

<p><b>Present:</b></p> <p>Kirstin Richardson (Chair) Dave Hutchinson Cllr Jane Carter Joe Thompson Delia McNally Grahame Tobin Mervyn Butler Miriam Hardie Jayne Mackie Roz Hughes Phil Payne Howard Lawrence Maureen Skevington Roy Wilburn Lesley Younger Viv Davies Peter Arthurs Jane Arthurs Howard Becke Sue Shilling Sue Balmer</p>	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Kate Osborne MP Cllr Joan Atkinson George McCoy Gaynor Clark Beryl Massam Ron Forbister Jane Howarth Brian Navi</p> <p>(Kate Osborne MP was unable to attend and sent her apologies. She is keen to attend a Forum meeting and we hope that she will be free to participate soon.)</p>
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### Welcome from the Chair:

Kirstin welcomed members to the meeting.

### Matters arising from meeting on 01 March:

- February newsletter finalised and sent out and well received by members present.
- All other actions complete apart from need to rearrange meeting with Heritage Officer at South Tyneside Council (STC).
- Minutes of meeting agreed.

### Neighbourhood Plan: progress to date and next steps

The Secretary revisited the history of the development of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), showing sections of the Timeline, which can be viewed in full on the EBNF website at: [www.eastboldonforum.org.uk](http://www.eastboldonforum.org.uk)

He explained that responses to the draft Neighbourhood Plan had been reviewed. In the light of these, changes had been made and would be outlined to the members present, who would then have a chance to vote on the changes. If agreed, the updated plan would become the Submission Draft to be sent to STC.

STC must then hold a 6-week consultation starting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March for all living or working in the Forum Area to agree or oppose the Submission Draft (STC will publish a leaflet). Following the consultation, an independent Examiner will scrutinise the Draft. If the Draft passes examination, it will go to final referendum in Autumn 2021.

Concerns were raised about loss of greenbelt land, but it was made clear that the inclusion of the

settlement boundary in the NP would act as protection of the greenbelt in accordance with the wishes expressed in Forum's consultations.

STC will publicise their consultation in the local press and the draft NP will be displayed on their website. Hard copies will be on display in the Town Hall reception area, but this is not an ideal place for viewing. It was noted that the Library is scheduled to open on April 12<sup>th</sup> and hard copies of documents could be displayed there.

### **Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan: changes made and approval**

Merv Butler explained the changes made to the Draft NP (please see attached pdf of slides shown in the meeting). He gave members present an opportunity to ask questions and proposed the motion to accept the changes and submit the resulting draft of the Plan to the Council. The motion was passed unanimously.

- The consultation will begin on 15 March and will last for 6 weeks.
- As the Council organises the consultation, responses must be made to STC.
- Responses can be made by email or by post.
- Respondents will not be required to fill in a form nor to make lengthy responses.

### **Communication and engagement strategy**

- The Comms group will produce a leaflet or newsletter for Forum members to clarify the process and ensure that responses are made to STC and not to the Forum.
- It is important for Forum members to encourage others to respond. Various suggestions were made for this including:
  - Each member engaging with 10 others
  - A standard text being drafted for members to use
  - A banner

These will all be considered by the Comms group

### **Antisocial behaviour: meeting with Northumbria Police**

Concerns have been raised about antisocial behaviour e.g. killing of wild animals and illegal use of scrambler bikes in the Forum Area. A letter detailing these concerns was sent from the Forum to the Police and incidents were logged.

On 26 February members of the Forum accompanied 2 police officers along Moor Lane, pointing out fields and lanes where youths with dogs have been seen and who are suspected of harassing wildlife and trespass.

Krista Campbell, the police officer who has responsibility for wildlife crime, was surprised at the diversity of species in the Forum area and advised that we should keep logging incidents. In the case of an incident to be reported, she advised the public to phone 101 and ask for the incident to be linked to her name.

Areas of concern are shown on the attached pdf, including Black Plantation, where shooting can often be heard and dead birds found.

Unlicensed scrambler bikes are causing annoyance on bridleways and tracks in the area. They are also being ridden illegally across fields and along residential roads. As with wildlife crime, the public are asked to take photographs of perpetrators if safe to do so and pass information to the Police.

**AOB**

**Littering and fly-tipping:**

Members present were in agreement that littering and fly-tipping is getting worse in the Forum area and various ideas were put forward in answer to the problem e.g.

- speak to pupils at the Junior School about litter
- research any community action projects
- Cllr Carter will raise the subject at the CAF
- Organise litter-picking groups (Miriam offered support through Groundworks to source litter pickers)

**Meeting closed 8.30 pm**

**Date of next meeting: 12 April at 7pm via Zoom**