

## Notes of Newbiggin Climate Action Network held 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in St. Bartholomew's Church Centre.

### 1. **Present:**

Cllrs L Spratt, T Roll, A Sutherland, A Wootton

Officers: E Brown, Town Clerk, L Lawson – Assistant Clerk & Projects Officer

H Kennedy, C Hosepian

### 2. **Chairman and Vice Chair**

It was agreed that Louise Spratt be the Chairman and Jane Small Vice Chairman.

### 3. **Apologies** – J Small, J Lang, E Simpson

### 4. **Defining the Focus of the Group**

It was agreed to define the focus of the group into as suggested by Jane:

- small practical things,
- mid-size projects, and
- large long-term strategies

Small practical would include information sharing and national campaigns that can be shared with the community to make a difference for everyone.

Mid-size projects that can involve community groups or be run by the climate change group

Large Long-term strategy– projects that could make a difference to Newbiggin over time.

Concern was raised about lack of community interest in climate change with those in attendance (6/8) predominantly being from the Town Council, and it was agreed that this needed to be addressed prior to setting projects to ensure the sustainability of the group.

Actions:

It was agreed to set up a Facebook Group to encourage community engagement and set a target of increasing the membership at meetings by 5 members by the next meeting date.

A poster would be created to encourage participation and shared with the schools, WI, Community Hub, Community Garden, Church Centre.

Request an update on plastic free Newbiggin.

Asking the school what if any projects the eco warriors have planned.

Asking the scouts/cadets/beavers what plans they have relating to climate action

Asking the Dukes school about helping to design posters and other artwork for climate change.

Inviting organisations to share knowledge at future meetings e.g. Wansbeck Climate Action and Friends of Woodland Groups

Following discussion regarding balloon releases it was agreed to ask the Town Council to pass a motion supporting the ban of balloon releases and doing everything within reason to stop future balloon releases.

Potential larger projects - A cleaner greener Newbiggin, improvements to the woodland, living walls including sea walls

#### **5. Town Council Obligations**

Legally the Town Council has no obligation towards climate change, but the Town Council has agreed to act on it and there is a series of powers the council can utilise in addressing it – a table of powers the Council can use to reduce climate change was noted. However, Newbiggin Town Council is not restricted to these powers as the Council has the General Power of Competence and can do anything that an individual can do within the law.

Tom had attended the Climate Action Wansbeck AGM and circulated information that had been provided.

#### **6. Increasing tree coverage**

Following a meeting with the Great Northumberland Forest Officer the following locations were prioritised for tree planting:

- clump planting on the verge alongside the Sports centre
- hedging around the sports centre
- Behind Williams Hopkins Way
- hedging around Grace Darling School (she is talking directly to the school about this)
- Restock of Colliery Wood

Project discussion focused on wildflowers/bulbs, bushes and trees – the Town Council were to meet with NCC Horticulture team to discuss moving to more sustainable planting.

#### **7. What does Everyone want to do**

Jane would like to use her project management skills to set up projects.  
No one else came forward with anything.

#### **8. Future Meeting Dates – Meetings would take place at 6pm on the following dates:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024