

Project Progress Meeting

20th July 2016 @ Cresswell Village Hall 7pm – 8:20pm

1. **Attendance:** Kevin Hindmarsh (Chair); Rebecca Matthews (Minutes); Bill Tarbit; John Robson; John McCann; Geoff Crow; Sal Armitage; Jean Gardner; Barry Mead
2. **Apologies:** Christina Manners; Bob Manners; Pat McCann; Andrew Gooding; Max Cairns; Peter Holloway
3. **Task Group & Project Updates**

Ellington Juniors Football Club– Request for funding (Sarah Gair)

An article is going into CELL Life for Ellington Juniors Football Club which will be distributed in the middle of August 2016. Once CELL Life is out, we will be waiting for community feedback and opinions on this project before taking it back to the Partnership meeting and making a decision.

Transport (John McCann)

Community Transport Services: The Morpeth Market day CT service continues at a steady pace with about 20+ passengers each week. So far there has been little take up in the use of the extra service or the new Drift Cafe CT stop. We have been talking occasionally with passengers on the Morpeth Wednesday run to get feedback and converse with users to assess any changes that can be made to make this service more useful and attractive to residents and viable in the long term. There is clearly a small group of regular users who value this service. They suggest that we need more publicity to attract more residents to try the service.

The Friday CT Youth Bus taking young residents to YMCA activities in Ashington has been suspended for the summer months when the take up is small. We expect to restart this in October after conversations with the Youth Task group and Ashington YMCA. We still want to hear from any other local group who may wish to make use of Community transport for some of their group activities. We would like to request members of such groups to encourage their leaders/committees to contact CELL Big Local.

Despite our best efforts we have not yet had the promised Community Transport bus stops with more substantial, semi-permanent signage installed by the NCC. This is primarily an administrative issue for the NCC Highways department as the signs are now available and in their hands but whilst Councillor Milburn Douglas is recovering and 'out of action' we have no way to influence the fulfilment of this promise.

Strengthening Communities (Christina Manners)

Craft Fayre

This was poorly attended this time so the Craft Fayre group have decided that they should look at what to do next. One idea is to have a Christmas Fayre in Ellington which would possibly be better than a monthly one.

Community Gardening

We have been allocated an allotment plot in Lynemouth rent is £15 for this year and £20 next year. The site is quite run down and in need of a great deal of tender care, including a fence and general clear out. We are busy getting quotes for fencing and have in place a group who is willing to help clear it. The Lynemouth School will be looking to manage the plot from September.

CELL Life (Jean Gardner)

We will be ready to print by the weekend and delivery will take place in the middle of August.

Summer Event

Because we, unfortunately, didn't get any young people for the tall ships and it being a bank holiday week we decided not to hold the Summer event instead we will attend Lynemouth Gala on 13th August as we do every year and hold an Event early next year to, hopefully introduce the new plan and/or new projects.

Community Kitty

Ellington Football Club we awarded £500 for team strips.

We have had several community groups apply for this and we are currently looking into the details.

We are looking towards the next part of the plan and would be interested in any ideas that our group can support.

Next meeting is July 29th 10 am at Lynemouth Resource Centre please feel free to pop along if you have anything you wish to discuss with the group.

Housing (Bill Tarbit)

The **Community Buildings Rationalisation Project** Group (comprising of the Institute, Resource Centre, Church, Day Centre and the Welfare) met for the second time on Tuesday 12th July with consultant Karen Wood and Social Enterprise Manager at Northumberland County Council, Tony Kirsop.

The Group are making good progress and are seeking funding to take the Project to the next stage- the development of detailed Architect's plans.

The Housing Task Group are still waiting to hear from Northumberland County Council to arrange a meeting to discuss funding support from the County Council for the appointment of a part-time Landlord Liaison Officer for Lynemouth and Linton.

Jobs (Andrew Gooding)

No report.

Environment (Kevin Hindmarsh)

Groundwork NE & Cumbria working with the CELL Big Local Environment Group have been working towards their Year 1 Objectives, with the overall aim of creating a better quality green space in the Lyne Dene for the benefit of the local community.

Year 1 Objectives:

- Deliver community engagement events and activities
- Develop a volunteer task force
- Carry out habitat improvements
- Create stopping points
- Install Dene signage and interpretation

Delivery of Community Engagement Events & Activities

In addition to £2500 CELL Big Local funding, Groundwork successfully applied for £4000 funding from LEAF (Local Environmental Action Fund). The funding enabled us to deliver a series of initial community engagement activities both in the Dene and in the Schools. This served as both a starting point for gathering contacts to establish a volunteer task force and enabled us to challenge negative perceptions of the site and actively encourage responsible recreational use of the Dene.

Develop a Volunteer Task Force

Groundwork carried out promotion, including press releases, posters and newsletter articles followed by initial volunteer engagement activities. After establishing a core group of volunteers Groundwork then facilitated meetings and worked with the group to develop a constitution, form a committee and access funds for insurance and first aid training.

Carry out Habitat Improvements (inc. Paths and barriers)

Unauthorised access by motorised vehicles and fly tipping were causing significant habitat damage to the woodland, meadow areas and the river. Groundwork carried out informal surveying of the site with volunteers and noted a number of B.A.P species and ancient woodland indicator species. Limiting vehicle access has been key in both improving habitats and encouraging more responsible recreational users to the site.

Creation of stopping points & Dene Signage and Interpretation

£1500 funding from CELL Big Local allowed Groundwork staff to develop funding bids for benches and picnic tables and other infrastructure obtain necessary land owner permissions and quotes etc.

The Environment group and Groundwork have their Year 2 Funding Plan ready to consider with points for discussion included.

Youth (Pat McCann)

The YMCA run evenings in Linton and Lynemouth continue to run successfully. However, due to the usual drop in numbers during the light nights the Friday night bus from the 4 villages to the YMCA in Ashington is suspended until the clocks go back.

There has been an initial interest-gathering meeting by the Scout Association with regard to setting up Scouting in the area. This was very well attended and there is a further meeting tomorrow evening (7pm Ellington school) to talk to potential adult volunteers to run the Beaver,

Cub and Scout sections. This is an open meeting if any adults just hearing about it would like further information please go along. Whilst Ellington School will be where the sections meet, young people from all 4 villages are invited to join. Providing there are sufficient volunteers it is hoped the sections will open after half term in October.

Pele Tower (Barry Mead)

Resubmitted bid sent on 20th May and HLF Committee sits on Tues, 13th Sept to make their decision. If successful it will be a two stage project and estimated costs for the two stages are: Development Stage (Nov 2016 to Nov 2017): £120,050. Delivery Stage (May 2018 to May 2019): £794,950.

Recently I had a meeting with Crown Estate (Kate Rankine) on 13th July to show her the tower, brief her about the project and seek funding support. On the same day I also gave Leanne Shipley from Groundwork's a tour of the tower and adjacent woodland to discuss possible environmental projects for the woodland surrounding the tower and also the nearby Stank Letch woodland (owned by Crown Estate) which could be considered as possible Year 3&4 projects for the CELL Big Local programme.

Any Other Business

Guy Nokes recently met with Sal Armitage to discuss the 'New Plan'. We are expected to have our new plan ready by 28th February 2017, the Local Trust have to assess the plan 4 weeks prior to the deadline date which moves our date to get the plan ready to 27th January 2017. We need to start working on the plan as soon as possible and gather all information needed. Sal has agreed to gather all the information and put it together into a plan.

Next Meeting

The next Project Progress Meeting is on Tuesday 16th August 2016 @ Ellington Village Hall from 7pm – 8pm. This meeting will be chaired by John McCann.

Apologies have been received from Sal Armitage, Andrew Gooding and Bill Tarbit for the next Project Progress Meeting.

Kevin Hindmarsh
Chair
20/07/2016