

# Ponteland Community Partnership

**Meeting on** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 19.00, Ponteland Town Council Office, Meadowfield.

**Present:** Alma Dunigan, Frank Harrington, Shirley Hill, Heather Thomas, Robin Ramsay, Mike Brown, George Clasper and Pratima Mehra & Yuvi.

**Apologies:** Alan Varley, Nirmal Sehgal, Christine Greenwell, Andrew Tucker, Chris Brummitt, William Moses, PC Darren English, PC Ingrid Clayton

**ACTION**

**Declaration of interest:** None.

**Minutes from the meeting held on** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018 approved.

## **Matters arising:**

Agreed Draft Group response to Draft Local Plan submitted and acknowledged.

Health and Safety policy review agreed by RR

Equal Opportunities policy review agreed by MB.

Safeguarding Statutory Guidance review from PM for September meeting.

Update on Website delayed – pen portraits not submitted.

**PM**

‘Belsay Awakes’ project:

This specialist heritage project involves Belsay Castle, Hall and Gardens. The overall project needs to increase visitors, day tourism, more young and family visits and return visits throughout the year to maximise annual revenue.

English Heritage has engaged a consultancy to identify an activity plan for the first stage of the project which has successfully accessed funding from Heritage Lottery. This will be completed at the development stage which ends in February 2019.

There are two stages of the project and the first stage has just started. Once completed it is likely to take 6 months for the Heritage Lottery to decide if the additional funds are to be made available. The overall amount will be in the region of £3.5 million.

During the development stage an activity plan will be put together based on what they have learnt over the early discussions with potential stakeholders. Their ideas so far include hosting events, involving volunteers, putting on training and including educational possibilities.

RR Registered his disapproval of any involvement.

AD replied July meeting requested the meeting, however, any involvement extremely unlikely.

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'Way Markers': High School contacted but requirements beyond their capabilities.

## Treasurer's Report:

HT reported that at 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 there is a balance of £1,992.70 in the PTC account.

During the period £647.25 was received from Northumberland County Council from the Community Chest for wildflower planting between Rotary Way and the Airport. £215.75 was received from NCC Councillor Armstrong's Local Fund also for wildflower planting as above.

## Reports from sub groups:

### Management:

Discussed Local Plan.

RR Declared Interest in Memorial Hall discussion.

Discussed future venue for meetings. From 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 PCP Meetings will be held in the Memorial Hall at 19.00

Grant application to be made to PTC for funding costs of meeting venue.

SH to remind request to PTC for letter giving the PCP 3 months' notice to find alternative venue for monthly meetings

'Belsay Awakes'.

AD

Mem  
Hall  
HT  
SH

### Editorial:

Nothing.

### Projects

#### PCP Youth Project Report August 2018 Team Biccies.

The Youth Service contacted AD on 23 July, the Town Council and other local people. AD met them to discuss a potential project they could take on over a two week period finishing on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

Due to the amount of time given, less than 24 hours, AD put together the following vague ideas, some of which had been identified as PCP projects; all for their consideration:

- Super market bag packing
- Litter picking along bridleway – rear entrance to middle school.
- Counting steps between 5 pedestals for Way Markers for PCP 'Walk into Health'
- Site visit to Twizell Place (the only example of a recreational area for all ages) a youth's assessment of this recreational area. This play park has been discussed for improving as a PCP project since 2016 and through the neighbourhood plan evidence.
- Pothole survey at the Broadway car parking areas.

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From all the potential ideas from those organisations contacted by this group their selected social action project was to be of the group's choice and they could alter the original idea to personalise it.

The Team Biccies decided that they recognised that some of the youth showed anti-social behaviour and not only was this influencing the communities attitude towards the youth but there was also a constant clear up taking place sometimes on a daily basis. Their view was this could be reduced if there was an area where they could let off steam, such as a kick about area for unplanned activity and this is where Twizell came into the picture. They wished to show sincerity to the community and decided to organise a 'Fun Day' at the youth hut (Flyer was circulated) with all funds channelled to the PCP for a future youth project, hopefully Twizell Place. They organised a number of site visits to prepare a youth assessment for the PCP to use as evidence as to what provision would be required for Twizell Place.

The group was fully aware that any Twizell Place survey was to be realistic and if it was too ambitious it could not be considered.

AD is waiting for the completed information and this survey will be brought to the PCP monthly meeting for discussion.

There have been several informal discussions about Twizell Place over the past 2 years. The PCP has wished to have a youth project and has constantly returned to Twizell Place as a possible project. Now that the skate park has gone and is not to be replaced - we endorse the PTC's decision on this – but it leaves an even bigger gap in the under provision for the youth as recognised in the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan.

The PCP is requesting that the PTC acknowledges the needs of the youth. The contribution from Team Biccies and their sincerity in trying to help Ponteland in a very positive way.

The PCP recognises that some of the issues in the youth's survey will be for the Town Council to deal with but that the PCP can access funding for projects that the Town Council cannot.

Team Biccies first week was spent concentrating on team building activities in the Lake District. The second week on confidence building workshops. The third week meeting local people, The PTC and PCP to select a community project. The group identified that anti-social behaviour was the number one problem in Ponteland and decided to focus on raising money for a future youth project and asked the PCP to use these funds for that purpose.

This was all part of the National Citizen Service (NCS) and the former prime minister, David Cameron's main legacy project. It consists of a 4 week experience for 15-17 year-olds to help build confidence and self-belief giving young people the chance on embarking on challenges and building skills for work and life. Northumberland has been part of a national programme, supported by the youth service, which has inspired more than 400.000 youngsters nationally to get involved.

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Team Biccies, as the students were called, experience was divided into 4 stages:

- Stage 1 a five day residential at YHA Grasmere packed with outdoor activities, making new friends and team building.
- Stage 2 five days in a uni-style environment to develop life skills, confidence and better communication; all to boost individual CV's & UCAS personal statements.
- Stage 3 working in teams putting learnt skills into practice by delivering a community project, a form of social action of their choice, including planning, fundraising – all to make a difference in the community.
- Stage 4 Activity week

Graduation in September in celebration of achievements.

AD contacted this week by the second group on the same project details will be given at the next meeting. New contact with youth worker Sue Barnard.

AD

**Youth Forum:** Nothing to report.

**Neighbourhood Plan Group:** Nothing to report.

**Reports from other organisations:**

NS had informed SH that the Ageing Well Winter Warmer event would take place on 18<sup>th</sup> October between 8.30-12pm in Merton Hall.

**Any Other Business:**

AD had received an invitation from the Lord Lieutenant, as a result of 2017 Bridleway Project Love Northumberland Award, to a Garden Party at Alnwick Castle on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

AD chose Frank Harrington, Heather Forshaw, our environmental adviser and Yuvi representing the youth to accompany her.

**Meeting Concluded at 7.50.**

**Date of Next meeting: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Ponteland Town Council at 7.0**