

Natural Kirklees Quarterly Meeting
Held at Unit 15F Ponderosa Business Park Heckmondwike
1pm Thursday 8th February 2023

Attendees	Organisation
Ed Day	Chair Natural Kirklees
Tim Duke	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Joan Vevers	Secretary Natural Kirklees
Christine Senior	Trustee Natural Kirklees
David Rudd	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Julie Hirst	Treasurer Natural Kirklees
Peter Taylor	Burton Environment Group
Julie Dempster	FO Beaumont Park
Ali Stopher	EPIKS & Birkby Com Wildlife Garden
Karen Mayfield	Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group
Anne Blackburn	Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group
Stuart Sinclair	Ravensthorpe Residents Action Group
Bev Corrigan	Kirklees Bridleways Group
David Hirst	East Bierley Village Preservation Soc
Christine Pounder	East Bierley Village Preservation Soc
Mark Corrigan	The British Horse Society
Kat Woolley	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Sandra Wood	Windybank Gardening Club
Tim Scott	Kirkburton Petanque Group
Glennis Lennon	Urban Tree Huggers
Mary Keady	Urban Tree Huggers
Gill Young	FO Crow Nest Park
Erica Amende	Spenn Valley Civic Society
Colin Berry	Spenn Valley Civic Society
Bruce Bird	Dewsbury Partnership
Pam Lonsdale	Keep Hecky Tidy
Janet McGenn	Keep Hecky Tidy
Lauren Skitt	Keep Hecky Tidy
Elnaz Yazdun	Woven
Carol Garforth	Spenn Beck & Mann Dam / Red House
Sandra Stubbs	Spenn Beck & Mann Dam / Red House
Caz Goodwill	Spenn Beck & Mann Dam / Red House
Andrew Lindley	Spenn Beck & Mann Dam / Red House
Rebecca Holiday	Transformers North
Carol Ward	Windybank Gardening Club
Anouk Pool	Natural Kirklees
Ben Carter	Kirklees GEN

Apologies	Organisation
Lynn Holland	RRAG
Rod Holroyd	East Bierley Village Preservation Soc
Win & Karen Harrison	Holmepride Community Action

Christine Sykes	Mirfield in Bloom
Andrew O'Connor	Friends of Dean Wood
Andy Wickham	Kirklees Council
John Griffiths	Friends of Dean Wood
Patrycja Kos	Almondbury Support & Care
Caroline Newsome	Wildlife Crime Officer
Steve Hemming	HVCT
Stefanie Rofke	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Phil Slater	Trustee Natural Kirklees
Ken Gledhill	Birkby Community Wildlife Garden
David Wilde	Denby Dale Parish Countryside Project
David Rowatt	Shelley Conservation and Environment Group

Item	Action
<p>Welcome and Introductions Ed welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Each person around the room introduced themselves</p>	
<p>Guest Speaker Kim Leadbeater Labour MP for Batley & Spen who had very kindly arranged for Natural Kirklees Meeting to be held in Heckmondwike. She spoke about volunteering, saying that the voluntary sector is the life blood of the community. She also spoke of the event, Run for Jo and the great get together across the country. Kim's Constituency support officers find funding opportunities and grants and have close connections with lotteries and Yorkshire Grant Makers Organisation. Kim is Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Tidy Britain. Kim said that the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean will take place between 17th March and 2nd April and the Parliamentary Launch for this would be on 21st February and asked people to look out for that. Groups should go to the website after 23rd February. Tim then mentioned the tool stores which NK has at Wilton Park and Beaumont Park where Groups can borrow equipment for litter picks and other projects. Kim then took questions from the floor. Caz asked about Section 106 money which developers pay for environmental reparation and how is it decided where this money goes. Tim Scott asked about getting a Statutory Duty for this money to be used on improvement of parks and green spaces. Kim said that she would raise this at the next APPG meeting. There followed discussion about 106 money needing transparency. Bruce raised the issue of the Riverside development and active travel into Dewsbury and when the landscape is put back will it include this active travel Kim referred Bruce to Mark Eastwood as he is the relevant MP for this development.</p>	
<p>Minutes of the last AGM and Matters Arising Ed reminded everyone that the Minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved at the last quarterly meeting.</p>	
<p><u>Chair Update - delivered by Ed</u> Firstly, I have to congratulate our fellow trustee Christine, having been recognised by the Mayor of Kirklees for her voluntary services for</p>	

public rights of way. Thoroughly deserved and if I were to mention all the activities she is involved in, there would not be time for anything else. On the subject of the Mayor, I am pleased advise that he will be attending our next meeting on Wednesday 3rd May, just before he retires from office.

Secondly our thoughts go out to Vicky who owns the land managed by Clem's Garden. She is currently ill and while she is recovering, the group have ceased their activities so we wish Vicky well with her treatment.

Since our last meeting, we have had several new groups join, namely Windybank Gardening Group, Yetton Together, Kirkheaton Environment Group and More in Common, Batley & Spen.

Having cleaned our database of groups we could not contact, we now have 130 members of which 96 take advantage of the public liability insurance we provide free of charge.

I am delighted, as you may have noticed in the introductions, that we have a new volunteer helping us out, at least for a few months. Anouk has very kindly offered to take over the newsletter publication and also to go out and gather news from our member groups. This in particular will enable us to write up a focus article on one - or more - member groups each month to publicise what they are doing. I picked her first group as I wanted a relatively easy introduction to the role and selected Holmepride In Action, interviewing Win and Karen. With Win's enthusiasm, I think Anouk now realises what lies ahead and the great characters we have as members.

Tim and I have now met or spoken to all 4 of the Kirklees Members of Parliament to promote and raise the profile of Natural Kirklees with them and feedback has been very positive. Jason McCartney is willing to volunteer for litter picking for any group in his constituency so either email him direct or let me know and I will forward to him your planned activity.

The trustees have also been meeting with Colin Parr and Graham West, (Strategic Director Environment & Climate Change and Service Director for Highways and Street Scene respectively), initially to promote Natural Kirklees but since the economic crisis evolved; to work with them to identify areas where we can work together in partnership and potentially increase our role. Allied to this we are awaiting what we hope will be the final draft of the 3-year agreement for the trustees to approve, securing our near future and guaranteeing - as much as can be in these times - our ability to provide the free public liability insurance and other services we provide. It is currently with Will Acornley for his and Graham West's approval. We also discussed the staffing of the Parks and Green Spaces Team. These

meetings have been very positive.

To compliment the 3-year agreement we have also requested this year's funds from Mark Ferris and eagerly await a response!

We are meeting Joe Robertson and Ruth Dodds (Forestry) as a result of our Council Directors meetings to discuss a greater involvement re tree planting etc.

Talking of the council, as you may be aware Gill Logan is currently off on long term sick leave and Andy Wickham is also off ill at present. We wish them well. I send our best to Andy Goff who is probably feeling a bit lonely.

Back in December Natural Kirklees was asked to join a coalition of groups with a view to making a bid to the Big Lottery Fund as there is a specific pool for projects to deal with Climate Change. Among the groups that are likely to be involved are Third Sector Leaders, Grow To School, Support 2 Recovery, and others yet to be finalised. The plan is to seek a small development grant initially to employ someone to go out into the community to talk to groups and listen to what they say. Briefly the aim would be to understand current attitudes and behaviour in Kirklees to inform a future funding bid for diverse community led projects which build on community relationships to strengthen the connection between people and nature - and aim to build a network of people and organisations committed to understanding, celebrating, protecting and valuing nature in our communities. I will publish the broader more detailed plan in our next newsletter, all being well due out next week.

Thankfully my last point - well almost - Natural Kirklees are working with the Council to celebrate National Volunteer Day on the Bank Holiday of the Coronation on May 8th. While plans are still being drawn up, we had a meeting with Dennis Whittle yesterday and decided that we would, thanks to the Friends of Beaumont Park, hold an event in the Park on that day to celebrate volunteering and showcase you, our members. The proposal is to ask as many member groups to send a representative on the day to showcase their group or failing that to write a short piece on what their group is about and what they are currently doing and to send a photograph or poster which the council will kindly print and we will put on story boards. We have asked the council to provide a marquee. Again more detail in the next newsletter.

Finally - we are opening a new small grant scheme today which I will detail later.

Woven

Elnaz gave a presentation about the aims and ambitions of Woven into

<p>Colour. Every 2 years they hold an event and there will be a Festival from 3rd June to 9th July. There are a number of projects to celebrate stitch and knit. Creating colour together started in 2019 with the aim of creating a district wide natural dye colour garden. Groups in Dewsbury, Kirkburton and Birkby-Fartown will be encouraged to grow these plants together with supporting Artists. As well as using new plants they will teach people how to use existing plants. A timetable of events can be found at woveninkirklees.co.uk. Also 15 schools across Kirklees have kits for the projects.</p>	
<p>Ben Carter from the Green Employee Network in Kirklees (GEN) Ben spoke about the Green Employee Network which works in different services networking within the Council protecting green spaces throughout the area and improving knowledge on climate change. They work to reduce waste and provide learning resources for environmental issues using social media networks. Council staff are entitled to 2 fully paid volunteering days per year. Natural Kirklees would be a good partner to promote volunteering in Kirklees. Kat from NK and Ben could liaise so that NK groups could let us know what projects they could use volunteers for and GEN could organise some people to help. It would be mostly individuals but groups of volunteers could be organised. Volunteering day on 8th May and National Picnic day. Beaumont Park will be encouraging people to have a picnic. Ed, Tim and Kat will progress this with Ben</p>	<p>ED, TD,KW</p>
<p><u>Small Grant Scheme - Ed introduced</u> I am pleased to announce that the trustees have agreed that we should open a small grant scheme for 2023. Similar to last year, grants up to £750 are available to full members of Natural Kirklees for projects that will be completed by the end of 2023 that will enhance the park, green space or wellbeing of the community with environmental benefits. More details and how to access the online application form will be published in the next newsletter. Priority for the grants will be given to projects that increase or facilitate the concept of the activities of the “In Bloom” groups but we are very conscious that quite a few of our groups undertake this work without being an official “in Bloom” group, e.g. preservation, environment, community and residents groups and these will all be considered equally. That said we continue to be open to other projects and the aforementioned should not dissuade groups from applying. If we are over subscribed then priority will be given to applications from groups who have not received a grant in previous years. Full rules will appear on the web site over the coming weekend - any questions?</p>	
<p>Any Other Business Bev Corrigan suggested going to grantfinder.co.uk to search for grants available for various projects. There is a possibility for NK to become a member. Ed said he would investigate.</p>	<p>ED</p>
<p>Any Unusual Sightings Peregrines have been seen on the Gasholder and various other places</p>	

<p>in Huddersfield.</p> <p>Jo Cox Community Wood has completed a wild pond 21x15 metres and are sourcing plants locally.</p> <p>Kat asked members to showcase their events on our social media site. Kat's email address is kay@naturalkirklees.org.</p> <p>We would also like groups to post their events on our website which would help us to show the Council we deserve funding.</p> <p>Gill said that it may not necessarily be good to dig up your weeds. There is an App to identify useful weeds.</p> <p>Elnaz said that some weeds are great for making dyes.</p> <p>Bruce asked what happened to Comoodle? Apparently when Duggs left it just disappeared.</p> <p>He also asked about borrowing a minibus and using Council vehicles which were kept as backup when vehicles needed service or repair.</p> <p>Finally a Little Egret had been sighted in Cleckheaton.</p>	
<p>Date of the next meeting Wednesday 3rd May at 2pm Beaumont Park</p>	