

Dearne North Ward Alliance

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Title:	Dearne North Ward Alliance
Date & Time:	24 th November 2015 – 10am
Location:	Goldthorpe Library, Barnsley Road, Goldthorpe, S63 9NE

Attendees	Apologies
Cllr Jen Worton, Cllr Annette Gollick, David Perry, Pauline Phillips, Alison Sykes, Stephen Hurd (New member), John Twigg (presentation for TWIGGS) and Marie Sinclair (BMBC)	Cllr Alan Gardiner, Charlotte Williams, Andrew Hainey & Sandra Pennington.

	Action/Decision	Action lead
<p>1. Welcomes & introductions</p> <p>Introductions were made to welcome John Twiggs & new member of the Ward Alliance Stephen Hurd.</p> <p>Stephen is a local resident who is active in the community and passionate about what is happening in the area and wants to be involved in the decision making and volunteering around the community.</p> <p><u>Introduction to Twiggs:</u> John Twigg informed the group that Twiggs has been contracted by the Dearne Area Council from their Area Budget to deliver small scale environmental work across both Dearne North & Dearne South wards, with a heavy emphasis on ‘doing with’ the community rather than ‘doing for’ – and will be working regularly with schools, community groups, local businesses etc. John emphasized that Twiggs would be there to encourage local people to get involved and sustain their own environment, by encouraging, nurturing and training both new and existing community groups. He updated his work plan and gave an insight into the work carried out so far, also adding if anyone was interested in joining the Steering Group to come along.</p> <p>Issues have been raised with completing work on some areas where Barnsley Council are already working or targeted to work in the near future, Marie stated that the Area Team is still waiting for the programme of works from Howard Gaskin (BMBC). John gave an up to date list of work done so far: Hollygrove estate at Highgate, Thurnscoe Park, Phoenix Park, Lidget Lane, Goldthorpe & Thurnscoe library, St Andrews Square, Probert Avenue, Southfield Crescent, Tudor Street Car Park & surrounding area, 2 litter picks with scouts/girl guides, 3 litter picks with Goldthorpe Development Group, they are working really hard and have fantastic comments from the community about the work that’s happening in the area.</p>	<p>Chase up BMBC programme of works with Neil Taylor/Howard Gaskin</p>	<p>Marie</p>

2. Minutes of the last meeting & any matter arising that are not covered on the agenda

The minutes were agreed with no comments or adjustments required.

3. Updates from Community groups for action plan update/LWYL

Thurnscoe Park

Pauline gave a big thankyou to John & his team for the help and excellent work he had done in the park running up to the autumn/winter activities. The winter wonderland was a huge success brilliant to see the interaction with the local residents & families, afterwards the cleaning up was needed and John & his team worked hard with Pauline & the volunteers to get the park back to being clean and tidy. Pauline also mentioned the Bug Hotel earlier was a fabulous day and the feedback from the schools on John's interaction with the kids was outstanding.

Good news too on the statue of the war memorial; it has been announced this week that it now has grade 2 listed status, Pauline believes the British Legion are responsible but will find out later. This will help for draw down funding for events & services for Remembrance Sunday. Remembrance Sunday went down well with lots of people turning up, however the song sheets weren't prepared and neither the organisation bit, Pauline is meeting with British Legion to discuss this so that its planned better next year.

Pauline raised concerns about delivery & installation of the bins still hadn't been replaced

Dearne Environmental Steering Group

There have been 2 meetings so far & a group has now been established to work with John on producing a plan for Twiggs to clean up the community and work with the residents and volunteers to become more resilient and sustainable in the future.

The next meeting is in January he asked for people to come along and help make it happen.

John Twigg thanked everyone for listening then left the meeting.

Station House

Marie gave an update in Charlotte's absence for the action plan youth provision, stating that an increase of 17% in children's attendance since this time last year which indicates improvement of working parents in the area.

Big Local

Derek updated about the study day at Northern College & the networking that is currently going on within the Community & Big Locals across other areas, he agreed it was nice to discuss all the pitfalls & successes on projects and how other areas work and what they are currently doing.

The 1st year has now been signed off with the Big Local team reviewing the next plan of action.

The Local Trust interviewed both Derek & Alison leaving no stone unturned giving a right good grilling, they were however very positive and agreed that they couldn't see why the next lot of monies cannot be released so Thurnscoe can start on their next plans. The Housing project may be a struggle so they have decided to wait until the Goldthorpe housing projects starts off to see if it's a good project to start.

Progress on the bins for Thurnscoe Park – delivery & installation

Marie

Allotment Group

Marie gave an update of the latest volunteers and handed out pictures of the allotment for all to see, the project is improving with much of the produce given to the foodbank for healthy fresh meals. The Adults with learning difficulties are learning new skills and are thrilled with their own produce, from sowing to growing and then finally cooking and eating. Jayne (the carer) has noticed a massive difference in the way they are interacting and enjoying the freedom and new skills of growing their own produce to take home at night. The sessional worker has improved the site adding 3 new volunteers to the list; he is currently in talks with another service users to bring some more adults to volunteer on Tuesdays.

Thurnscoe Reservoir

The area team assisted with a big LWYL 'clean up' with Warren and some local fisherman, RSVB, Enforcement team and Russ Boland from Park services to ensure the small pond could be used in 2016. This is a huge task and can only be done in small pieces as there is wildlife in the pond and we had to be careful. Warren & Russ both got into the water dragging out a bike, a bed, lots of metal and rubbish. The outcome was brilliant though with over 2 tonnes of scrap. It is hoped that the pond will be in use by next summer. Thurnscoe East Angling Club is hoping to work with local schools & community groups in small dipping pond sessions and a junior fishing club section to teach the next generation the art of fishing and how this beautiful sport can be good fun!

Salvation Army

Decoration of 70 Christmas trees for the High Street in Goldthorpe had an excellent turnout with 87 volunteers assisting through the week helping to tie bows, fit lights & trimmings. Alison added that the kindness of all the residents helping each other and the wonderful conversations and friendships that have now being formed was an added bonus and gave a sense of pride in the area.

Alison asked for donations from anyone in the community for water bottles and blankets to help those in need keep warm this winter.

4. Ward Alliance Funding applications

An up-to-date Ward Alliance Fund Balance Sheet was viewed by members before the applications were viewed to ensure all members knew the amounts still available to spend on relevant projects.

Hickleton Bowling Club £1416 – upkeep & maintenance of a new spike mower Maintenance and improvement of the two bowling greens by feeding/fertilizing and small spiker machine which will be used every couple of weeks to help improve the quality of the greens. All agreed with conditions they would like to see more use of the bowling green, new volunteers and a younger audience (youth to interact with the group), they would also like to see more interaction with the community.

Hilary Kitchen (Get together & bingo sessions) £300.00 - A Community group that provides a fully volunteered service for the wider community to play Bingo and take part in art and crafts on a weekly basis, The volunteers collect vulnerable residents and escort to the complex, provide support so everyone can participate in activities, refreshments and light snacks are provided by the volunteers. The Ward Alliance agreed to pay the arts & crafts £200 but declined the bingo tickets as monies are already collected and to keep sustainability within the group this should be looked into.

Remembering the Somme £335.72 - To mark the centenary of the First World War and explore the impact of the battle of the Somme in Barnsley we would like to work with Schools to help them to explore and understand the war better, uncover its stories and explore what it means to us today. The schools involved would discover the stories behind the Barnsley soldiers who took part in the battle, and create an installation to remember those who fell for a Remembrance event at the town Hall on 1st July 2016. The school children would work with an artist to create finished pieces which would be placed into the gardens at the front of the memorial. The schools taking part would complete their Discover Arts Awards and gain a certificate of achievement for their involvement. All unanimously agreed to fund with other areas in Barnsley.

5. Dates for your diary:

Skylight Crisis is giving advice on housing issues to all local residents in the Dearne area Skylight working in partnership with Barnsley Council & local landlords, **Monday 14th December 10am – 1pm**, open to anyone living in the Dearne.

PSS will be handing out advice & guidance on a healthy lifestyle and how you can cope this winter with food poverty and living a healthier lifestyle, **Tuesday 1st December for the next 4 weeks 3.30pm – 4.30pm**

#justgiving is **Tuesday 1st December** working with the Dearne Area Team to ask anyone for donations of Christmas gifts or food parcels for the children/families this Christmas. Any donations to be taken to the Salvation Army or contact Alison for collection point.

Friday 11th December – Goldthorpe Christmas Market **4pm – 8pm** Carol singing will be at **6pm** everyone welcome.

6. Any other business

David wanted to let the Ward Alliance know the messages of support and thanks for the clean ups around the Thurnscoe Reservoir, Warren has done a great job, a credit to their group and the social action that takes place in the community.

7. Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 12th January 2016, 10am at Goldthorpe Library, Barnsley Road, Goldthorpe