

Present: Kirstin Richardson (Chair) Dave Hutchinson Delia McNally Grahame Tobin Howard Lawrence George MacCoy Viv Davies Alan Younger Lesley Younger Frank Coyle Alan Richardson Steve Lavelle (Whitburn Neighbourhood Forum)	Apologies: Cllr Jane Carter Cllr Joan Atkinson Joe Thompson Sue Balmer Roy Wilburn Phil Payne Mervyn Butler Susan Lawrence Brian Navi Jane Howarth Jane Arthurs Peter Arthurs Viv Mcfarquhar Stephen Bradley
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Minutes of previous meeting:

Howard Lawrence noted that the minutes of the meeting on 24 February omitted reference to proposed Transport Community Actions which were discussed at the meeting as follows:

Agenda item 4:

'Due to the large number of Community Actions (17 in total) identified in the Background Paper, our consultant raised a concern about the Forum's (and the community's) ability to resource & deliver these. As a result, the Forum circulated to all members a suggested prioritisation list (short, medium or long term) for the 17 community actions (attached).'

The suggested list was subsequently discussed & agreed at the meeting.

South Tyneside Council's Local Cycling and Walking Investment Plan (LCWIP)

Jonathan Barlow (Senior Transport Planner, STC) gave a presentation on the Council's online consultation, which provides the opportunity for the members of the public to propose improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure in the Borough. The online tool enables suggestions to be inserted directly into the interactive map. The consultation closes on 31st March, after which Jonathan and colleagues will review the responses and level of support for each proposal with a view to implement those giving greatest benefit.

Forum members raised the following issues:

- Difficulty in contacting Council regarding concerns over road markings at Black's Corner.
- The interactive map contained a number of spurious/irrelevant comments. Would these be filtered out?
- Where would the funding to implement the improvements?
- Moor Lane – Forum members have lobbied for some time on the need for a dedicated footpath/cycle path. (This will be included in the Forum's response)
- Concerns over parking problems on Gordon Drive
- Commendable that the Council is undertaking this exercise, but will they ensure that both new and existing infrastructure is properly maintained. Some existing foot and cycle paths require urgent maintenance.

Jonathan undertook to take the comments into account.

Kirstin thanked Jonathan for his presentation.

Potential cycling and walking routes in East Boldon

The Forum is drafting a written response to the LCWIP. This will include the following proposals:

- A route linking the railway cycle path at Tiledsheds with the path following the Don through to the A184 at the Travelling Man. This would create new cycle paths across the fields either side of the Boker Lane bridleway.
- A cycle route through East Boldon avoiding the A184. This would pass along Dipe Lane, South Lane, Gordon Drive to link with the existing cycleway on Sunderland Rd.
- Completion of the cycleway along Sunderland Road/A184 and its extension to footpaths leading to Moor Lane.
- Creation of a walking/cycling route along Moor Lane.
- A request that new and existing walking/cycling infrastructure should be properly maintained.

Members present were supportive of the proposals.

Neighbourhood Plan progress

The Forum Executive met with consultant Jo-Anne Garrick on 9 March and finalised the pre-submission draft and background papers. The Secretary reminded members of the current timescales for the Plan which would lead to a referendum in late 2020/early 2021

AOB:

Whitburn Neighbourhood Forum

Steve Lavelle from Whitburn Forum gave an update on progress and raised concerns over the impact of the discharge of raw sewage into the sea at Whitburn. 64 new houses were proposed at Seaburn which would exacerbate the problem, as would the Council's proposals for new housing in East Boldon and Whitburn.

Action: The Secretary will ask our consultant how we can best refer to this issue in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Paths, Tracks & Public Rights of Way

Howard Lawrence gave a summary of the meeting with Lisa Tracey, the Council's Rights of Way officer. Key points discussed included:

- Designation as public right of way requires 25 years evidence of continuous use and can be disputed by landowners. Paths on the field at North Farm a good example. Agreed to leave the issue as a community action in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Lost historic footpaths – public are invited to identify these through the Ramblers Assn with a deadline of 2026 to have them formally established.
- The Council has a rights of way improvement plan, but nothing proposed in East Boldon.
- Where new housing is proposed, the Rights of Way Officer should be consulted on new or diverted footpaths
- Sustainable transport options should always be considered in new planning applications.

Date of next meeting: TBC – Subject to Covid 19 Lockdown restrictions

Meeting closed 9.00 pm

FORUM MEETING 24TH FEBRUARY 2020 - AGENDA ITEM 4

TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT – POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ACTIONS

The community feedback we have received from our consultation events has identified a large number (17) of potential future community actions to be identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. Going forward, the Forum and the community will have severe resource issues in attempting to deliver this extensive agenda. As a result, we are attempting to prioritise these actions based on an appraisal of how soon they can be realistically achieved. On this basis, in the table below, we have suggested whether these actions may be potentially achieved in the **Short**, **Medium** or **Long** term (see designation in LH margin).

We are keen to obtain any comments you may have on these proposals and whether you agree with timescales we have indicated.

SHORT TERM (4)

NO.	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ACTIONS	COMMENTS
S1	Walking routes to school -work with the schools, South Tyneside Council (STC) & local groups to examine how these can be made safer	
S2	Footpath, Bridleway, Cycle route (FBC) Network – hold discussions with STC (Planners, Highways Engineers, Rights of Way Officer), Sustrans & interested local groups how the connectivity of footpaths, bridleways & cycle routes can be improved & increased(creating new FBC's where possible), particularly if new developments progress	
S4	Cycling & Walking Investment Plan - Engage with South Tyneside Council's consultation exercise on cycling and walking routes in theborough to add specific proposals for the EBF area	
S5	Hedge maintenance - raise with STC problems caused by overgrown hedges (residential &agricultural) severely restricting footpath widths, ie north side of Front Street, Langholm Road,A184 cycle route near Cricket Club & opposite Stadium Garage	

MEDIUM TERM (5)

NO.	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ACTIONS	COMMENTS
M3	FBC Signage – work with STC (Rights of Way Officer) to ensure all FBC's are appropriately signed at access points and along routes ie finger posts, signs, arrows;	
M6	Bus Services -Hold discussions with STC, Nexus, bus operators and interested local groups about opportunitiesto improve bus services across the plan area, to key destinations;	
M13	On-Street Parking – work with STC and local residents to develop a parking management plan, which could include resident only parking areas, time limited parking, etc;	
M14	Charging Points – discuss with STC, Nexus and other stakeholders about the future installation at the Metro car park of charging points for electric vehicles;	
M15	Cycle Storage – discuss with STC, Nexus and other stakeholders about the possible extension of secure cycle storage facilities at the Metro station and possible new cycle parking facilities at Station Terrace shops;	

LONG TERM (8)

NO.	POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ACTIONS	COMMENTS
L7	Eco-Friendly Buses – consider the use of smaller eco friendly buses for local routes – greener &cheaper to run	
L8	Bus stops – in order to ease traffic congestion, reduce air pollution & improve road safety,	

	discuss with STC, Nexus and other stakeholders, possible improvements to traffic management issues at bus stops, particularly on Front Street & Station Road.	
L9	Westbound bus stop on Western Terrace (Methodist Church) - this is only 30m from Boker Lane/Bridle Path junction and frequently creates traffic congestion and road safety concerns – the pedestrian island also prevents possible overtaking opportunities. Discuss with STC, Nexus and other stakeholders whether any improvements/alterations can be made to improve roadsafety and congestion issues	
L10	Bus shelter signage – work with STC, Nexus and other stakeholders to consider the provision of electronic information displays, with real time data	
L11	Level crossing barriers – work with Network Rail, Nexus, STC and other stakeholders to reduce Metro crossing waiting times. Investigate reasons for excessive barrier downtime and consider possible options	
L12	Metro Park and Ride (Draft Local Plan ref 3.20) – work with Nexus, STC and other stakeholders to develop options for the expansion of Metro parking. This should include a comprehensive survey and investigation by STC/Nexus into the usage of East Boldon Metro station	
L16	International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) – EBF to actively support the proposed Metro system extension to serve IAMP, Nissan and Washington	
L17	Traffic Improvements – EBF to work with STC, residents and stakeholders to identify appropriate traffic management opportunities to improve road safety, reduce traffic speeds and improve pedestrian safety.	