

Ponteland Community Partnership

Monthly Meeting

Date: 20th April 2016

Venue: Ponteland Town Council Office, Meadowfield, at 7.p.m.

Attending: Alma Dunigan, Shirley Hill, Robin Ramsay, Brian Prickett, George Clasper, Syd Cowan, Pratima Mehra, Yuvraj Chauhan, Heather Thomas, Frank Harrington, Mike Brown and Nirmal Sehgal.

1. **Apologies:** Carl Rawlings, Christine Greenwell, Sheila Campbell and Rob Anderson.

Welcome:

Chairman Alma Dunigan welcomed everyone present.

2. **Minutes:** Passed.

3. **Matters Arising:** None.

4. **Chairman's Report:**

Alma asked the committee if they wished her to stand again as chairperson and the response was a unanimous yes. However, Syd Cowan was standing down as vice chair but would represent 'Churches Together.' Christine Greenwell was standing down as Treasurer but Heather Thomas was willing to take it on.

Alma reported that the editorial problem had been resolved and the 'gentleman's agreement' was now discontinued.

5. **PCP Financial Report from CG:**

The books were with the accountant for the end of the financial year.
Bank Balance for PCP: £633.02.

6. **Sub Groups:**

a. **Editorial** – as Chairman's Report above.

b. **Neighbourhood Plan Group:** AD was pleased with the Housing Need Review that received a 28% response.

The Final Public Consultation started on the 1st April for 6 weeks and ends on the 15th May. Drop in sessions will take place on 21/22 and 23rd April in the Memorial Hall. The events show the vision for Ponteland and 10 objectives with an interactive area set aside for projects and activities. Residents' are asked to contribute and comment.

- c. **Constitution Review:** The recommendation for the age at which young people could join the PCP was felt should be 16. Officers could serve up to 3 years. These would be put before the A.G.M for consideration.
- d. **Youth Activities:** Youth Ambassador, Yuvraj Chauhan, showed the committee his design for a poster to accompany a letter to the High School, Coates Endowed and Dr. Prior at the Middle School. Unfortunately, elements of the poster e.g. the colours were considered to be too dark, the header needed to be included, typos and the colour combination could not be agreed. An alternative sample prepared by AD would be used if Yuvi could not correct his poster by the weekend.
- e. **Mike Brown**, Governor of Richard Coates Middle School outlined the latest County proposals re Ponteland schools structure and location put forward in late March:
 - Ponteland High School to become an 11-19 secondary.
 - Ponteland, Darras, Heddon, Stamfordham, Belsay and Whalton first schools to become 3-11 primary schools.
 - Richard Coates Middle School to change to a 3-11 primary using the Ponteland First School buildings and possibly some of its own existing site.
 - What has emerged since? NCC has issued a revised school location proposal:
 - It shows replacement buildings and grounds for Ponteland First School and Ponteland High School relocated to the current Leisure Centre site.
 - This conflates the school ,organisation consultation with the Core Strategy consultation and deserves the grief that this will generate.

- There will be a huge overall loss of playing fields and it is likely that public access to leisure facilities during school hours will be lost.
- There are likely to be huge traffic problems.
- The proposed relocation may lead to the loss of the Youth Building which PCP were involved in the funding of, on the Callerton Lane schools site.
- Youth Manager, Ashley Brown, is leaving to go to the West Area and Sharon Sterling, a senior manager, is taking over. Her Line Manager is to be sought out for ratification of future projects and the fate of the Youth Centre, Play Area and Skate Park.

7. Written Reports:

- **U3A:** No report.
- **Newcastle International Airport:** SC informed SH that there was nothing to report but that she would do her annual report for the AGM.
- **Ponteland Community Trust:** Brian Prickett reported that the Trust is continuing its efforts to convince the County Council to create a Community Hub/Library on the current site.
- **Civic Society:** Nothing.
- **Ageing Well:** Nothing to report.
- **Friends of the Park:** Nothing to report.
- **Community Transport:** No report from DG.
- **Environmental:** GC had had some success with reporting pot holes on the NCC 'pot hole' line regarding Fox Covert Lane where they were now circled in chalk!

8. **A.O.B:** Pratima was exploring support from the Darras Hall shops for contributions towards a street party and Bella and Frannie had expressed willingness to do so. She would be contacting DHEC regarding the use of their car park area.

RR wished to focus on new Projects for PCP and PTC at first meeting after the A.G.M.

- 9. Date of next PCP Meeting: A.G.M on Wednesday 18th May 2016 in PTC Meeting Room.**