



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board  
Minutes**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
Burlison Room, Town Hall, Durham**

**Apologies**

|                 |   |                       |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------|
| Jim Cokill      | - | Durham Wildlife Trust |
| Graeme Grieg    | - | Durham County Council |
| Oliver Sherratt | - | Durham County Council |
| Gordon Elliott  | - | Durham County Council |
| James Prime     | - | Groundwork            |

**Attendees:**

|                             |   |                          |
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| <b>Chair:</b> Terry Collins | - | Durham County Council    |
| Steven Craig                | - | Durham County Council    |
| Victoria Burrell            | - | Durham County Council    |
| Steve Bhowmick              | - | Durham County Council    |
| Tara Duncan                 | - | Durham University        |
| Grace Crawford              | - | Groundwork               |
| Julie Form                  | - | Groundwork               |
| Jane Watson                 | - | Durham County Council    |
| Stella Hindson              | - | Durham County Council    |
| Tim Wright                  | - | Durham County Council    |
| Claire Thompson             | - | Local Nature Partnership |
| Emma Barrass (Minutes)      | - | Durham County Council    |

| Item No. | Subject  | Action By |
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| 1.       | <p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b><br/>The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies noted. Introductions were given.</p>  |           |
| 2.       | <p><b>Minutes and Matters Arising</b><br/>An update on the Lumiere programme was provided by Terry Collins.</p> <p><b>Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy</b><br/>Kirsty Wilkinson has collated information from the Environment Partnership – there will be a draft version by the end of September which will then need to be circulated.</p> <p>Julie and Claire have not yet managed to meet, Jo Laverick was contacted – Tara will chase this up next</p> |           |

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|    | <p>week.</p> <p><b>Action: TD to chase up JL next week.</b></p> <p>The Board felt it was necessary to write to the magistrates regarding the low fines for fly-tipping. Victoria Burrell updated the group on the current position and letter which required legal sign off.</p> <p><b>Action: Communications/ Request for Articles.</b></p> <p>Stella's actions are complete – new draft newsletter brought to meeting.</p>  | Tara Duncan |
| 3. | <p><b><u>Twizell Burn – Presentation.</u></b></p> <p>A presentation was provided by Grace Crawford from Groundwork on the Twizell Burn.</p> <p>There is a low weir catchment - many are not meeting the requirements. The catchment plan was set up for this reason. By 2020 the aim is for Durham rivers to be clear and free from litter.</p> <p>Rises South of Annfield Plain – there are a number of issues going on. The catchment is rural and there is a lot of the coal mining industry. Funding streams maximise the resources to take the actions forward. This is used for a co-ordinated approach. There are a number of partners involved in the consultation.</p> <p>2012 – Anglin Cup Catchment walkover of the Twizell. A report was made and sent to the Environment Agency. Split into themes; Zinc, Ammonia, Phosphates, Fish, Matrophytes, Phytobentos. Stanley upgraded their input into the water source. Massive problem of organics entering the water source.</p> <p>There is a lack of positive connection with the environment. There is a modified watercourse; major issues with engineering structure. The area is lovely but significantly polluted. The number of footpaths is the key area impacting on the industrial history of the area. There are seven key priority areas; one of which is the group/partnership formed to bring Twizell forward.</p> <p>The Wear Group are looking at another idea to bring forward as there are issues with the water being tested at the right time. Renewable energy and Fish Passage current projects.</p> <p>There is a study on South Stanley regarding the impacts on the water course and investigating which measures are affected.</p> |             |

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|           | <p>Can members of the Environment Partnership assist the Twizell partnership?</p> <p>Can Twizell Burn be included in future plans?</p> <p>Six of the most deprived areas surround Twizell Burn; the networks are there and we need to engage further with the existing partners such as the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water.</p> <p><b>Action – Make John Reed aware of the project.</b></p> <p>The EU legal requirement should improve the water quality; a sound business case needs to be provided to ensure future activities are planned in accordance with available resources e.g. flooding in Chester-Le-Street is a major issue.</p>   | <p>Terry Collins / Julie Form</p>                  |
| <p>4.</p> | <p><b><u>Britain in Bloom – County Durham – Presentation</u></b></p> <p>A presentation was provided by Steven Craig, Clean and Green Manager (DCC).</p> <p>Key Objective of Britain in Bloom – Impact Design Horticulture.</p> <p>Horticulture starts with us. Planting sustainable planting. It has been a slow season; florally it has been a late season. The south of the Country receive summer weather before the North; therefore when judging as a country, Durham’s flower bed displays in the North are only starting to look in bloom.</p> <p>Plants are produced at Morrison Busty Depot. Morrison Busty is the training depot for Durham County Council – all work placements and trainee staff are based here.</p> <p>There are 14 green flags. The community are heavily involved; businesses are also getting involved. There is an environmental responsibility for wild flowers across County Durham.</p> <p>There have been 2000-3000 likes on social media regarding the flowers. The public like to see natural wildlife not the average short grass. Flowers are not sold to the public.</p> <p>Lumiere is taking place this year; last year Durham was complimented on the environment as a whole. ‘In Bloom’ is an all year round event. Andrew Jackson is the in Bloom Judge; Sacriston has joined and become very enthusiastic over it.</p> <p>Northumbria Bloom results are on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2015. Everything went well; more partnership and community</p> | <p>Julie Form / Stella Hindson / Vicki Burrell</p> |

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|                  | <p>work has been put into this.</p> <p><b>Action: Investigate having our own County Durham in Bloom Competition</b> – community awards. The public like the wild flowers.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>5.</b></p> | <p><b>Updates from Group Chairs &amp; Questions</b></p> <p><b><u>Coastal, Heritage &amp; Landscape Group</u></b><br/> Steve Bhowmick provided an update which included:</p> <p>Work together within the community to push the wildflower meadow idea into the environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) HCA – Funding secured; new rail station at Horden. Bring in Committee. HLF programme to enhance help the coast. This is linked to the European Elected Site.</li> <li>2) Meeting HLF Committee tomorrow. £35,000 awarded to partners. Bring in volunteers with health needs – wider objectives. Linking natural landscapes and people with health needs. Community are not seeing links- movement from the old school thinking of opportunity to look at biomass.</li> <li>3) Woodland project going well. Heritage at risk – trying to find structure. Needs care assessment and resource. Used throughout the year.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Climate Change Group</u></b><br/> Tara Duncan gave an update of the group’s work:</p> <p><b><u>Building Community Resilience for Severe Weather</u></b></p> <p>The project is moving on nicely. Monthly PIDs received from Su Jordon (Civil Contingency Unit) Some of the most recent developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit to Clayport Library engaging approx.50 adults and 10 children (interest in grab bags).</li> <li>• The Chester-le-Street Town Centre Emergency Plan draft has now been confirmed by partners and volunteers. Dates have been circulated for a training and exercising workshop to be held late August/ early September.</li> <li>• An information session with Shildon Youth Group was held on Tuesday 14th July 2015. The hour and a half long session was given to an audience of around 20 young people aged between 13-17 years old.</li> <li>• Regarding community emergency plans, a meeting with Kelly Presch from Communities First has been organised for Tuesday 8th September 2015 to discuss potential emergency plans for their statutory and voluntary groups in Shildon.</li> <li>• In addition to this, an article advertising community</li> </ul> |  |

emergency plans has been put in Shildon Town Crier asking people to contact the Civil Contingencies Unit for help with creating an emergency plan of their own.

- Two meetings were held in Lanchester on Monday 27th July 2015 and Tuesday 28th July 2015. The purpose of these meetings was to attract the business owners of Lanchester in the hope they would join the Lanchester Community Emergency Plan Writing Group. The invitation for the meetings went out via a leaflet designed within the Civil Contingencies Unit and these were delivered by hand to the 42 businesses in Lanchester by one of the flooding volunteers.
- 13 schools have signed up to look at creating a schools resilience plan.
- Filming of the sandbag instructional video took place on Wednesday 15th July 2015 in Durham (by the river) and Thursday 23rd July 2015 at Durham County Council's Depot at Meadowfield. The County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service took part in the filming on Thursday 23rd July, where they were recorded building a sandbag wall. Editing of the video took place between the 27th and 31st July 2015 and is now complete. The video will be shown to the rest of the Civil Contingencies Unit and from there it will be decided where the video is going to go on the internet.

#### Energy Management in Community Buildings

A small working group has been convened to scope out the Energy Management in Community Buildings Project. In addition, a SharePoint site has been created to support the development and delivery of this project and access has been arranged for steering group members. The main risk with this project is resource. The CCG will discuss the project at the next meeting.

#### Sustainable Travel

#### Young People Transition from Secondary School in South Durham

Transition from secondary school (KS4) to further education is a significant step for young people and available transport choices can significantly affect their ability to access the education and training that they need and want. Reducing the barriers to accessing education and training opportunities encourages participation and retention in education, reduces social inequalities and helps people move from welfare into work. For 2015/16, a Transition programme is being developed with older

students in sixth forms and colleges to increase awareness of available travel options when they move to further education or employment. This programme will help pupils to explore and discuss their travel options, identify any barriers and make them a more independent traveller.

The South Durham Local Motion to Work project is making it easier for people to access job and training opportunities and changing the travel behaviour of young people and those already employed.

There is now an opportunity through the Climate Change Group to add value and improve the effectiveness of the South Durham Local Motion Transition project. This includes working with the Education Development Advisor to identify and map young people leaving KS4, enabling the development and targeting of resources to identify and address the barriers to travel.

Again, the main risk to this project is resource and the gathering of available data in a practicable manner.

**Additional Information:**

- Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan Approved and adopted by DCC.
- Chilton Community Energy Event – Maggie Bosanquet giving talk on behalf of Climate Change Group - Running a Successful Community Energy Project. Hosted by Chilton Green Energy Foundation / DEI / DCC.
- TD has contacted Jo Laverick – Durham Community Action – for a suggestion of an extra member of the group. Awaiting response.

**Environment In Your Communities Group**

Julie Form gave an update on the work of the group:-

The last meeting of the group was held in July. A presentation was provided by the Community Action (CAT) Team. The results of each project had a lengthy report delivered to every household – the group feedback was that this report was too long hence a shorter two page report is now being produced and delivered to households. The Environment In Your Communities Group continues to support the work of the CAT team and promote a mutli disciplinary approach to supporting the work of environmental clean-ups across the County. The CAT team have just completed work in the Bishop Auckland & Stanley and future environmental improvements will be

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|                  | <p>made in and Eldon Lane &amp; Coundon Grange – South of the County.</p> <p>The project continues to grow and engage with more agencies at each new location.</p> <p>The next meeting will invite the Hagrid Project to give a presentation in relation to the future of the project – i.e. where is it going next and in addition a presentation will be given by Victoria Burrell in relation to the Garden Waste charging scheme</p> <p>Within the NCS, young people are becoming more involved in the community. Projects being investigated include growing projects to produce your own food which will also cut down on food waste. The Food Bank to be invited to a future meeting to pursue partnership opportunities.</p> <p><b><u>Local Nature Partnership</u></b></p> <p>Claire Thompson gave an update on behalf of the LNP, i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3Rivers LNP and Northumberland Lowlands LNP are currently reviewing a plan to merge. Should the plan be acceptable to both parties the merger will be completed by November 2015.</li> <li>• LNP have applied for DEFRA pollinator grant to support mapping work to create corridors for pollinators focusing on Highways England works. On 12<sup>th</sup> September the funding application was successful; the project will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2015 and will run for 12 months. More details to follow at the next EPB meeting.</li> <li>• Requested agreement from the Environment Partnership Board for the LNP to lead on a review of the EPB 2013/17 plan, to more clearly express the link to health and the environment. Environment Partnership Board members agreed to this and Claire Thompson will liaise with Victoria Burrell to discuss this by the end of October 2015.</li> </ul> | <p>Claire Thompson &amp; Victoria Burrell</p> |
| <p><b>6.</b></p> | <p><b>Communications / Caring for Your Environment Award</b></p> <p>Stella Hindson reported that the Autumn edition of the newsletter is out next week; this will be circulated after the meeting. There are currently 66 entrants for the Environment Awards and the newsletter includes an update from each group and promotes future events.</p> <p>The Environment Partnership Board commented that the newsletter was excellent.</p> <p>Nominations for the Caring for the Environment Award are</p>  | <p>Julie Form / Stella Hindson</p>            |

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|           | to be sent to Stella. It was suggested that the resident at Willington with the colourful floral display of hanging baskets be nominated.   |  |
| <b>7.</b> | <p><b>Environment Awards</b></p> <p>Steve Bhowmick stated that The Environment Awards ceremony takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 at the Raddison, Durham. There are 66 entrants which are to be judged in the near future. The event is a good opportunity to celebrate the work of the Environment Partnership and the work across the communities within County Durham.</p> |  |
| <b>8.</b> | <p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Alan Hunter has retired from his role – his replacement is Barbara Hooper.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Write Alan a thank you letter.</p>  | Steve<br>Bhowmick/<br>Victoria Burrell |
| <b>9.</b> | <p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p><b>10<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, Durham University.</b></p>  |  |