

Present: W Bates, M Bell, J Blackburn, J Blakey, D Chambers, J Chambers, R Cowen, S Featherstone, J Geyer, K Griffiths, K Haigh, G Kitson, D Paget, S Raine, A Richardson, A Robinson, F Salisbury, M Syer, S Thompson, S Walworth
In Attendance: Cllr M Plews, M Ridley

1. Apologies for absence: PC Cockburn, J Geyer, M Williams

2i. Police: *PC Cockburn sent a report of incidents over the past 4 weeks.*

Parkhill – No crimes recorded; Cassop – No crimes recorded; Bowburn – 1 Burglary, 1 Arson, 4 Theft from vehicle, 6 Shoplifting, 2 Criminal Damage.

The spike in shoplifting is believed to be down to an individual and associates currently living in the village.

Enquiries are still ongoing in relation to these and I am lead to believe that the individuals will no longer be living in the council accommodation they are in.

It was said that on Saturday 18 May there was a case of joy-riding opposite the community Centre in Bowburn and finally the car was abandoned in the Community Centre car park. The police were called at the beginning of the incident but no police presence was seen on Saturday. **(Action Janet)**

2ii. PACT meetings: The next meeting is 19 June in Bowburn Community Centre at 6pm.

2iii. Neighbourhood Wardens: Contact Neighbourhood Wardens on 03000 261 018.

3. Planning for the Local Plan in the Bowburn area:

The chair introduced Gavin Scott, Area planning team leader DCC, to discuss the Local Plan so far as it may affect the Bowburn area. He explained that the remarks from the first round of consultations about the Local Plan were being analysed for a further consultation in September. The Local Plan is not as detailed as District Plans were in the past but local issues such as those in Bowburn are taken into consideration.

Durham Green is planned for such structures as rail freight/offices/hotel and plans for prestige offices would remain at the Aykley Heads /County Hall site.

Housing No large sites have been allocated to Bowburn, but DCC have been asked to assess smaller sites within the county.

It was said at the meeting that such sites as The Grange were using their allocation of 80% housing but not producing the 20% of businesses.

Gavin explained that the amount of employment sites had been reduced.

Primary School provision A new school could be built on the existing playing field so that the 'daisy field' above the Junior School would not be needed.

A member pointed out that it was the state of the existing schools which was the problem. One being over 100 years old and not fit for purpose, and the other of an inferior design and it was doubtful if the playing field would be big enough. If the "Daisy Field" application is approved, this is the only access for construction traffic and the residents could find construction traffic going through their estate very disruptive.

The local members had expressed a concern that large construction traffic would not go through the main entrance to the Junior School.

Gavin would raise the point of the use of the "Daisy Field" for a Primary School

Residents were still unhappy that our children of secondary age are split amongst more than one surrounding town.

Gavin thought that the Free School might have a bearing on this problem.

Green spaces DCC is more relaxed about using green field sites, but they do have policies to protect them from some plans for example the one at Parkhill is so large it would never be accepted.

Green corridors will be protected for example in Durham Green.

It was said at the meeting that 10% of green space by summing tiny pockets of 'green' amounts to nothing because residents cannot appreciate the benefits of such small areas. The 'Daisy Field' had been a football ground but by the DCC removing the posts and maintenance it became susceptible to development.

One member also said that some 'green space' should be in a wild state as this is preferred by wildlife.

Cape site for employment: The site is to be protected for employment in the Local Plan. This had been an omission.

Tursdale V Aycliffe The two sites are not competing with others as they both have different functions. Aycliffe with Hitachi is an engineering base with industry supported businesses. Whereas Tursdale is protected as a distribution centre with warehousing. Firms interested in the location would have to improve the highways on the site. It was acknowledged however that this difference may need better clarification in the Plan.

Supermarket: A small supermarket is allocated to the area to serve a radius of about 10 miles, but the market is struggling at present.

Relief road: The road is in the Local Plan and the Fire Service training block will not affect access to the Relief Road as an approach has been taken into account across a bridleway. Gavin stated that a connection to the Relief Road from the Industrial Estates was available. He asked whether residents thought it was more important for there to be an access to the industrial estates from the motorway or for there to be a road to take all through traffic out of Bowburn – members confirmed that their desire was the latter.

Waste Gavin would check the wording in the Plan because it was not proposed to put waste on either Bowburn North or Bowburn South estates or any other commercial estates in our area.

A member asked about the decrease in agriculture and Gavin explained that as far as he was aware there is little top grade agricultural land in the county; it being mainly grazing land. He has not researched this issue.

Another member enquired if attenuation tanks and drainage matters were a Local Plan issue. He suggested that the existing requirements had clearly not prevented regular flooding and the overflow of foul water from existing sewers in the village.

Gavin said that anything extra was a problem.

Finally Gavin explained that Neighbourhood Plans could be used for the detailed issues brought up in this discussion. This would be organised through the Parish Council and could be delegated to a sub-committee. The Chair commented that this had been considered in the past but we wanted to see what the Local Plan finally said before considering this further.

Gavin was thanked for his attendance, and left the meeting.

4. Minutes: The minutes of 16 April were approved as a true record and agreed by members.

Matters arising: Item 4 Planning – comments on the Fire Services training centre were submitted to planning. The connection to the Relief Road has been catered for – see above.

Item 10iii R Cowen will check the dates of the two meetings.

5. Finances:

> Expenditure: £20 lottery licence, £150 Polka School of Dance, £5 room hire (Marlene Avenue) and £73 Community Association affiliation fees + two room hires (March & April).

Income is from tea & raffle net of £1 costs.

This evening £84.00 has been paid in from quiz monies.

> Raffle prize: The prize was won by M Ridley and kindly donated by K Haigh.

> Quiz: Winners of the “Love is all around” were First J Redsell, Second D Rock, Third S Raine.

New quiz at £1 for prizes of £20, £10, and £5 is “Green Matters”. Please support your Partnership.

6. Item for Any Other Business: (i) Police (ii) Old Quarrington road

7. Current Masterplan:

A. Regeneration Fund: The Regeneration funds are held by Julie Anson within one of her current cost centres and so long as the schemes are detailed within the Masterplan they can be taken forward.

Julie has explained that we must ensure that the audit protocol we are asked to adhere to is undertaken even with smaller elements of work, as the overall grant to be offered in most cases is still considerable.

With all Regeneration schemes working with communities or businesses the DCC regeneration officers require three like for like quotes, so this must be adhered to, and it is good practice.

Julie has amended the Guidance Notes to reflect the above. She will keep Durham Villages Regeneration updated of the new schemes and feed regular updates to the Board.

Assuming that the applications will come in as and when they are ready, Julie would comment on them as soon as possible. Each case may vary according to its complexity so setting time scales may be unrealistic.

Project updates:

002 Youth Club electrics, gym equipment, floor, door, path and drainage – the project has been granted the full amount of £11,462.60

005 Drain an area of footpath on the far side of the pit heaps.

A Site Visit took place on Thursday, 9 May on Bridleways 36 and 37 to view the state of the drainage on the waterlogged parts of those Bridleways. Representatives from the Parish Council and the County Council were joined by Mr. Ellwood, a potential contractor for possible remedial works. Mr. Ellwood has been requested to offer price quotations for:-

(1) Simple drainage of the waterlogged parts of the Bridleways, if that is all that may be required, to be done in some places.

(2) Provision of field drain(s) where necessary on the Bridleway(s) as well as drainage of the land.

(3) Provision of Walkways (where necessary) as an alternative to Field Drains or as well as Field Drains, if funding moneys will permit.

Some water deposits seen may be due to the action of underground water courses and not rainfall.

B. Reports i) Highways: Next meeting is in July.

ii) Parkhill: Annual report of the Residents' Association: "It has been a very challenging year in some respects; Our Treasurer resigned then our secretary, through illness which unfortunately led to the death of M Robinson. F Salisbury took over in late 2012. Then the illness of myself meant handing over to our vice chair Sandra who has carried out a sterling job, I (Angela Richardson) am hopefully back to full health and ready to re-join the team. We welcomed 4 new members over the year who bring new ideas – much needed in to-days changing community. We have changed venue back to Bowburn Community Centre still on the second Tuesday of each month, at 6.30pm, due to changes in the Council's community buildings. New lights and footpath have been installed to the back playing field with money from the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP. Monthly litter picks take place and two new litter bins are installed near the Clarence Villas & the boundary with Coxhoe. A quarterly newsletter has been started to encourage more residents to join us. We have planted trees on the boundary of the backfield/wooded area as an extra defence against noise pollution with a grant from 'plant a tree' scheme, the parish council and match funded by ourselves. A website is now established, and it was agreed that all community websites should be linked as discussed at the Partnership. We are currently looking to increase the play equipment for the teens so quotes and funding are at present being found.
The AGM is next month on Tuesday 11 June, in Bowburn Community Centre at 6.30pm."

iii) Community Centre: The frontage and disabled parking area to the right of the centre should be completed on Friday. Work will then start to the left front of the main entrance. Unfortunately the floods on Saturday flooded the boiler room damaging the hot water and the CCTV systems.

iv) Youth Centre:

Volunteers are having Complete Background Screening (formerly CRB) checks to run the Community Gym.

v) Environment: The waste has been cleared from the Cape site.

After the floods at the weekend there was concern about the causes of flooding in the village which were thought to have been eliminated when extensive works took place some years ago.

It was agreed to invite the appropriate officer to the next meeting to discuss the flooding problem. (RC and JB)

Artwork: To be updated next month.

vi) Park Project: No update.

vii) Planning: Receipt of the Fire Service comments has been acknowledged.

viii) Housing: Nothing to report.

C. Future Masterplan/County Durham Plan/Big Society: See Item 3 above.

8. Correspondence:

>ACTIVE LIFE Fun activities for 4-11 year old over the May Half Term holidays from 27-31 May, and a Family Film Show on Saturday 1 June. We'll be showing 'Wreck-it Ralph' in our big screen cinema! Booking is essential. Contact us on 0191 377 1789 or email info@activelifecoxhoe.co.uk.

>CVS: AGM_22 May at 6pm in County Hall, Committee Room 1A. If members, who have been invited to the meeting, back closure, the branch could be wound up within two weeks.

>DLI: 'View Point' is a video art installation created by artists from Kids for Kids UK working in collaboration with young people from County Durham. Viewpoint tells a 24 hour story of a tower block in an imaginary city landscape in the North East of England compacted into 24 minutes.

There will be a free preview evening of the exhibition on Friday 7 June at 5.00pm with an opportunity to meet artists Gareth Hudson, Steve Dales, Richard Bate and Helen Ward along with some of the young producers.

'View Point' is showing 10.00am-5.00pm daily from Saturday 1 June to Sunday 30 June 2013.

>Healthwatch: LINK ended in March and Healthwatch started in April to distribute information to public venues across the county.

> Low Tide Celebration Day is on 25 May from 11am to 3pm at Seaham Hall Beach car park.

At weekends a free Coastal Bus runs between Ryhope and Crimdon Dene – from 9.20am. Ring 03000 268 131.

>Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centres will come into effect from 1 June.

Thornley, Coxhoe and Horden sites. Open six days a week – closed on Fridays.

1 June to 30 September – opens 10am until 4pm on weekdays; 9am until 6pm on weekends/bank holidays.

1 October until 31 March – opens 10am until 4pm on weekdays; 9am until 3.30pm on weekends/bank holidays.

All sites will close at 12 noon on May 31 to enable the handover.

All sites will be closed on Christmas Day and New Years' Day.

RE Tip opening times - there is an issue regarding access for horse riders because fencing obstructs an alternative path to the tip road. If the tip is going to close earlier this could pose a problem.

9. Reports and matters arising: 9i AAP –

Janet Blackburn and Frank Salisbury are Board members as a Public Reps for this second term of the AAP. Flower tubs at Bowburn & Tursdale are to be planted and maintained, whilst the play area at Tursdale is to undergo improvements. This is following receipt of funding from Cllrs Mac Williams and Jan Blakey's Neighbourhood Budget, administered by the AAP. The £5060 funding will also provide a roundabout, a springer and junior sized goal posts at the play area - work is due to start in the coming weeks.

Do you know of any events/activities taking place or are you holding an event/activity over the summer months within the East Durham Rural Corridor AAP area? We are proposing to hold road shows around community engagement therefore any information you can provide will be much appreciated.

The next AAP Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 June at Cassop Community Centre 5 – 7pm. Please make every effort to attend to find out how we're developing the Participatory Budgeting Scheme, which could be an opportunity for your group to access funding!

Please register with Marie Ainscough on 03000 261128 or via email at marie.ainscough@durham.gov.uk

ii) Parish Council: Report from the meeting of 17 April and 15 May 2013.

The Parish had two meetings since the last Partnership meeting: the first in April, was the last meeting of the Parish before the election, in which we said "Goodbye" to those Councillors who had indicated they would not be seeking re-election. They were Jack Barker, Stan Robinson and Billy Tickell, who had served about 20 years each, and we thanked them for all the time and effort they had put in on the Parish's behalf. The second, in May, was the first of the new Parish Council, and we welcomed four new Parish Councillors, replacing those three plus Cllr Maggie Robinson, who died in January. Our new members are Alan Blakey, from Bowburn, Jan Chambers and Frank Salisbury, from Park Hill, and Alan Richardson from Tursdale.

Litter pick Saturday 1 June and July – meet in Bowburn Community Centre Car Park at 9.30am.

iii) Quarry Liaison: The meeting on 23 May was cancelled and has not yet been rearranged. **(Action R Cowen)**

10. Group Noticeboard:

>Banner: BandaKadabra will play at the Eve of Gala concert on 12 July – adults £3, children £2.

>BVC: Issue 67 will be going to the printers at the end of May. Deliverers were asked for at this meeting. The AGM will be held on 6 August in DJ Evans Youth Club at 11 am.

>Credit Union Bank: The collection point is open for banking and information on Fridays from 11am to 12 noon in Bowburn Community Centre, when new members can also join.

>Durham Times: Articles are needed on club, community, pub events to bowburnnews@aol.com.

>Bowburn Athletic The U18's finished the Season strongly but playing 9 games in April and we only had 18 games for the Full Season. We look forward to playing in the Swinburn & Maddison Sunday Football League. Home games will be played at Q Hill, but we are looking for a public house to run from.

>Bowburn FC: The team has been relegated to Division 3, but Gary Hutchinson is sure the team can turn things around.

> www.Bowburn.net Please sign into forum and give your views on what you want.

> Bowburn Facebook page is picking up rapidly.

> A twitter account @bowburnnews is updated regular with news, events, business etc. as it happens

>Fun Day: Arrangements are being made for a Fun Day in 2013 on Thursday 24 May.

>History: 'Yesterday belongs to you' was an enjoyable but not a very profitable experience. For information please contact www.bowburnhistory.co.uk

>Radio Bowburn is now Radio Frosty.

11. Any Other Business:

i. Police – it was asked if anti-social behaviour has been followed up in Horton Crescent.

ii. Old Quarrington road has been partially repaired; it was asked if further work was to be done.

(Cllr Plews)

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 18 June 2013 at 6.30pm in Bowburn Community Centre.

Future meetings: 16 Jul, 20 Aug, 17 Sep, 15 Oct, 19, Nov, 17 Dec