

# Leadgate Task Force Meeting Minutes

Held at Leadgate Community Centre at 6:30pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017

In Attendance:

Richard Judd (Chair); Janet Lavery (Secretary); David Lavery (Web & Media Co-ord); Cllr. Watts Stelling; Paula Graham; David Cleugh; Kerry Walker; Elaine Curry; Kim Walton; David Graham.

Apologies received from: Yvonne Walker; Jeanette Harold; Joanne Clark; Ann Salvin; Les Reay; Liam Carr; Donna Summerton.

## 1. Welcome

- a) The Chairman welcomed all those who attended.

## 2. Minutes of last meeting

- a) There was an overview of the minutes of the last meeting which was held in the Jolly Drovers on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## 3. Structure of the Task Force going forward

- a) The group would have a formal structure consisting of a Management Committee and a core group consisting of the management committee and a Vice Chairman and up to 4 other members appointed to assist the group in its aims.
- b) The Chairman introduced the Leadgate Constitution Document to those attending, he proposed that if those in attendance were content the constitution would be voted on tonight. David Cleugh queried who would take meeting's in the absence of the Chair, after some discussion it was agreed that the constitution would be amended to include: "(d) The Chairperson will Chair all meetings of the Group, in his absence the meeting would be chaired by the Vice Chairman".
- c) The meeting approved the constitution by a show of hands.
- d) **Roles:** these were agreed as follows:
  - **Chairman; Richard Judd**
  - **Vice Chair; TBD**
  - **Treasurer; Yvonne Walker**
  - **Secretary; Janet Lavery**
  - **Media; David Lavery**
  - **Youth Coordinator: TBD**
  - **Group Coordinator; TBD**
- e) **Finance;** The Chair explained that the group's finances would be handled by the Treasurer, and monies would be deposited in Prince Bishops Credit Union. David Lavery explained the principle behind this choice, it is local, helps local people who are in need by lending funds at competitive rates, provides a service for those who would otherwise be prone to loan sharking.
- f) David Lavery gave a brief overview of what Leadgate Task Force was all about and how it would go about their business; it is an action group structured to be forward thinking and

take on projects and initiatives designed to improve the local environment and quality of life for the people of Leadgate

#### 4. Aims for 2017

- a) **Shop Local;** David Lavery gave the meeting an update on this project, the Business Directory is live on the [leadgatevillage.org.uk](http://leadgatevillage.org.uk) and currently two local businesses have also placed adverts on the website (this is a free service).
- b) **Litter Picks;** The Chairman gave an update on the “Big Spring Clean” event which was a great success and updated the meeting on further events planned in 2017 the first of which is working with Sustrans on a litter pick of the C2C through Leadgate. This event is on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April meeting at the Jolly Drivers at 10am.
- c) **Social Events;** The Chairman gave an overview of the planned social event being held at Leadgate Cricket and Social Club on Saturday 22 April at 7pm and featuring Michael Kelly. Advertising for this will be appearing throughout the village starting next week.
- d) **Xmas Events:** There are 2 separate events planned for Xmas 2017, the Christmas tree (situated in the Cricket Club Grounds) switch on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November and a Santa parade taking place in early December (routes, dates, and times to follow).

#### 5. Operation Spruce Up

- a) The Chairman gave an overview of Operation Spruce Up, a DCC initiative which seeks to clean up areas that need some TLC, a full list of the sort of things that this operation tackles, please visit <http://www.durham.gov.uk/spruceup>

#### 7. Dog Fouling

- a) This subject was raised and it is clear that this problem is not getting any better in our area, David Lavery updated the meeting on the last quarterly meeting with the local police and Durham Council Area Warden, at that meeting the Area Warden gave a clear commitment that “Dog Fouling” on public pavements would be dealt with within 24 hrs if it was reported officially through the Council Website “Do it Online tab”. David also said that while it does take some time to register it is well worth it as you receive an incident number and progress emails. It is possible to just report anonymously but that way you will not see any of the progress action.

#### 8. Partnerships and working with other groups.

- a) The Chair briefed the meeting regarding working with and being in partnership with other groups. It was clear that there were lots of advantages to doing this, groups like Sustrans, Pont Valley Network, and Medomsley Residents Association have already voiced an interest in joining up to complete projects that have a mutual benefit to all.
- b) It was agreed that working with others included local Churches, Schools, businesses, and traders to establish a rapport and promote interactivity between the generations of Leadgate.

## **9. Any other business**

- a) David Cleugh briefed the meeting of an area of the St Ives Church Yard that has sadly become overgrown. This area was where, in days gone by, stillborn children were buried but no markers erected. As the Priest in Charge he would like to have the area cleared and a commemorative plaque to be placed on the wall. David asked if this was a suitable project for the Task Force to be involved with as it did not fall in the remit of Durham Council. It was agreed by all that this was indeed the type of initiative that our group was set up for. A meeting to be arranged to look this over on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April.
- b) Speeding through the village was raised by several attendees, the Chair explained "Speed watch Out of the Bag" which would be explored more by the committee, David Cleugh pointed out that when conducting speed watch, it was the % of speeding vehicles rather than the number that prompts Police action.
- c) David Lavery briefed the meeting on the quarterly Council & Police get together meetings that are going to be held at the Community Centre. Details on the next event will be published on the Website and Taskforce Facebook page.

## **10. Close**

There being no further business the Chair thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 7:10pm.

David Lavery

Media Co-ordinator