

Minutes of the Sustainable Swaledale Core Group (SSCG) Meeting
Thursday 4th March 2021 7.30 pm
Zoom Meeting

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

Apologies for Absence: - Anne, Delyth, Catherine, Alan, Christine, John

1. Planning Update

Reeth

Rob submitted the YDNPA 3rd planning consultation document on behalf of Sustainable Swaledale.

He also shared our submission with Councillor Richard Good. Richard has subsequently attended Reeth PC meeting and the PC asked for and received a copy of our submission which informed their own response to the planning consultation. The PC have reiterated our concerns in their submission about Reeth essentially being downgraded to a large village.

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

2. Richmondshire District Council Climate Emergency Update

The community partnership climate change group is finally progressing at pace. An introductory meeting for each of the six work streams has been set up from 15th March over five evenings. This will give the participants of each group the opportunity to meet for the first time.

There will be a launch meeting for all participants by zoom on 24th March. This will commence with an introduction from the Leader of RDC and will also be attended by representatives from York and Humber Climate Alliance. There will be a run through of how the partnership will work and an opportunity for Q and A.

A press release will follow.

The partnership is open to volunteers and more are welcome to join to encourage representation from a wider area. Currently the representatives are largely from Richmond, Swaledale, Tunstall and Newton Le Willows. More nominees from, or via, SS would be welcome.

Mike will continue to give us feedback on progress.

Reeth Parish Council requested our comments on The Climate and Ecological Bill

The Bill set to be presented to Parliament has been sponsored by The Green Party, and Reeth PC is considering whether they should respond. They have asked Sustainable Swaledale to provide some comments on the Bill as part of the input to their deliberations.

SS members agreed that it was an important bill to support. It resonates well with our work and that of the RDC Climate Partnership group. From a local perspective the bill recognises that agriculture will continue to be a carbon producing activity which will need to be offset. There is nothing threatening to the PC by supporting the Bill.

The group appreciated the PC asking for our comments and Rob pointed out that the contact will hopefully help to define our relationship with the PC.

Mike will draft a response to Reeth PC on our behalf

3. Wildflowers Update

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

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust representative reported back to Olivia that unfortunately there is no opportunity to obtain green haylage from the Muker wildflower meadows to help with seeds.

Margaret pointed out that there is a wildflower meadow at Hudson House and the team there may have some expertise that we can tap into.

5. Together for Trees /Tree Guard Litter Pick

The tree guard litter pick continues to be delayed due to the Covid lockdown however Rob has a date of 29th March when a group of 6 will be able to work on this project.

The article Rob placed in the gazette for the 'Together for Trees' initiative has provided 6 potential sites for planting. Rob has gathered the initial survey information required by the Millennium Trust with a view to commence planting at the end of this year if the schemes are approved. The applicants are also keen on wildflower schemes and bird boxes. All the sites are viable and will create a total of 2 acres. Rob is hoping to find a few more sites and will share some of the tree planting training webinars with the group members.

6. Newsletter/Gazette/Website

Margaret has continued her excellent contribution to the gazette and newsletter. The deadline for April gazette is 10th March. The features for this month include World Curlew Day and the newsletter will feature details of the Lembus group buying scheme. Any suitable content is welcome...please pass to Margaret.

Adam will check the hit count on our website and will feed back to the group next month.

7. Incredible Edibles Update

Hopefully, when lockdown is lifted, we will be able to commence planting for this growing season. Stacey would like to set up a regular evening when a member of SS will be at the community garden to engage with local residents and encourage others to get involved.

8. Plans for 2021

Cycle Route

Adam to speak to Jill to determine if there is any progress on the cycle route from Richmond into the dale.

Swifts and Swallows

Stacey, Sam, Alison and Rachel have met to research 'welcoming swifts and swallows' to the dales and opportunities for grant funding for nesting boxes.

Alison obtained information from the RSPB and Sam has written an article in the gazette for the April issue. Leaflets obtained can be used to engage with both local residents and visitors.

There is an opportunity to apply for a grant of a minimum of £250 to spend on nest boxes, develop leaflets and print merchandise and then use the proceeds to raise funds for the project in following years.

Hopefully we can run a pilot project this year and continue to develop the scheme annually. Rachel has suggested connecting with Reeth Rural Network installers and local builders to determine if they can support the scheme by installing nesting boxes for residents whilst they are working on properties locally.

Rachel will continue to work on the grant application.

9. AOB

Mike and Anne Barden have ordered the High Viz jackets/vests for Sustainable Swaledale. Thank you.

Next Meeting Thursday 1st April 7.30 pm by Zoom.

Adele Sparrow 05/03/2020

