

# EAST BOLDON FORUM

## Secretary's Annual Report 2020:

1. 2020 has been a difficult year due to the restrictions caused by the pandemic. As a result, since March we have been unable to hold face to face Forum meetings and drop in events to allow the community to engage with the developing Neighbourhood Plan. Despite these handicaps, the Forum Executive has worked hard to progress the Plan, resulting in the publication of the pre-submission draft Plan online in October.
2. During the six week Plan consultation, we received 58 comments from local residents and 11 detailed responses from the statutory consultees. These included South Tyneside Council, Historic England and agents acting on behalf of landowners and developers with an interest in potential housing sites. We are currently in the process of reviewing these comments, with a view to publishing a revised draft for submission to South Tyneside Council in March 2021.
3. As well as working on the Neighbourhood Plan, the Forum executive canvassed members views on two major Council schemes in East Boldon – the Tiledsheds Bridge and Bypass, and the Moor Lane pedestrian/cycling route. These generated significant interest and we submitted comments to the Council based on residents' views.
4. We have also consulted members on planning applications and traffic orders affecting East Boldon, including housing proposals at Mayflower Glass and Kymel House, and the 20mph zone at the Hawthorns.
5. We have had regular meetings with Council planners and are now meeting on a monthly basis with the Head of Regeneration and the Regeneration leadership team, where we are able to raise concerns about Council activity affecting the Forum area.
6. Forum membership has increased to 242 during the year.
7. Forum Executive members have the following reflections on progress made in 2020:
  - We have an excellent Executive team with a high degree of experience and expertise.
  - Support from our planning consultant, Jo-Anne Garrick, has been excellent – we couldn't have wished for any better.
  - We should be proud of what we have achieved under difficult circumstances, in particular the pandemic restrictions.
  - Our local Councillors Atkinson and Carter have supported the Forum and development of the Neighbourhood Plan.
  - Concern that we couldn't engage more with young people in the area.
  - Concern that once agreed the Council's Local Plan could supercede elements of our NP making all our efforts redundant.
  - We need to think about the Forum's role once the Neighbourhood Plan is in place.