

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership – Charity Number 1112151

Tuesday 19 May 2009. From 6.30pm to 7.00pm

Present: W Bates, J Blackburn, J Blakey, K Calvert, S. Colquhoun, M Dee, J Geyer, A Gregory, I Hunter Smart, K Haigh, J Kane, G. Kitson, R. Millerchip, S Raine, A Richardson, V Richardson, M Robinson, J Shields, M Syer, J Taylor, S Thompson, R Walsh, D Whittaker

In Attendance: J. Anson, G. Marsden, M. Ridley (Chair till 6.45pm)

1. Apologies for absence: M Bell, R Cowen, N Dixon, B Gregory, K Griffiths, R Jackson, Mgt Robinson, S Robinson, S Walworth, M Williams

Julie Taylor, CVS, presided over the meeting as the Independent advisor from 6.45pm.

2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting 20 May 2008:

The minutes were taken as a true record by M Syer and J Blakey, and the meeting agreed them unanimously.

3. Acting Chair's Annual Report:

Richard Walsh welcomed everyone to the fourth Annual General Meeting of the Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership.

He explained that Paul Dawe, the elected chair, was indisposed and could not take up his post as trustee. Richard expressed his thanks on behalf of the members for all the work that Paul had done as chair of the Partnership since its inception.

Over the past year the Regeneration Fund has funded the parks in Parkhill and Bowburn; the Worship Centre and the URRI works in Durham Road and the Co-op. Funds have been allocated to the Community Centre, Unadopted Roads and the Environment projects. The Community Chest is now completed and twenty eight groups have benefited from the £100 000 allocated to this fund.

Thanks were extended to PC Cockburn for his monthly reports, the community development team and local project leaders.

There were thanks for the presentations at the general meetings and the opportunity to ask questions to:

G Woodcock of Esh Group for updating the information on the Cape site and P Brown of Sirius for the clearance of the Cape site;

A White Director of Naylor's Surveyors and P Herbert of the City Council - the Green Business Park scheme; T Harrison for the URRI schemes, and D Warburton and A Tankerville for the Equity Share Scheme; and representation on the 'Flooding' discussions with all the agencies involved in clearing the drains feeding into Bowburn Beck.

The Regeneration Working Group has kept us up to date on housing issues in Horton Crescent, Prince Charles Avenue and Tail-upon-End Lane Sites, and Walkabout have taken place on a regular basis. The SHIP fund has funded 5 new apprenticeships for young people in the area for schemes during 2008/09.

B&PCP is grateful for the report from the Parish Council, and CDO Julie Anson was thanked for her help and advice throughout the year.

Looking to the future the Partnership hope to see: a positive outcome to the consultation for a community building in Park Hill; a decision for the Art work in the village through the Esh Group; phase 2 of Bowburn Park including the footpaths, and CCTV; phase 1 of Community Centre in Bowburn; funding completed for Bowburn Community Centre, the unadopted roads and the environment projects; a retail site occupied on Ogden's site; the parking area at Somal's to be completed; representation on the Working Regeneration Group through the Unitary Council; and representation on the board of the Area Action Partnership.

The Secretary presented the annual update submitted for the following project groups:

Banner Group: Commemorative goods and concerts help raise funds. The Ohio Brass Band was a great hit during the Gala weekend and the second Heritage Open Day was again well received.

Heritage/History Group: The group had a quiet year as they have concentrated on completing the Heritage Room. Equipment has been bought through the Partnership and Awards for All so by and large they are on a firm a sound footing. They produced their usual calendar but sales were disappointing so the group will respond to feedback on what people want to see regarding pictures. So all in all a steady year with the opening of the Heritage Room their main priority

Highway Schemes: The group essentially lobbies officials and liaises with other agencies to get updates on issues related to the local area. The group agreed: to seek permission for a weight limit on the c12a at the motorway bridge and to extend the 30mph speed limit past Broadmeadows onto Tail-upon-End Lane; that there was a need for a roundabout at the Jet filling station when the 'Cape' site is occupied; to support the local Freight Interchange.. A report to DCC Cabinet supports the protection of a corridor for the Bowburn Industrial Estates Access Road. There will be a new refuge on Durham Road.

Parkhill Residents: The group has had a busy, successful year ensuring that the play areas were completed on schedule – just. The opening day went according to plan although wet under foot. Both areas are well used, especially the under eight's area on the green, which has been re-seeded in time, they hope, to add more equipment to the teen area. The next project is the community hall and they hope to have the consultation completed within the near future.

Unadopted Roads: The group is very pleased that the Equity Share scheme has gone through cabinet and that the Partnership allocated £77 500 to the upgrade of the roads from the Regeneration Pot. They continue to fund raise every week and remain positive in the hope that the scheme will come to fruition.

4. Statement of Financial Affairs: Julie Taylor, the independent examiner, reported that the accounts were correct to the penny. The main incoming resources were grants which were allocated to the Park and the Community Chest.

The final balance of £5593.12 was made up of Restricted funds £3236.92, and Unrestricted funds £2356.20.

5. Election of Officers: The election of the following officials was agreed by the members
Secretary Janet Blackburn, Chair Richard Walsh, Treasurer Mike Syer, Vice Chair Ron Jackson

6. Election of Trustees: The election of the following trustees was agreed by the members.

W Bates, J Blakey, R Cowen, A Gregory, K Haigh, J Kane, G Kitson, R Millerchip, S Raine, V Richardson, Maureen Robinson

7. Close of AGM

The chair closed the AGM and thanked J Taylor for chairing the meeting and the members for attending.

General Meeting
Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership – Charity Number 1112151
Tuesday 19 May 2009. From 7.00pm to 8.30pm

Present: W Bates, J Blackburn, J Blakey, K Calvert, S. Colquhoun, M Dee, J Geyer, A Gregory, K Haigh, J Kane, G. Kitson, R. Millerchip, S Raine, A Richardson, V Richardson, M Robinson, J Shields, M Syer, S Thompson, R Walsh (Acting Chair), D Whittaker

In Attendance: J. Anson, G. Marsden, M. Ridley

1. Apologies for absence: M Bell, R Cowen, N Dixon, B Gregory, K Griffiths, I Hunter Smart, R Jackson, Mgt Robinson, S Robinson, S Walworth, M Williams

2. Police Report: Parkhill: 1 assault (1 person arrested at the time), 2 criminal damage (1 house and 1 car door). Cassop: 1 assault, 1 garage broken into. Bowburn: 3 assaults (enquiries ongoing into persons responsible). A member asked for everyone to be on the look out for bogus callers – one, ‘selling jumpers’, had stolen £100 from an elderly lady at Croxdale after he had forced his way into the house.

3. Masterplan Updates – Community Development Officer and Project Leaders

Highways: Meeting to be arranged.

Parkhill: The consultation on the communal building should be finished for the AGM on 9 June. Residents are fundraising for the summer planting.

Heritage Room: More equipment has been purchased and the room should be opened in June.

Community Centre: Various options for the kitchen and computer suite will be discussed this week. When a decision is made quotations can be put into the applications for funding the equipment plus windows and doors. There have been delays in getting the heating and electric specifications.

Youth Centre: Unfortunately County Durham Foundation turned down funding for the group but another application has been submitted to AfA.

Church: Discussions with Henderson Doors are ongoing and hope to be finalised soon.

Centenary – Bowburn School: There is to be a meeting to discuss the centenary celebration planned for 10 July.

Unadopted Roads: Three Streets are awaiting word from the County Council about the decision to agree the funding for the project. The group will lobby the government for funds - to encourage employment in local companies which could carry out the work to upgrade unadopted roads.

Park Project: The new tender procedures in County are delaying Phase Two. Cllr Blakey is to check on this. A member was concerned about the mound of earth in the park. Julie Anson said the earth is being spread out and the boulders removed.

Julie will get an update on the future of the bungalow as soon as possible. Cllr Blakey will inform of any breakages. A member asked about the timescale for the lights, CCTV and paths, but Julie could only repeat that it depends on the tender process. It was also said that the cost of upgrading the bungalow was taken out of the Park budget. Another member thought that £7000 was a high price to pay for signage in the park, and Julie explained that it was for signs throughout the whole of the park area.

Environment and URR1: The environment schemes are also waiting for a decision on funding from Cabinet. Tamsin Harrison has not provided the full costs for the Co-op area. On Wednesday Service Direct will replace the header bricks on the wall to complete the scheme. This will be overseen by the police to deter vandalism. Once the wall is complete the project will be handed back to the owner through the agent.

At the site visit of Somal's car park it was estimated that the cost would be £65000. This is more than the amount remaining in the funds after the co-op has been paid for, and as the scheme is on private land Tamsin has given the Partnership the go ahead to tender for the resurfacing.

A discussion took place around the money being spent elsewhere and Julie said that would be a Partnership decision. It was asked if the shopkeepers could contribute to the resurfacing as other schemes had to match fund. It was asked if Romaine Square was getting done, but the answer was no because of the lack of funds. A member asked when the CCTV camera at the Co-op would be set up. Julie explained that this depended on the Park cameras for the sensor.

It was agreed to ask Tamsin Harrison to come to the next meeting.

(Action Janet)

4. Minutes of last General meeting and matters arising - 21 April 2009:

When the word 'and', in the Parish report, was changed so that it read "the clearance of the beck can take place from November 'to' March" the minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record.

There were no matters arising that had not been discussed in the meeting.

5. Trustees' meeting - 5 May 2009:

Discussions took place about the URRI scheme at the Co-op, masterplan project updates, and housing issues.

6. Correspondence

The following correspondence was received from:

> K Humble concerning the Esh press release

> The Freedom of Information Office advising of the monies from the housing sites. Unfortunately as, "DVRC is a commercial organisation and therefore not subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act", the majority of questions could not be answered.

> Parkhill Panthers FC asking for advice regarding funding and running a club.

The following correspondence was sent to:

> J Anson to support Bowburn Youth FC in preparation for funding applications for Bowburn Park.

7. Items of Any Other Business: (i) Clearing the Beck (ii) Mr Abrahams (iii) Education

8. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer tabled a written summary of transactions and balances.

In April expenditure amounted to £1273 for the Judo Club and Quiz; income totalled £361.00 from the Community Chest.

This left £4681.12 in the funds, made up of Restricted Funds - £2359.92, and Unrestricted Funds - £2321.20.

Quiz – 'Around the North East' at £1 per entry – closing date 17 July

Raffle for Fundraising: The raffle was won by M. Syer. With thanks to K Calvert for donating the prize.

Regeneration Working Group/Walkabout: No walkabouts have been organised but Cllr Blakey has 'dropped in' to the local depot to discuss reinstating the path on Tail upon End Lane; signage for the footpath; grass cutting on the opposite side of the road from the construction site. Members asked for the footpath to be put back as soon as possible but it was thought that the drop kerbs may have to be installed before the path is opened.

A member noted that the seat had disappeared from the corner of Tail upon End Lane, and would like it put back.

The secretary will contact Haslam Homes concerning this matter.

(Action Janet)

A full planning application for the changes to the houses has been passed.

Prince Charles/Horton Crescent: The central traffic calming 'table' in Phillip Avenue will take three weeks to construct. In Prince Charles the pot holes have been filled in but further work has to be done on the drains.

There was concern about the boarded up houses but it was said that these had been bought.

Tail-upon-End Lane Site: See above.

Mabey housing site: Planning permission has been granted for the site with the addition of conditions concerning the sewage works.

Parish Council: There has been no meeting since the last one. The next meeting is tomorrow, Wednesday 20 May, when it will be the AGM. The Parish Council has, however, had the meeting with Terry Coult, ecologist, re Bowburn Beck, and he agrees that the works (to clear the beck) were correctly done according to his specifications. The only thing which could have been done was the cutting back of the tree which grows across the beck. This was not done due to a misunderstanding, but will now be done.

A member asked if a drainage pipe was to be opened up at the bottom of the allotments but it was said that no work was done there but at the bottom of the fence.

Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS): No report.

Quarry Liaison Committee: A planning application has been submitted for Cold Knuckles Quarry but it is not complete and is therefore not validated.

12 Villages Representative:

Q Hill – banner unfurled in July; W Rainton – garden produce sale; Brandon – youth club started and a community café; Ludworth – 2 raids on cannabis farms; N Brancepeth – ASBO problems; U Moor – community plan discussed; Bearpark – citizens advice meeting held; Cassop – war memorial at the community centre; Esh – petition for salt bins and winter maintenance; S Hill – concern about the future of the existing community centre.

10. Group Noticeboard:

Banner (M Syer): 10 July – Eve of Gala social event in Bowburn Club; 11 July Gala Day – there are problems with the road closure; the banner will be marched from Dallymore Drive to Marlene Avenue, George Street, Horton Crescent, Phillip Avenue and Margaret Court ending at the war memorial in Prince Charles Avenue.

BVC (Maureen Robinson): The next issue of the Interchange goes out in June. Please pass on articles and photographs as soon as possible.

Football Teams (A Wilson, G Parle, G Hutchinson):

> Bowburn Youth will have 10 teams or more next season including a new Under 8s Tots. The other teams are Under 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, and 17 years. Many children are from the village. 27 June is Presentation Night in Bowburn Club; in the summer there is a free trip for the children to Flamingoland.

> Crowtrees FC: It was with regret that the club closed this season as they struggled to get players all year. The club would like to thank everyone over the years for their support.

> Cooperage FC: The team finished 4th in League 3 of the Durham & District Sunday Morning League. They did aspire to win the league but there could still be a possibility of promotion to Division 2. Presentation night was 16 May with Robert Hurton topping the bill as top goal scorer, players' player of the year and player of the year.

History (M Bell): The next meeting is this Thursday. The group attended Yesterday Belongs to You and had a trip around Crowtrees Colliery and down Cassop Vale.

Website (G Hutchinson): Information for www.bowburn.net. April summary shows 6 New Topics, 26 New posts, 68 New Members, 11 Most Online and 4513 Hits. May summary so far 7 New topics, 51 New Posts, 17 New Members, 7 most Online and 3132 Hits. Now registered are 591 members, 1134 Posts, and 167 Topics.

Church: Thanks were given to M Ridley for the top soil. Areas around the church will be fenced off and there will be an overflow car park.

Unadopted Roads: There will be a Quiz Night on 5 June in Bowburn Club at 7.30pm. £1 per team member.

11. Any Other Business:

(i) There will be no more work on the Beck until November. Even though no voles may have been seen there is evidence of their presence. It was said that the footpath in front of Lansdowne Crescent has been washed away.

(ii) Mr Abrahams is confident that Durham Green Business Park will be a success and make a profit. As he is to give some profits to charity it was asked if B&PCP should contact him. (Action Janet)

(iii) A member asked members to congratulate Cllr Blakey for gaining the Regional Award for Adult Learners, and this was duly done. Well done Jan.

12. Date and Time of Meetings: 16 June 2009 at 6.30pm in Bowburn Community Centre