of pre-apps was discussed – in future, the confidential aspect will be removed if an application progresses to full application and the consideration of pre app advice will be moved from planning officers to Policy officers so there is no conflict. Highways were mentioned as often local knowledge is not taken into account: road safety audits are now used on larger applications. It is planned to have a library of easy to use advice on the website at some stage in the future – in Plain English. Design of estates was briefly mentioned and he noted that Enforcement officers are to be increased.
5. **Matters arising:** A69 issues: The Working Party is on hold until the Styford roundabout comes up again;
~ The Forum Code of conduct review continues to be deferred for now;
~ Chris Cuthbert followed up on the Himalayan Balsam in Prudhoe following the talk from the Tyne Rivers Trust;
~ Role of Secretary – review – deferred again.
6. **Reports from other bodies:** a) Tynedale LAC: mostly planning issues;
b) NALC – notes had been circulated from recent meeting; The resolution proposed by Bywell and endorsed by the Forum and Prudhoe TC to review the representation on the NALC County Committee was passed at the AGM. Thanks to Chris Cuthbert for being there and adding an explanation. A working party will be set up to look into this;
c) Parish Liaison Group: The next meeting will be held shortly.

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7. Finance: The Current account balance before payments is £649.88

The Secretary's payment of £105 was approved.

It was noted that future funding by donation should be considered at the next meeting in January as the reserves will be down to ~£300 after that meeting.

8. Future Meetings – a number of topics have been suggested: Rural Crime; NDAS/Jude Deeks; Art Trail – Prudhoe Partnership' Tyne Community Learning Trust; Tyne Rivers Trust – if they get their funding;

9. AOB: ~ The Chair thanked Ian Gillespie from Bywell PC again for the continued use of the meeting room free of charge. This helps the Forum immensely.

10. Next Meeting: The meetings for next year are confirmed as 15th January 2020; 15th April 2020; 15th July 2020 and 14th October 2020. All at 7.00pm in Newton & Bywell Hall (All Wednesdays).