

**Minutes of the Sustainable Swaledale Core Group (SSCG) Meeting**  
**Thursday 4th February 2021 7.45 pm**  
**Zoom Meeting**

Attendance: - Adam, Stacey, Margaret, Rob, Sam, Olivia, Rachel, Alison, Mike, Adele

Apologies for Absence: - Anne

**1. Planning**  
**Leyburn**

There has been no further response, as yet, to our group objection to the planning application for the leisure and garden centre in Leyburn. Our objection was based upon a lack of inclusion of the council's required energy statement. Rob will continue to monitor progress.

**Richmondshire**

There are a couple of significant planning applications in the pipeline. An extension to the shopping development at Scotch Corner and a larger housing development. The council appears to be failing to follow its own rules with regard to the requirement for carbon management plans for significant developments. It was agreed that, in the short-term, we will decide whether to lodge objections on a case-by-case basis. There may be the opportunity, through the Climate Partnership Group, to put pressure on the council to abide by its carbon statement policy.

**Reeth**

Rob has previously circulated the YDNPA 3<sup>rd</sup> planning consultation document and was keen to get feedback on whether Sustainable Swaledale should put in a group response. The thrust of the document is about ear-marking land for future housing development, but it also infers dropping Reeth's status relative to market towns like Hawes, Grassington and Sedburgh. There is an opportunity to make a reasoned representation against this plan, but equally, the opportunity to secure planning consent for development in Reeth will not necessarily be constrained by losing its existing status. It was agreed that Rob would

draft a proposed response, making specific reference for the need for any development in Reeth to satisfy the criteria of low carbon, sustainable and inclusive low-cost housing. We will then decide whether we feel that it is appropriate from the response to be endorsed by Sustainable Swaledale.

Action - Rob to draft proposed response and circulate for comment

## **2. Richmondshire District Council Climate Emergency Update**

The council have appointed a Climate Change officer – Valerie Adams who is keen to make a difference.

A working group has been set up with 8/9 councillors to manage the agenda.

Their remit is to manage two areas – the councils' own buildings and activities and secondly the broader district to meet net zero carbon by 2030. The group are responsible for organising the work streams, reviewing the output and setting goals.

A partnership climate change interim steering group has also been set up with Councillor Philip Wicks as chair, Mike as vice chair, Valerie Adams, Bart Milburn, Bob and Lisle from Newton Le Willows, Rob and Margaret Land from SFX. (The structure of the group will evolve as the work streams commence). This is a community partnership group with support from the council to deliver objectives in six work streams notably: -

Domestic energy/decarbonising housing  
Transport and Travel  
Decarbonising businesses and organisations  
Land Use Farming and Rural Land Management  
Community Small Scale Projects  
Planning and Urban Land Management

There is also a debate about involving schools and the younger generation, but this is subject to providing a safe environment. The group is currently recruiting nominees for each of the work streams to aim for a minimum of 6 members in each group. By the end of the month, it is hoped to have all this in place with the details on the council website and an aim to have an action plan developed by October 2021.

This will be highly dependent upon capacity and resources and may be an evolving plan rather than complete by October.

### **3. Wildflowers Update**

The mapping exercise has been completed by the group of the area between Reeth and Gunnerside. The Tees Swale project members and the YDNP are interested in the project and after a Zoom meeting have arranged to follow up with a Covid Secure meeting at three sites after lockdown. Our proposals fit well with their objectives. The three sites chosen to review are land at Low Row and two sites in Healaugh. More to follow as soon as we are able to meet.

Olivia gave feedback on a zoom meeting with a representative of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. They are interested in our scheme and already have some mature wildflower meadows under their banner. They would be willing to help with training activities, training in seed collection, short lists of native flowers and are willing to support us in our endeavours.

The 'One Acre Meadow' project will sit well alongside the dale projects. Gemma has designed a wonderful signpost for the project when it gets operational.

Sam has been in touch with Lord Peel with regard to areas in Reeth and will follow up his email to Reeth PC.

### **5. Together for Trees /Tree Guard Litter Pick**

Unfortunately, the tree guard litter pick has once again been delayed due to the Covid lockdown. We have now gained support from Richard Tarran and his team of scouts and Rachel has offered a potential tree-guard collection/recycling solution. Subject to Covid restrictions, we will have to undertake this project soon or we will once again have to delay the work until after the growing season. Watch this space.

Rob has placed an article in the gazette for the 'Together for Trees' initiative in the hopes that volunteers will come forward to help with planting and landowners in the dales will provide areas for planting.

## **YDNP Annual Review of Management Plan**

Adele and Cath attended the online forum for this review on behalf of Sustainable Swaledale. The focus for the review was tourism and farming. The forum was comprised of representatives from Yorkshire Dales Millennium Group, Welcome to Yorkshire, YDNP Park Services, Natural England, YDNP Land Management.

The meeting was informative and useful to understand the work to increase visitor footfall in the Dales. The changes in agricultural policy that were discussed resonate with our desire to live in a more sustainable dale, but overall, our conclusion was that Sustainable Swaledale has already established contacts with all the relevant organisations mentioned in the review.

### **7. Incredible Edibles Update**

Stacey has made this project come to life in the past year. She is optimistic that in 2021 it will be 'fruitful' and provide a source of enjoyment for many in the Dale, both as an outdoor project and also producing an abundance of produce for our community. The new signage is wonderful and really stands out to all passing the surgery. A plum tree and an apple tree have been planted along with some berry bushes.

Hopefully, with lockdown lifted we will be able to engage with many more local residents to assist with the plot in Reeth, and also the herb plot in Gunnerside. Stacey and Rachel agreed to discuss how to get more people involved in the coming months.

### **8. Plans for 2021**

A host of ideas are in our plan for 2021 but many are dependent on restrictions being lifted. The swifts and swallow's initiative can be rolled out with some planning required. Sam and Stacey agreed to look at this further.

Rachel suggested an annual event 'Welcoming the Swifts and Swallows back to the Dales' with publicity in the gazette and creating awareness perhaps on Reeth Green.

Sam likened this to the annual bat count in Grinton.

## **9. AOB**

Rob mentioned a collaboration between 2 Dales Bakery and Sustainable Swaledale Facebook groups to form a buyer's group. The group is hoping to source products with discounts every 6/8 weeks from a Sheffield based company called Lembas. More information to follow.

Paul is repeating his 'Dark Skies' presentation from early in 2020 on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 which will include some new material.

Mike and Anne Barden have offered to provide some High Viz jackets/vests for Sustainable Swaledale. It was agreed to make these more generic with just 'Sustainable Swaledale sponsored by 2Dales Digital' so that they may be used at any outdoor event. Our thanks go to Mike and Anne for their continued support.

Rachel offered her new art/yoga studio in Reeth (next to the 2 Dales Bakery) as a warm place for our future meetings. She is also pioneering a film on 'Sustainability in Swaledale' and is keen to engage with anyone who is involved in events so that she can obtain footage.

**Next Meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 7.30 pm by Zoom.**

**Adele Sparrow 05/02/2020**

