

<b>Present:</b> Kirstin Richardson (Chair) Dave Hutchinson Cllr Joan Atkinson Cllr Jane Carter Joe Thompson Delia McNally Grahame Tobin Mervyn Butler Jane Howarth Jayne Mackie Phil Payne Susan Lawrence Howard Lawrence Maureen Skevington Miriam Hardy Howard Becke Sue Shilling Brian Navi Roy Wilburn Viv Davies Alan Younger Lesley Younger Peter Arthurs Jane Arthurs Sue Balmer	<b>Apologies:</b> Roz Hughes
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<b>Welcome from the Chair:</b> Kirstin welcomed members to the AGM.
<b>Election of Officers:</b> The re-election of all officers was agreed by the members present.  Chair: Kirstin Richardson Vice chair: Roy Wilburn Treasurer: Grahame Tobin Secretary: Dave Hutchinson Asst secretary: Delia McNally Minutes sec: Sue Balmer Forum executive includes 3 further members: Jane Howarth, Brian Navi, Joe Thompson
<b>Secretary's annual report 2019:</b> Dave Hutchinson delivered the Secretary's annual report for 2019. The report is attached to these minutes. Members gave their congratulations for the work done throughout the year by a range of people behind the scenes. Joe moved a vote of thanks to Dave who pulls the various strands together in a timely way. Roy mentioned the sterling work of the Consultant, JoAnne Garrick, who has given robust advice

for the successful completion of the Draft Neighbourhood Plan and is continuing to support the Forum as we move towards inspection and referendum.

The responses from the consultation of the Draft Plan were overwhelmingly positive. As expected, developers disagreed with many aspects of the Plan, especially in relation to the defence of the green belt, which is in line with the wishes of the community. The settlement boundary, as shown in the Draft Plan, provides a robust defence of the green belt. The Consultant has supported the Executive in the production of a comments table from all responses received and that is currently being prepared for publication on the website.

The revised Draft Plan will be submitted to the Council for their formal review and examination by an independent Examiner. Following dialogue with the Council, we have agreed on the appointment of an Examiner.

### **Treasurer's annual report**

Grahame Tobin's report is attached to these minutes.

This has been a difficult year for the Forum financially, as it has been impossible to hold fund-raising and information events or secure donations at Forum meetings. However, we have received £6,275 grant from Locality, which has enabled us to continue to employ a Consultant and pay for printing, banners and web hosting. Although the accounts show a deficit of £1,036.81, this is due to a repayment of grant to Locality in respect of the previous financial year of £1,778.13. The bank account has a current credit balance of £4026.41.

The Treasurer was given a vote of thanks for his work during the year.

Kirstin thanked everyone for attending and the AGM ended at 7.25 pm  
It was followed by an ordinary meeting of the Forum.

### **Neighbourhood Plan progress**

The Draft Plan will be redrafted in the light of responses received and with support from the Consultant. It will then be submitted to South Tyneside Council in March for further consultation and examination.

The 6 week consultation phase will probably take place in April-May 2021. Covid restrictions at that time may have a bearing on how the consultation can be carried out. If the examination is favourable, final revisions will be made and the Plan will go to referendum in Autumn 2021. The whole community will then have a chance to vote on the final Plan. It will pass if there is a straight majority in favour.

South Tyneside Council is charged with arranging the contract with the examiner and organising the consultation process. Cllr Atkinson was generous in her comments, saying that she would want the referendum to be managed in the best way possible.

### **Comms group update**

- The group continues to meet weekly and is working on advertising and the promotion of the referendum.
- A newsletter for Forum members is imminent. This will need to include reference to the AGM.
- The group's intention is to issue regular newsletters to maintain interest in the process.
- A leaflet is the best way to engage with all members of the community and the group is working on the format for the next one and methods of distribution.

**Action:** Comms group to finalise Newsletter

### **Further comments on the Draft Plan**

Joe explained the need for amendments to the Design Code and enlisted help from Jane to elicit changes from Aecom which will then be sent to Locality for approval.

**Action:** Dave/Jane to liaise with Locality & Aecom

Joe reminded the members that Historic England has raised the issue that East Boldon Conservation Area is in an “at risk” category. Howard offered to contact Lucy Routledge at the Council to suggest that the Forum and Council work together to ascertain the criteria for the category and how the situation can be ameliorated.

**Action:** Howard to draft an email to Lucy Routledge

### **Meeting with Tracy Dixon (Leader of the Council) on 26.01.21**

Kirstin said that it was good for the Forum Executive to have the opportunity to meet with the Leader and Deputy Leader (Cllr Atkinson) and more meetings could be scheduled in the future. Discussions covered the Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan and plans for Tilesheds.

In this time of change at South Tyneside Council, the new leadership team is considering:

- the Local Plan and strategies for meeting Government targets for housebuilding,
- how brownfield sites and town centres can be utilised,
- plans for Tilesheds in the light of the local petition and the Forum’s position statement.

The increasing opportunities for dialogue with Council officers are appreciated by the Forum and it is felt that there are now better lines of communication. We continue to try to build good relationships through monthly meetings. We are appreciative of the efforts of the Leader and Deputy to support us in improving communications with Council officers.

### **AOB**

#### **West Boldon Councillors**

The Forum has tried to engage with Councillors and invited them to meetings but they have not attended. We are aware that we need to keep in touch with them and involve them in discussions which effect both villages.

#### **Moor Lane**

There is some opposition to the single pedestrian/cycling lane but the change will be made permanent as there has been majority support (160 for to 11 against). The Council will now produce a detailed plan which will go to consultation so that the community can submit comments on the detailed proposals. The Forum will ensure that members know about the consultation and will also post on social media.

#### **Antisocial behaviour**

The Forum is drafting a letter to be sent to Northumbria Police to make them aware of incursions onto Boldon Flats and disturbance of wildlife. Reports have been so serious as to warrant raising the issue at a formal level. We are keeping a log of reports of these and antisocial behaviour in other parts of the Forum area.

**Date of next meeting:** TBC

**Meeting closed 9.00 pm**