



SWARLAND AND NEWTON ACTION ON CLIMATE

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Tuesday September 17th at 6.00pm

Swarland Village Club, Coast View

MINUTES

1. Present – Liz, David, Kathryn, Elaine, Barry, Louise

Apologies – Val, Rob, Hazel, Lesley, Judy, Bryan, Suzanne, Jenny, Carolyn, Mo, Greg, Jenny

2. Actions from the previous meeting

- **Meeting with Vyner Park** – Carolyn and Liz met with Andy Ferguson to talk about recommendations from the NWT report. Agreed not to do any further tree-planting, but to use hedgerow plants obtained by Rob Simpson to fill up gaps. A number of volunteers signed up to help at the Show. Also agreed to explore obtaining an owl box for the park.

Action: Liaise with Rob re planting.

NCC Grant – Carolyn has completed the necessary report on use of the grant which has been returned to NCC.

Options for November meeting – Jamie Day has agreed to talk about the Coquet River Action Group with particular focus on tributaries in the parish. Agreed to make this an 'open' meeting.

- **Feedback from the Show** – there was a steady flow of people who came and looked at the stall, with interest in the bus service as well as the biodiversity display. A number of volunteers signed up to assist with planting.

3. Project Updates

a. Bus Service – User feedback was passed back to NCC by Carolyn and has resulted in a re-think of the proposed changes to the timetable. This will now result in slightly longer in both locations (rather than a more drastic change to 4 hours in Alnwick and 2 hours in Morpeth). This is a very positive outcome.

Actions: Post on F/b to thank people for the feedback. Arrange for new timetable to go into October Column and other locations. Changes will take place from November 9th.

It will also be helpful to feedback to Arriva about the service, and in particular Kevin the driver. Best time for this is in January.

Further discussions needed re the weekday service.

4. Coquet River Action Group Launch – Liz fed back on the launch which took place in Swarland Village Hall on the 12th. Excellent event with more than 100 people attending. Good speakers from Rivers Trust, Wildlife Trust, National Landscapes and Northumbrian Water. Excellent Q&A session as well. Testing on the Hazon Burn continues thanks to Rob and Val.

5. Recycling at Swarland Club – Carolyn has had a conversation with a member of the Club committee about providing some recycling facilities at the club. This was discussed further under item 8.

6. NCC Consultation on Public Rights of Way – Liz introduced the consultation which is currently taking place. There is a policy about community engagement, and a case study featuring a footpaths group in Acklington.

Work by the SNAC footpaths group was discussed and Dave advised that Parish Counsellor Mark Whiteley has proposed the formation of a Rights of Way group which will be discussed at the PCs

September meeting.

7. Nextdoor Nature project. Liz fed back about a potential funding opportunity from Northumberland Wildlife Trust who are offering funding and support to local communities around the Druridge Bay area and inland to the A1. They are flexible about the type of projects they'll support – worth considering in light of our discussion about future projects.

8. Ideas for future projects – the meeting gave some consideration to potential projects and agreed to continue this at the next meeting when there will hopefully be a larger attendance. Initial ideas raised included –

- developing more engagement with the local community to change behaviours, e.g recycling, wild gardens etc. etc
- Review of the Parish Council Climate Action toolkit to check for any outstanding items
- Promotion of use of refills, e.g. as available at Gallery 45
- A shed containing a variety of recycling containers, situated in the Club car park
- Development of a footpath down the bottom half of Leamington Lane
- Joining gaps in the riparian corridor along tributaries leading to the Coquet
- Installation of charging points, eg at Vyner Park
- Continuing to press for a weekday bus service and raising awareness of the service in Morpeth and Alnwick for visits to Nelsons.

Action: For further discussion and ideas at next meeting.

9. Forthcoming Events (for information)

September 20th – 6th October, Warkworth British Food Fortnight
October 13th – Seed Collecting at Glantlees Farm at 10.00am
October 19th Northumberland Green Hub Community Event 10.00 – 1.00pm

10. Any other business

None.

11. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday October 15th 2024 at 6pm.

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