

Ponteland Community Partnership
Annual General Meeting Wednesday 24th May 2017

Venue: PTC Meeting Room, Ponteland.

Meeting Opened at 7.pm.

Attending: Alma Dunigan, Frank Harrington, Shirley Hill, Heather Thomas, Robin Ramsay, George Clasper, Pratima Mehra and Yuvraj.

Apologies: Cllr Alan Varley, Cllr Alan Hall, Mike Brown, and Nirmal Sehgal.

Welcome: The meeting was opened by the current Chairman Alma Dunigan who welcomed everyone on the hot summer evening.

Minutes from the A.G.M 18th May 2016: were read and passed.

Chairman's Report:

After a successful "Relaunch" of the Community Partnership again we have another year which has built upon a solid foundation for the future. A simple idea to improve part of the Bridleway touched the imagination of the community and has given a clear direction to what sort of activities/projects the Partnership should be involved with. Ponteland has been subjected to massive uncertainty over the past 5 years with many threats of large scale development, we are not against progress or development, Ponteland needed something to feel good about.

Thanks to:

- The support from the Town Council - Financial, Accommodation, Help
- Thanks to the PN&V, especially to the editor for all the coverage given to the group

Information

- The website is now well established
- External Funding has increased from the previous year – Treasurer Report for detail
- Youth Ambassador has enrolled 2 local young residents
- Subgroup changes to Management, Editorial, Neighbourhood Plan, Projects, Youth

- 3 Call-in letters to Secretary of State (Town Council, Civic Society & Greenbelt Group) for School Leisure Centre replacement, Banks application & Dissington Estate application

New Contacts

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • Area Countryside Officer | Tim Fish |
| • NCC Communities Voluntary Association | Marc Johnson |
| • NCC Economic & Inclusion Policy Team Community Chest | Ian Hedley |
| • Hexham Community Partnership | Marion |
| • NCC Economic & Inclusion Policy Team Governance | Anne Lawson |

Reassurances

- After Rob Anderson retired from the Police Service there has not been a constant replacement due to reorganisation, I am assured that in the future there will be a nominated officer.

Challenges

- Attracting new members
- Attracting funding for other projects, future funding is governed by funding providers criteria

Disappointments

- In 2016 - 2 meetings were held with the Youth Service to discuss the future activities for the youth and still after contacting Sharon Stirling in December we have had no response.. Even with all the problems with the schools it can't explain why we have not received replies to our emails.
- Efforts were made to access both the middle schools & High School to encourage younger people to be involved with the PCP Youth Forum via talks, school councils and school parliament. This has not had the opportunity to develop as schools have other issues to resolve. Hopefully this will happen during the following year.

Sub group Reports:

February & March 2017 - Bridleway Project Callerton Lane-Rotary Way

Fantastic support from the community 50 volunteers & 10 organisations working together; Town Council Footpath Users Group, PNPSG, Loins, U3A, Civic Society, PCP, Greenbelt Group, Friends of the Park, 1st Ponteland Scouts, History Society. Organised by PCP & Area Countryside Officer. Litter picking, hand pruning, tree & wildflower planting with 2 educational interpretation pedestals to follow later in the year. The project will be part of the Town Council portfolio for Britain in Bloom. Front page coverage in the PN&V

Management Group

The success of the bridleway project has given the management group several headaches. This project and the volunteers have shown us that they expect the next part of the old railway line to receive similar treatment. This raised several issues, where would the money come from, when could this be achieved and was it really doable. Because of the complexity of funding applications and the content of additional displays:

- An immense amount of work has been undertaken by officers'
- 2 meetings have taken place both on the subject of the Educational Interpretation Pedestals, investigating estimates and potential content.
- 2 visits to Differentia prepared supplier in Hexham and factory visit.
- 1 site visits to view the product in situ
- 2 walks along the bridleway for assessment, photos for evidence
- Attendance at the VCA Ashington Funding Fair.
- Plus hours & hours of phone calls & emails

The aim is to reduce the time and effort to allow for a recommendation from the Management Group to the PCP for the current 2 displays, which we have funding for and to make several funding applications for the additional 2 or 3 displays required for the Rotary Way to Airport part of the Old Railway Line. Some issues have come to light on the wetland.

Editorial Subgroup

Slight change to the membership (Chair & Vice Chair)

2 meetings agreed to continue with the original principle of impartial & non-political with an independent editor. A reduced membership - balance is correct

Community valued the magazines coverage on development issues which has affected the increased number of pages with a circulation of 4,800 + businesses.

Increased publicity charges

Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan

Final Consultation on the Pre Submission of the Plan took place from the 1st Nov – 16th Dec 2016

Final amendments were made after resident's comments, consultation body's comments, Planning Consultant and final documents were commissioned from a Landscape Architect, Heritage Consultant and a revised submission has been submitted for the next stage of the planning process called "Publicity". NCC notifies the consultation bodies on this document, comments from them during May – June 5th 2017 Independent Examination now in process, report expected after the third week in June 2017.

Projects

February/March 2017 - Bridleway Project Callerton Lane-Rotary Way

Fantastic support from the community 50 volunteers & 10 organisations working together; Town Council Footpath Users Group, PNPSG, U3A, Loins, Civic Society, PCP, Greenbelt Group, Friends of the Park, 1st Ponteland Scouts, History Society Organised by PCP & Area Countryside Officer. Litter picking, hand pruning, tree & wildflower planting. The project will be part of the Town Council portfolio for Britain in Bloom

Thanks:

Retiring members Syd Cowan and Sheila Campbell

Special Thanks for their tolerance to Vice chair, Secretary and Treasurer for their support

Thanks to the PTC for their support, including Kath Marvin and for the accommodation.

The Future

Our group will need to consider future projects that we can access funding for and balance those with activities already shown to be required by the community. The Neighbourhood Plan has well documented possibilities in the "Submission Document" under Community Aspirations; these have already been identified in the consultations evidence base of the Neighbourhood Plan – some are outside our scope & remit.

Old Railway Line Rotary Way to the Airport, funding for the educational pedestals is being sort by our first application for heritage Lottery funding. Newcastle International Airport and Ward Bros have shown particular interest in this project. Discussions should take place with the Foot Path Users Group as part of the Town Council, with NCC Area Countryside Officer in early June.

Challenges

Attracting new members, this is always difficult where so few do so much

Attracting funding for other projects, future funding is governed by funding provider's criteria.

The Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy of Ponteland Community Partnership to be added to the PCP Constitution Document.

Child Safeguarding Adult

Pratima Mehra to take this on.

Treasurer's Report – 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017

Ponteland Community Partnership Account

Ponteland Community Partnership accounts were audited by Gaye Templeton as a true and accurate statement of the accounts on 27 April 2017.

At the Year End – 31 March 2017 there is £3108.20 in the PCP account.

Income

Within the accounts there is a grant of £2.200 for the Old Railway Line Project (Fire Station to Rotary Way) from the Northumberland County Council Community Chest. Expenditure has been committed to the purchase of 2 interpretation panels and frames.

Remaining within the accounts is £633.02. Within this amount Ponteland Town Council provided £543 of funding intended for expenditure on web development, general administration and insurance for the partnership.

Expenditure

Expenditure during the year 2016-2017 was £267.82 comprised of web page updating and insurance.

Report from Friends of Ponteland Park

John Anderson gave an excellent illustrated talk at the A.G.M on Kirkhale Courtyard and Capability Brown's Lake and Parkland.

Oak Tree: Friends of Ponteland Park have sourced and planted a red oak tree.

Good display of native English bluebells in Fox Covert area and further work planned there.

FOPP have met with the Tyne Rivers Trust who have been commissioned by Ponteland Town Council to plan and oversee work on areas of erosion on the River Pont in Ponteland Park.

Report from the Civic Society

Ponteland Civic Society continues to take an active part in local planning matters, conservation issues and development consultations.

A list of local assets with community value has been drafted.

Support given to other local groups on planning matters and to the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

Offered a selection of public talks on matters of local interest.

Election of Officers

Chairman: Alma Dunigan – Proposed by Shirley Hill, seconded by Robin Ramsay.

Vice Chairman: Frank Harrington – Proposed by Alma Dunigan, seconded by George Clasper.

Hon Secretary: Shirley Hill – proposed by Frank Harrington, seconded by Alma Dunigan.

Hon Treasurer: Heather Thomas – proposed by Alma Dunigan, seconded by George Clasper.

Committee Members: Robin Ramsay, George Clasper, Pratima Mehra, Mike Brown, Nirmal Sehgal and Police representative.

Ponteland Town Council Representatives: Cllr Alan Varley and Cllr Alan Hall

Junior Ambassador: Yuvi.

Re- Elected Chairman Alma Dunigan thanked members for her re-election and all the above for agreeing to stand for office.

The Meeting closed at 9.50.