

Meeting: Monday 18 November 2019

Present: Kirstin Richardson George MacCoy Dave Hutchinson Joe Thompson Grahame Tobin Susan Lawrence Howard Lawrence Roy Wilburn Phil Payne Merv Butler Peter Arthurs Jane Arthurs Lesley Younger Sue Balmer	Apologies: Cllr Jane Carter Maureen Skevington Delia McNally
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Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the meeting were approved by members present.
Welcome from the Chair: Kirstin welcomed members to the meeting.
Matters arising. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actions from the previous meeting have been addressed in executive meetings.• Hard to reach groups: Weekly Friday coffee mornings at the Grange identified as a good time to talk to residents about the Forum. Volunteers needed.• Cards and calendars are ready for sale.
Council reply to Keep Boldon Green response to Local Plan The Forum has shared this response with Locality and Aecom. Both agencies agreed with the response, which has disappointing implications for the Forum, particularly in the justification for housing numbers. Aecom agrees that the Council must abide by Government figures for housing, so it is vital for the Forum to plan for development and design. The main issue is still that distribution of planned housing across the borough is disproportionate in the Forum area, with the current Council policy to disperse housing across the green belt.
Transport and movement paper Following an explanation of the maps by Howard, members present divided into 2 groups to discuss community actions needed to address: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. cycling, walking and public transport2. sustainable transport, electric vehicles and parking Feedback from group 1: Children have difficulties walking to school safely along the main road past St George's Church. The pavement is narrow, uneven and dangerous. To encourage more children to walk to school, routes

need to be safe and pleasant. A route away from the road, through the trees would be preferable, but the Council is unlikely to agree to this proposal. Barriers to the side of the Infants' school have improved safety.

Connectivity of footpaths and bridleways is important and could exist across the Forum area, making a case for healthy living in pleasant surroundings. It was noted that Sunderland Council has addressed the problem of narrow footpaths. Footpaths to the South of East Boldon village need urgent attention, particularly near Tiledsheds. Uneven, narrow pavements and high volume of traffic make walking dangerous.

Bus services:

Changes to timetables, bus routes and frequency have disadvantaged pass holders. Electronic information would be useful. Fewer buses run through East Boldon. Could small, eco-friendly buses run from the edges of the village to the Metro station to give access for the elderly and reduce parking? Traffic flow on Front Street could be helped by bus laybys e.g. near Hardy Drive.

Feedback from group 2:

Parking in the village is one of the main issues needing amelioration. A parking management plan should address high levels of parking near the Metro station. Evidence from solutions in other areas of the country e.g. Cambridge Park and Ride system could give ideas. Parking restrictions, residents only parking are options for investigation. Residents to work with their councillors to find a solution to a difficult problem.

Delays with the Metro barriers can cause gridlock and impatient driving leading to safety issues.

Would an extension to the platforms be helpful?

Traffic and congestion in Station Road is particularly acute. Traffic management and safety must be addressed by the Council. Further development of the Metro system e.g. to South Shields may lead to increased traffic in East Boldon. Carefully planned traffic management is imperative.

Sustainable transport and electric vehicles should be encouraged. Design for any new parking development should include charging points.

Actions:

- ***Executive to explore what needs to be done to satisfy criteria for cycle and walking routes***
- ***Representatives to meet with rights of way officer to suggest improvements and signage within an improvement plan***
- ***Meetings to be arranged with bus operators***
- ***Discussions to be arranged with local Councillors regarding parking***

AOB:

Timetable of planned meetings:

- Monday 25 November, meeting of Executive to look at background papers
- Monday 2 December, meeting with Planners

Cards and calendars to be sold at St George's and Library

Wellbeing and employment papers to be discussed at next meeting, in a similar group format.

Date of next meeting: Monday 16 December 2019 at 7.30 pm in Scout Hut, followed by Christmas "celebration" in Grey Horse.

Meeting closed 9.10 pm