

**Meeting:** Monthly Forum meeting (via Zoom)

Monday 17 May 2021

<b>Present:</b>  Kirstin Richardson Dave Hutchinson Cllr Joan Atkinson Cllr Jeff Milburn Delia McNally Joe Thompson Maureen Skevington Miriam Hardie Phil Toulson Grahame Tobin Mervyn Butler Phil Payne Howard Lawrence Lesley Younger Howard Becke Sue Shilling Gaynor Clarke Sue Balmer	<b>Apologies:</b>  Roy Wilburn Ron Forbister
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### **Welcome from the Chair:**

Kirstin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Good news in the Forum area was noted, including the BBC clip of the blossom in Gordon Drive, featuring interviews with John Forster and Fred Rylance. The arrival of the spoonbill on Boldon Flats was also celebrated.

### **Matters arising from meeting on 8 March 2021:**

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

Matters arising:

- The Secretary has written to Network Rail but the company has not yet responded. An information sign has been erected at the entrance to the works on Moor Lane.
- Northumbrian Water will undertake repairs to the collapsed sewer on the Flats, to be complete this month.
- Thanks to the Council for repairing the damaged fencing on the entrance to the bridleway next to Railway Cottages on Tiledshed Lane.

### **Responses to Council consultation on Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan**

Thanks were expressed to those who had responded to the Council Consultation by the April 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline. 152 responses were received, which is considered by our consultant to be an extremely high level of response when compared to similar Council consultations in the country.

The responses can be viewed on the South Tyneside Council website at:

<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/72037/Examination-of-the-East-Boldon-Neighbourhood-Plan>

Analysis of the responses:

- 78% of responses were fully supportive of the draft plan
- 8% of responses gave full support with detailed comments
- 12% made objections to the plan
- 3 respondents made no comments and 1 respondent was neutral but gave detailed comments.

Objections were limited in number and some showed a misunderstanding of the draft plan and where responsibility lies for some policies e.g., the Moor Lane scheme, which was conceived by the Council and which is not part of the draft plan. There was also criticism of the Forum boundary, but this had been widely consulted upon and agreed by the Council before the formal recognition of the Forum in January 2018. An important point was made regarding the inclusion of Boldon Flats in the Forum area. During early consultations about the area, some interest in the development of a Cleadon Neighbourhood Forum had been expressed. After a year of discussions, this formation did not materialise so Boldon Flats, as a vitally important wildlife site, was included in East Boldon Forum area, with the proviso that, should Cleadon form their own forum, the boundary could be revisited.

The Independent Examiner, Rosemary Kidd, will ask for clarifications for any responses and objections, as necessary.

Statutory consultees:

Responses from the statutory consultees (see list on accompanying pdf of the presentation shown at meeting) were largely supportive and encouraging.

Additional responses were received from landowners and housing developers making representation for housing development in the Forum area, all of which are also available to view on the Council website link above.

The Forum has been offered the opportunity to meet with representatives of Lichfields for Buckley Burnett Ltd and will be pleased to take them up on the offer to discuss relevant development proposals.

Special mention was made of the Barton Willmore proposal for development of sites to the southeast of the village. Two of these were not included in the Council's Draft Local Plan (now abandoned) of July 2019. The map from the presentation shows the extent of the proposed development i.e., 215 additional houses. The site is within the green belt and outside the settlement boundary.

As the Council's new Local Plan will be prepared for completion in 2023, this site and any others not included in the draft plan of 2019 may be assessed again and proposed for development.

**Action:**

- *Forum to thank respondents for their involvement in the consultation.*

### **Neighbourhood Plan: next steps**

Examination process:

Independent examiner, Rosemary Kidd, who has experience as a town planner and who has examined many Neighbourhood Plans, will read responses from the Council consultation. She will visit the Forum area, ask questions and may ask for amendments to the draft plan.

Community Actions:

Community Actions for part of the Neighbourhood Plan and can be found on the website at:

<https://www.eastboldonforum.org.uk/2021/04/12/community-actions/>

Community Actions relate to policies within the Neighbourhood Plan and come out of wide community consultation. They are designed to protect the village, greenbelt and environment. It is important to engage young people in the process.

Support from volunteers is needed to take community actions forward. Residents and supporters are encouraged to look at the list of actions and to identify any in which they have an interest. The Forum will continue to work closely with South Tyneside Council to agree a protocol. Current discussions to this end are ongoing with Peter Mennell (Head of Regeneration and Housing).

Volunteers have already begun to support Community Action 2. Another example of where volunteers could give support is in the development of active travel routes e.g., in suggesting maps, signage and a booklet of local walks. It may be possible to access grants from the Community Area Forum. Councillors present offered support and information about legal matters regarding private land. Tree planting is in the news and the Council tree officer can advise. The importance of everyone working together towards agreed goals and to avoid duplication was emphasised. Cllr Atkinson explained the Council target of increasing the tree canopy from 10% to 15%.

At the request of Cllr Milburn, the reasons for the choice of various Community Actions were clarified e.g., relating to sewage. Whitburn asked the Forum for support to explain the implications of increased development and coastal discharge. An example of the villages working together. Parking is a matter of great concern to residents of East Boldon. Community Action 11 would involve working with the Council and Nexus to find a way towards improvements.

**Action:**

- *Forum members to consider list of Community Actions and contact Secretary if they wish to volunteer to support any of them.*

**New Councillor: Ian Forster**

The Forum welcomes new Councillor, Ian Forster and will arrange a meeting with him to explain the history of the Forum and future developments. Cllr Milburn explained that Cllr Forster was awaiting full access to technological equipment by the Council. We look forward to seeing him at a future Forum meeting.

It was reiterated that the Forum is not affiliated to any political party. This is made clear on all Forum literature and on the website: [www.eastboldonforum.org.uk](http://www.eastboldonforum.org.uk)

**Action:**

- *Secretary to arrange a meeting with Cllr Forster.*
- *Secretary to write to former Councillor, Jane Carter, to thank her for her involvement with the Forum.*

**Additional item: Moor Lane plans**

<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/72567/Walking-and-Cycling-Improvements-Moor-Lane-Cleadon-East-Boldon-Informal-consultation->

South Tyneside Council are requesting responses to an informal consultation on the shared use scheme on Moor Lane. Proposed plans, following discussions with residents and farmers are shown on the link above. The closing date is 31 May. Respondents must make it clear whether they support or object to the scheme and give reasons for objections. It would be helpful for them to give their addresses. The Forum will be formulating a response, based on members' views but also encourages members to send individual responses to the Council by the closing date.

Cllr Milburn declared his objection to the scheme.

In the Draft Neighbourhood Plan Moor Lane is identified as a possible active travel route but plans for the shared use of the road have been put forward by South Tyneside Council. The scheme has

become a local talking point with views expressed on both sides of the argument and with various suggestions put forward, including delight expressed by grandparents able to walk in safety with little children against anxiety about increased traffic in Cleadon.

The Forum thanks the Council for clarifying the working of traffic lights, which will be “on demand” if the plans for the scheme are agreed.

**Action:**

- *Forum to formulate response to the consultation, taking into account views of members expressed.*

**Additional item: Removal of post box on Front Street**

As the former Post Office on Front Street is being converted to a private house, the Post Office has closed the pillar box. The Forum has passed on comments about the removal to Chris Stanworth, Planning Officer at South Tyneside Council. All comments requested the pillar box be re-sited in the vicinity, remembering that it is in a Conservation Area. Our suggestion is that it be re-sited on the opposite side of the road, where the pavement is wide.

**AOB**

Members are asked to email agenda items for future meetings to the Secretary, Dave Hutchinson at: [info.eastboldonforum@gmail.com](mailto:info.eastboldonforum@gmail.com)

**Meeting closed 8.23 pm**

**Date of next meeting: 14 June at 7pm via Zoom**