

Meeting: Monday 20 January 2020

<b>Present:</b> Kirstin Richardson (Chair) Dave Hutchinson Cllr Joan Atkinson Joe Thompson Delia McNally Grahame Tobin Mervyn Butler Phil Payne Miriam Hardie Susan Lawrence Howard Lawrence George Maccoy Brian Navi Roy Wilburn Viv Davies Alan Younger Lesley Younger Patricia Dunn Peter Dunn Sue Balmer	<b>Apologies:</b> Jane Howarth Cllr Sandra Duncan Cllr Jane Carter
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### Welcome from the Chair:

Kirstin welcomed members to the AGM.

### Election of Officers:

Alan Younger moved the re-election of officers. This was seconded by Roy Wilburn and agreed by members present.

Chair: Kirstin Richardson

Vice chair: Roy Wilburn

Treasurer: Grahame Tobin

Secretary: Dave Hutchinson

Asst secretary: Delia McNally

Minutes sec: Sue Balmer

Forum executive includes 3 further members: Jane Howarth, Brian Navi, Joe Thompson

### Secretary's annual report 2019:

Dave Hutchinson delivered the Secretary's annual report for 2019. The report is attached to these minutes.

### Membership:

33 new members in 2019, 236 in total at end of year.

Joe moved a vote of thanks to Dave for the work that he does as secretary. He also reminded the members present of the importance of the consultation process in the development of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. Last year, 2 consultation events were used for the community to consider agreed objectives and to articulate ideas leading to policies. The Plan has to go to a

referendum and an inspection, for which explicit evidence of community consultation is imperative.

**Action:**

- *Meeting of the Executive, planned for Monday 27 January to:*
- *debrief from meetings with Council officials*
- *discuss development of Communications Group activities e.g. new leaflet*
- *discuss matters arising from last Forum meeting*
- *review status of Neighbourhood Plan*
- *review Locality funding position and grant requirement for 2020/21*

**Treasurer's annual report**

Grahame distributed copies of the accounts and explained the position relating to funding from Locality and consultant costs. A pdf detailing income and expenditure is attached. He made special mention of income generation by Phil Payne from Christmas cards and calendars. We have enough monies for planned next consultation event and information leaflet drop and can rebid to Locality for other needs when necessary. We continue to request £1 optional donation per meeting from members and consider it worth organising raffle, refreshments at events.

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting on 16 December 2019 were approved by members present. It was noted that all actions had been completed.

**Matters arising:**

- Meetings have been arranged with Council Officers and Iain Malcolm, Leader of the Council.
- Alan Younger has met leading members of sports clubs with a view to arranging discussions about the future of sports facilities in the Forum area.
- Roy Wilburn, representing the tennis club, asked to be kept informed.

**Draft :**

Comments were invited on changes to the "Vision" for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. The vision is an overarching statement of how the community wishes the Forum area to be at the end of the Plan period. It was felt that the inclusion of a reference to climate change was essential in the light of recent events and the Council declaration of a "climate emergency".

**Action:**

- *Redrafting of vision statement (SB and LY)*

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Kirstin showed examples of the leaflet designed for the consultation event on March 16th. East Boldon Primary School will host the meeting and offers the venue at no cost. EBNF will give a donation to the PTA in gratitude.

Members have delivered a short activity session to the School Council (Years 3-6) and an assembly to Year 6. This was followed up by a 2-hour workshop in order to get pupils' comments about their village and ideas for the future. This focused on planning and biodiversity. There will be one further afternoon workshop on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Pupil work will be displayed at the event. Thanks are due to Sean Peacock, a PhD student from Newcastle University for his advice on activities about planning.

The leaflet is succinct, with more photographs. Phil Payne was thanked for his advice on the composition of the leaflet and his professional photographs. It highlights focal points for

consultation i.e. housing, parking, green environment and character of the village. Analysis from earlier consultation events shows these are points of interest for the community.

Event will include refreshments plus a raffle.

Timescale for leaflet: to printer by Feb 15<sup>th</sup> and delivered by March 9<sup>th</sup> by volunteers.

**Action:**

- *Grahame to send original leaflet template to Dave to help in repositioning for folding.*
- *A3 posters to be produced for businesses etc.*
- *Promotion through social media, including Pride in East Boldon Facebook page.*
- *Members to support dissemination by increased posts to community groups.*
- *School to be asked to advertise via parent mail.*

**Meetings and subgroups:**

A meeting was held with the Chair of Whitburn Neighbourhood Forum to share ideas. It seems that EBNF is making good progress and is now in line with that of Whitburn. As the Council receives funding to support neighbourhood forums, we both feel that the Council could give more support. We would like to know how they are spending funding.

Members are meeting Council Planners tomorrow. We appear to have a good relationship with them, but we would like to encourage more consultation and transparency, particularly through involvement of the development of the Local Plan. We are interested in the possible changes to Cleadon Lane industrial site, which has amber status on the Strategic Land Review.

The Housing subgroup met to discuss the Community Character statement and praised the work done by Howard on this document. He is collating comments from members and from the Consultant. Howard is preparing a second draft. Phil Payne will suggest appropriate images. The architectural survey is not complete, but the document could be shared at the consultation event.

**Decisions to be made:**

- Should we consult on the Character Assessment separately?
- How we compile an evidence base to inform policies, particularly on weighty issues e.g. natural environment and transport.
- Do we need to plan consultation in relation to an urban design code?

**Brownfield register:**

The Council website shows brownfield land suitable for housing. Planners sent relevant spreadsheet to Howard. Small parcels are identified but none within forum area.

**Action:**

Howard to send spreadsheet to members.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):**

Local Authority can release funding via developers to neighbourhood forum. We should be able to demonstrate how this could be used through e.g. Friends of the Park to make the children's play area safe. Policies for its future use are needed by the community. Another consultation could provide proposals.

As the Gordon Durham site is now being developed, some funding could be earmarked for e.g. signage for Boldon Flats

**AOB:**

The Library is running a free 6-week course called Active Voices aimed at developing new skills. This might be of interest to members of the forum.

**Action:**

*Dave to circulate to members.*

**Date of next meeting: Monday 25 February 2019 at 7.30 pm in Scout Hut**

**Meeting closed 8.40 pm**