

Minutes of the Sustainable Swaledale Core Group (SSCG) Meeting
Thursday 1st April 2021 7.30 pm
Zoom Meeting

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

Apologies for Absence: - Sam, Delyth, Alan, Cath

1. Planning Update

Nothing to report this month.

The next stage of the RDC local plan consultation will kick off in the next couple of weeks.

Rob will continue to update the group when there are further developments.

2. Richmondshire District Council Climate Emergency Update

The partnership launched on the 24th March with 49 members attending a zoom launch meeting. The group now has 55-60 participants with nominated chairs for three of the work streams. A letter will be distributed to all 54 Parish councils, town councils and parish meetings to inform them and to invite further participants for the partnership. Valerie Adams has a short timeline to respond to a grant funding opportunity for the community renewal fund. This is a priority along with recruiting additional participants for some of the work streams particularly farmers, landowners and local businesses.

There are participants with remarkable knowledge within our community including the person responsible for setting the UK standards for all renewable energies and the person who has developed the sustainability plan for the RAF and delivering the first zero carbon airbase. Rob has designed a fabulous user-friendly website for the group with a public and private interface.

There is huge enthusiasm for the project and good progress is being made.

Some milestones that need to be reached: -

Chairs for each work stream

4/5 more participants for each group

Goal statement for 2030

Action Plan

Steering Group Meeting

Establishing a Company entity – accounting advice is being sought

Third Party Funding availability

Mike will continue to give us feedback on progress.

3. Wildflowers Update

No further progress. We are still awaiting a meeting with the Tees Swale project officer and YDNP representative as soon as Covid restrictions allow.

We have had notification of 'The Yorkshire Water 2021 Biodiversity Programme'. This allows for funding for several projects of up to £50,000. It provides for one grant per scheme for constituted groups for Biodiversity projects which demonstrate public engagement with nature and will need to show beneficial evidence by 2024. The overall principle of the programme is based on Lawton's principle 'Making Space for Nature' and requires supporting stakeholders such as the PC and Plant Life and is looking for lasting benefit and volunteer hours.

It appears to align well with The One Acre Meadow project. Adele and Olivia will complete the application on our behalf. Closing date 16th April 2021.

Christa from The Tees Swale Project is running a seed collection training course on Tuesday 6th July. Book early because there are limited spaces.

5. Together for Trees /Tree Guard Litter Pick

The tree guard litter pick has been scheduled for the afternoon of Friday 2nd April at 2 pm and the morning of Saturday 3rd April at 10am.

Rachel has a contact to recycle all the tree guards that are collected.

Further picks will be organised later in the year when the breeding birds will no longer be disturbed.

'Together for Trees' initiative – Rob has identified 12 sites.

At the end of April, The Millennium Trust will take a look at all the sites with a view to start planting in November.

There is also money available to help buy tools and to create a network of community groups across the Dales and help to knit groups together. Funding is available to recruit an 'enabler' for local groups.

6. Newsletter/Gazette

The deadline for May gazette is 10th April.

The features for this month include the 'Right to Repair' and 'No Mow May'.

Any suitable content is welcome...please pass to Margaret.

The gazette is recruiting a new editor – a 'green' editor would be a bonus!

7. Incredible Edibles Update

It's a little early for planting but Stacey has all the topsoil ready. The herbs are currently in one bed. Until the pallet collars arrive, we are limited with space. Stacey will draw up a plan for the plot. Delyth has some seedlings to plant out.

The scouts are keen to be involved when they are allowed to commence outdoor activities later this month.

8. Cycle Route

A cycle meeting has been set up to further this objective with the interests of cycle tourists and local cyclists.

9. Swifts and Swallows

Rachel has completed the grant application to "Birds on the Brink" for the 'Swifts and Swallows' project. She has requested a grant of £800 to kick start the project.

She is hopeful for a positive response so that we can start with some practical initiatives.

The project aims are: -

1. Collect and publish sightings data over a five-year period to establish an evidence base
2. Increase available nest sites by installing 125 nest boxes
3. Encourage involvement of visitors and locals to be able to identify different species, record sightings and nest sites in use, and learn how to live alongside and celebrate the presence of these species.
4. Increase forage potential through collaboration with parallel projects

9. Website/Facebook Page

Adam reported that there were few hits to our website during the month only increasing into the several tens with the circulation of the monthly newsletter. It was agreed that linking our website to other sites will possibly increase our visibility.

There are 160 members on the Facebook group with 4/5 posts per week. The Facebook page is a great resource for advertising the litter picks.

**The next meeting will be Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7.30 pm by Zoom
Adele Sparrow 06/04/2021**