

CELL TASK GROUP – ENVIRONMENT

NOTE OF MEETING 27.6.14

Present:

Kevin Hindmarsh CELL resident
Alan Morris CELL resident
Liz Stoddart CELL resident
Kay Bradshaw Groundwork NE
Ian Hedley NCC Locality Team
Steve Bucknall NCC Environmental Services
Bill Thornton NCC Environmental Services
Pete Duncan SRC

Apologies:

Jean Gardner CELL resident
Barry Mead CELL resident
Mike Pratt Northumberland Wildlife Trust
Mike Jeffrey NCC Countryside Officer

Main points

Investment in the small Dene

- Kevin had met Steve Johnston from NCC around land ownership issues
- Bill provided large scale OS maps of the CELL area with footpaths and the Dene marked
- The Dene in Lynemouth south and east of the Ellington road was the responsibility of the Parish Council. Further north and west, the Dene is in the ownership of Crown Estates
- Tom Dunn and Milburn Douglas had met with Steve Bucknall to look at NCC working with the Parish to clear paths in the Dene. An initial clearance had taken place
- Liz pointed out that the paths were not wheelchair accessible – a viewing platform would be useful
- Liz also mentioned that the river frequently floods, mainly due to logs blocking the flow. This needs to be referred to the Environment Agency
- Kay said that she had held a meeting with Isos to explore possible funding from them for work to the Dene

- There was a discussion about opening up new accesses into the small Dene, perhaps making use of the Community Work programme. Kay mentioned that Groundwork were using this programme in Gateshead, but that it was not an approach favoured by much of the voluntary sector

Investment in the large Dene

- Agreed there is potential here too, but overuse by quadbikes and motorbikes is a big problem – there are too many easy access points. NCC could provide collapsible barriers or kissing gates.
- The neglected old public footpath between Ellington and Linton will be looked at by NCC
- Clearance of rubbish at the Lynemouth end of the Dene is a priority
- Major investment in this part of the Dene is a second priority behind work to the smaller Dene
- Kay felt a 'Friends of the Dene' group would be useful for on-going management
- The entrances to the Dene needed rationalising and strengthening

Other issues

Kevin asked whether Sustrans could be approached for help with improvements to the cycle path to the east of Lynemouth – part of the Coast and Castles route.

There is a potential cycle and pedestrian route from Lynemouth to Linton (not along the Dene) across private land. Improving this would link well with the health agenda.

Steve said that he had talked to Cllr Milburn about the Enhancement Team idea and this was due to be discussed with Ellington and Lynemouth Parish Councils on July 16th.

Action points

For the next meeting, NCC (Steve) and Groundwork (Kay) will put together a joint, costed proposal for developing the small Dene, uplifting public footpaths, future maintenance using the proposed Enhancement team, the Big Local funding requirement and match funding potential, and potential job and health outcomes.

Next Task Group meeting

Tuesday July 29th 10am – 12 noon at Lynemouth Resource Centre