

Reports for NPC Meeting 19th March 2024

ourGreenways

It's just over a year since we raised the money to take over Triangle Wood, with the help of various grants, particularly from NPC.

Unsafe trees have been removed; paths have been laid; three benches installed (thanks Plymouth Brethren); a bird hide erected with regular replenishing of the various bird feeders; fencing has been fixed or replaced; a new gate installed ; bird and bat boxes and signs installed; hedges 'plashed'; some 250 hawthorns and other trees planted (thanks for these TVCA) ; and bulbs planted.

We have held three **events** thanks to firstly Jonathan Pounder for building bat and bird boxes and more; secondly Helping Hedgehogs! Sue Antrobus from Tees Valley Wildlife Trust; and a Spooky Walk, in conjunction with the Community Council, in the Wood on 31st October.

Currently, bulbs are blooming and the hedges and tree whips starting to bud. In addition, we have seen stoats, rabbits, moles, squirrels, and many birds in the wood, as well as deer, grey herons, a barn owl and a hare in the adjacent field.

We are making progress in having widespread support to 'look after' the adjacent field and it's in the draft **Neighbourhood Plan** and will be supportive of MBC's desire to increase biodiversity to offset losses elsewhere. We have kept in touch with TVCA and have visited Hills in Stokesley with their ecologist to look at fruit trees and the potential for an orchard and possibly a community forest.

We will start regular volunteer sessions when the clocks go back and will hold an AGM and planning session soon.

The Neighbourhood Plan

After a lot of work by various regular contributors, the drop in events, consultations, and the work of KVA Consultancy we produced our aim, objectives and draft policies. These are in the centre pages of GNN with a pull out survey, and we will circulate the same on social media too with a link to the survey as an online form. However, the work we have done to bring this together can, and will still, be influenced by residents' views. The paper copies can be handed to Ward or Parish Councillors, or Exec members of the Community Council, or placed in the boxes in the Premier Store or The Naughty Habit. Morgan McClintock and myself met, via Teams, on Friday 16th March, Council Planning Officers from Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland Councils. They had seen our draft policies etc and were largely content with them but there are some minor wording changes they will send us. We now need to notify statutory agencies (email) and residents (Facebook, web site and notices), once the GNN is delivered that the six week consultation has started. We then propose to send out a leaflet with two dates of two public meetings and a reminder of the closing date for comments. We will act on all the feedback and provide a range of evidence, maps, results of previous surveys and consultations, and more.

Once approved the Councils will carry out their own consultations over a 6 week period to ensure the plan reflects the views, and has the support of, the majority, but hopefully all residents.

The Neighbourhood Plan will then be finally approved by the Planning Inspector and will then be the key material consideration for planning developments in Nunthorpe. We know that planning decisions elsewhere in Middlesbrough have been influenced by Neighbourhood Plans as the community has approved the Plan. The more residents approve the plan the greater our influence on planning decisions and infrastructure, green spaces and more.

Nunthorpe Community Council

Our efforts have been almost focussed on supporting the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. There has also been considerable work around the Community Centre and some attempts at liaison with the NMPFA. Our Treasurer, Chris Foggin, looks after the GNN accounts too, and there is much liaison with the NPC, with advertisers and help to produce content.

We also support the History Group and our Greenways.

We are looking to hold an AGM on Saturday April with a speaker. We will report on finances and we are hoping that volunteers will join the Executive - but please note, whilst being responsible, we don't have lengthy committees and these are infrequent.

Art Competition/exhibition. We are planning an art competition/exhibition at the beginning of summer (date tbc and are seeking stands) for all ages with prizes - perhaps the NPC would like to contribute to these? We will also seek sponsorship. We also want to have a concurrent pro loco art competition (people make a painting or drawing of something in Nunthorpe on the day on a stamped paper or canvas). Whilst we have a panel of judges all visitors will be invited to pick the people's choice. We have publicised this on Facebook but more details to follow. so please encourage residents to start thinking about an entry. There will be a small entry fee and the winners will be on the cover and inside the next GNN.