



## GREENER BERWICK MINUTES 13.02.23

**Present:** Elaine P, L Pepper, Sue R, Liz W, Jo H, Nigel F, Tansy C

**Apologies:** Colin E, Martin L, Ruth R, Judith W, Joan L, Kathy T, Tana W, Juliana A, Jules B

**1. Minutes and of last meeting and matters arising:** Minutes agreed; Pepper to chase Millie from Northern Soul for invoice for food for Berwick Rising Oct 2022 event

### **2. Report backs from ACTION GROUPS**

**Tweed Estuary Pollution group** – Elaine reported that algae monitoring continues. Meeting arranged on site with EA and new Citizen Science project officer for EA on 28<sup>th</sup> March at 13.30. That day EA will hand over new equipment to help algae monitoring – GPS and small white boards. Following FOI requests from the group, and responses from NW and EA, a letter has been sent to EA making suggestions for improvements to the 10 combined storm water overflows in the estuary. We await response to this.

**Single Use Plastic group** – Sue reported good progress with 15 businesses signed up to eliminating 3 regular items of single use plastic. In addition support is needed from 8 community groups in town in order to qualify for the “ surfers against sewage” award, as has already been obtained in Eyemouth. This is progressing well. **ACTION:** Sue to get more community groups to pledge support

**Transport Group** – Sue reported that around 40 responses have been returned on the questionnaire primarily about bus and cycle travel. The questionnaire is still on Greener Berwick website and more responses would be welcome – go to action groups then transport group to reach the questionnaire. Sue has arranged for a **teams meeting with NCC on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> at 1pm** to discuss summary points from questionnaire results so far, with a view to influencing NCC policy and funding, and making Berwick a greater priority.

**Zero Waste group** – Pepper reported an interesting visit to the NCC main recycling centre for Northumberland. An interesting finding was that although general rubbish is burnt the emissions get fed into the grid as energy production. Further info will be sent to Pepper based on questions raised on the visit. The question of introducing walk in to the recycling centre in Berwick has to be raised with NCC, and Pepper will pursue this. Sue suggested that if NCC refuse, due to their safety concerns apparently, that a crate is made available at the entrance to the site for walkers or cyclists, and then staff would distribute to the

appropriate containers. **ACTION:** Pepper to chase NCC for reply on questions relating to operation of Berwick recycling facility

Tania has purchased a starter kit for a repair workshop – general info on how to set up, based on the national repair workshop network. Liz reported that she and Tania had a meeting with the Town council to see if they could help with this. TC have offered their office space to hold next meeting, with public being invited. Tania has produced a vision document which links the idea of repair workshop with a creative hub – this was with a view to applying for funding from NCC or other funder.

**Community Growing group** – Jo reported that time commitments have not allowed progress with site confirmation, but is keen to organise a bus tour of nearby community gardens to keep interest alive. Elaine has emailed NCC Estates re their land holdings in Berwick and possible sites, and has contacted Lions House allotments committee who are encouraging an application for a community plot, albeit with a waiting list. Jo will make an application to Lions House Allotments. **ACTION:** Elaine and Jo – Teams meeting now set up with NCC re land search, and Jo to make application to Lions House allotments. Now agreed for 22 Feb at 11am

**Warm Homes Group** – Martin reported (by email) that the group are still intending to produce a leaflet promoting availability of energy efficiency grants from NCC as these are little publicised. Focus is Greenses area in Berwick as an area of older housing, likely to fit grant eligibility criteria. First of all the group are checking current status with NCC and possible future changes to the grant regime, plus problem with availability of local installers. Elaine reported an interesting development that was raised at the (BEA/GB) Green Architecture course which finished on Monday: a new app for assessing the potential for community solar panels will be available in March via [cse.org.uk](http://cse.org.uk). This is a good website for all energy issues.

Martin thinks around £100 might be needed for leaflets and a few hundred perhaps if the group agree to purchase some equipment for minor energy improvements such as draught proofing strips.

### **3. EVENTS (current and past)**

Showing of the **oil machine film** on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan was considered a valuable event with 16 attending and good discussion after. Follow up event is participation in a divestment day of action 24 March. This day of action is a national event but in Northumberland the focus will be the Tyne and Wear Pension fund (TWPF) which invests heavily in fossil fuels to the tune of £238Million. Lobbying of NCC councillor Richard Dodd ([Richard.Dodd@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Dodd@northumberland.gov.uk)) who has representation on TWPF will be the focus of a gathering in Morpeth on March 24 pm. GB is hoping some GB members may attend. GB have also produced a leaflet to encourage mass emailing this councillor on that day. **ACTION:** Elaine to ask MM to post on website and also to include in newsletter

A **Green Architecture course** was jointly funded by Berwick Educational Association (BEA) and GB over the last 4 weeks and was attended by 24 people with interesting discussion and possible follow ups. **ACTION:** Elaine to thank Pam at BEA, now done.

#### **4. Future Events**

XR film to be showed at YHA first floor 6.30 Wed 22 Feb. **ACTION:** Pepper to speak to Maurice about handout, and Elaine to include in mailchimp newsletter.

BEA have invited GB to join and arrange presentation from Going Green Together (GGT). BEA would organise and advertise. Agreed. **ACTION:** Elaine will contact Pam Campion and ask for cost to GB, and willing in principle – April maybe. GGT are a northern umbrella body that coordinated green efforts and may help with funding opportunities.

BGW and Food Festival: it was decided to focus our efforts on stall (s) at the Food Festival this year (18-20 Aug) rather than BGW (18-20 June). **ACTION:** Pepper is liaising with Food festival organisers, and we may be able to use some of our outstanding funding to pay a sum upfront before our spend deadline of 6 July – Pepper to ask. Elaine to ask MM to clarify on website, and include in mailchimp newsletter.

#### **5. Practical Issues**

For info – **constitution and safeguarding** policy now both agreed and available on the website

**Funding** – Liz now has agreement from Together for our Planet to carry over remaining funding of approx. £1400 to 6 July 2023 (the bulk of the £8500 has been spent already over the last 2 years). Elaine said that up to £1000 FoE funding can be applied for annually, as GB are affiliates. There are other possible funding sources such as NCC climate team and local councillors personal schemes allowance. Agree to ask all action group convenors again whether they have any spending requirements (**ACTION:** Elaine to email all convenors and Liz to coordinate all requests for spend for next meeting)

**FoE new charter** signing. Elaine reported she had discussion with Calvin Lawson of FoE who now coordinates NE FoE. The new charter does not change our affiliate relationship with FoE but some of the pledges including diversity and equality have been amended. It was agreed to sign and return the new charter as required by FoE. (**ACTION:** Elaine and Pepper to sign and Elaine to send to FoE nationally – now done)

**New Coordinators for GB:** the intention is to alternate coordinators annually. Elaine and Pepper will have done a year by May and Pepper by October. So a call for new coordinators will be put out on mailchimp, to take over as close as possible to May and October respectively. **ACTION:** Elaine to include in newsletter

**Social media and website:** agreed responsibilities are as follows

Tania – FB

Jo – Instagram

Jules – Twitter (**ACTION:** Liz to check this)

MM for website with Elaine supplying content as link person.

Agreed website if looking very good, but action group section needs regular updating. Elaine to ask MM to update report backs from action groups. Also Elaine to ask MM to make minutes of meetings easier to find, and to consider installing a “search” facility. (**ACTION:** Elaine)

**AGM** – agreed this is needed – at the end of the year, perhaps in conjunction with a film or social

## **6. AOB**

Elaine reported that Colin had suggested we add to or do our own **Green Map for Berwick** as has been done for Berwickshire. This is basically a list of all existing recycling facilities, reuse/second hand shops/repair shops or premises with locations on a map. Elaine has discussed with Juliana of Sea the Change based in Eyemouth and if GB produce a list for Berwick then Juliana will see that it gets included in the Berwickshire map. To this end we need a volunteer to produce a list with addresses – a combination of googling and some street walking probably. A call to be made on mailchimp newsletter (**ACTION:** Elaine to include in newsletter)

Liz said **N Soul café in West Street can be made available for meetings**, including action group meetings, if we want between Sunday and Tuesday when they are closed. Again this should be made known via mailchimp. (**ACTION:** Elaine to include in newsletter)

**Date of next meeting:** 27.3.23 at YHA upstairs 7pm (**ACTION:** Pepper to book the room) EP