



SWARLAND AND NEWTON ACTION ON CLIMATE

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Tuesday February 18th at 6.00pm

Swarland Village Club, Coast View

MINUTES

Present – Liz, Carolyn, Katherine, Hazel, Lesley, Dave

1. Apologies – Barry, Elaine, Jan, Maureen

2. Actions from the previous meeting

- **Feedback to Arriva** – has been sent to Arriva re the bus service. Noted it will be the first anniversary of the service at the end of March and possibly a good opportunity to promote it further.

- **Footpaths** – no further progress re the Back Drive with Mark W is leading on. Not clear how / when this will be taken forward.

- **Vyner Park** – Carolyn has discussed the siting of an owl box as recommended in the NWT report. A SNAC member has offered a possible location and Carolyn will explore further. VP are keen on the interpretation board and Suzanne may be able to do the design. Further discussion needed and to obtain an estimate of cost. Lesley advised that Alnmouth PC had recently obtained new boards and might have useful contacts.

ACTION - Carolyn

- **Hedging plants from Rob S** – have all been planted in the allotment area of VP

- **Tree Walk** – Jan is developing an idea for a ‘Tree Walk’ in Swarland. Carolyn has put her in touch with Sue R who has knowledge of some unusual trees in the area.

- **Grant from PC** – confirmed that this has been received. Liz to ask Jan to bring an up to date financial statement to the next meeting.

ACTION – Liz /Jan

3. Feedback from CRAG meeting

Liz fed back on the recent meeting which was held in Felton. This was part of a series of meetings for Jamie to feedback on the first year of testing. The group are now up to 40 sites from the upper Coquet to the coast. A number of tributaries are being covered, including the Hazon Burn (by Rob and Val). More recently testing is taking place on the Swarland Burn (Liz will find out who is doing this).

In general terms, the river is in good health and data recorded is consistent with Environment Agency monitoring. There are a number of specific areas where higher than expected readings have been recorded, and these will be investigated further. One positive is that no heavy metals have been detected in the Hazon Burn.

Further plans are being developed to begin E.coli testing in a number of specific locations, to train volunteers to carry out riverfly monitoring and to explore the potential to remove invasive plant species. All of these will require additional volunteer capacity to coordinate.

4. Updates

Possible Survey of the former Boating Lake – the outline recommendations made a year or so ago by NWT were discussed, Agreed that Liz would get back in touch with them to see what sort of survey would be necessary to advise on appropriate actions.

ACTION - Liz

Wildlife Habitat Workshop – Liz reported that NWT have agreed to fund and deliver a workshop. Carolyn reported that Vyner Park have agreed that it can be held in the park and any structures can remain in place. She outlined the area of the park that has been proposed.

Ideas and timing for the workshop were discussed. A possible link to No Mow May was also discussed. It was also suggested that it might be good to invite NWT to come and talk at the April meeting, ahead of the workshop.

ACTION - Liz / Carolyn

Hedgerow Tree Seed planting – half a dozen people have come forward to say they would be interested in helping. Liz will create a WhatsApp group to help communication and will liaise with Judy about getting people up to speed with what's required.

ACTION - Liz

5. Forthcoming Events (for information)

March 6th – Space for Nature, Swarland Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm

March 22nd, Northumberland Green Hub Community Event

6. Any other business

Recycling – Dave referred to an NCC report highlighting changes to recycling collection from 2026.

7. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday March 18th at 6pm.

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