**Sunderland Green & Open Spaces Forum – SGOSF**

**Open Meeting Monday 9 September 2019, Sunderland Minster**

1. **Present:** Ashley Sutherland(Friends of Mowbray Park, FoMP & Tunstall Hills Protection Group, THPG), Becky Vickers (Groundwork NE & Cumbria), Darinda Kealoha (Durham Wildlife Trust, DWT), Christine Parker (Friends of Princess Anne Park), David Newrick (SGOSF), Graeme Jobes (Space 2 Grow), Jenny French (Friends of Herrington Country Park - FoHCP), Kathy Pickering Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park- FOHLCP& Roker Park), Tim Wright (Friends of Barnes Park & Red Machine Allotment Association – Chair), Victor Cadaxa (FoHCP – notes) **Apologies:** Ann Huntley

**In attendance:** Sharon Lashley, Climate Action North East (CANE)

1. **Notes of last Forum meeting**

There were no notes because this turned into a site walk and talk.

1. **Sharon Lashley** gave a illustrated presentation outlining some of the practical activities CANE had been involved in:
* Re-wilding the North’s Business Parks including Dalton Park, Darlington, Sunderland BIC phase 2, Team Valley – promoted as a solution for climate change and seeks to encourage planting sensitive for bees
* Pollinator Parks pilot project: NE Business Initiatives C, Sunderland March 2019
* Maiden Wild 6-acre plot re-wilding for pollinators, 200 plants May 2019
* Re-wilding & Climate Change Hub: re-wilding events e.g. large event with Chris Packham.
* Green Heart Initiatives, including schools projects e.g. Whalton Primary, Northumberland
* Climate Action and Business Resilience Toolkits
* Beach Cleans e.g. Roker beach – well supported! (World Oceans Day 2018?)

CANE works in partnerships with business and voluntary organisation sponsors e.g. Washington Wetlands, Durham and Northumberland Wildlife Trusts. Future plans include: Bees for Business event, 7/11/ 19

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bees-for-business-tickets-69220140303>

**Discussion:** Becky spoke of Groundwork practical mini-projects, with media coverage. Jenny/Victor to check on Herrington CP wildlife meadows – possible FoHCP/SGOSF pollinator project.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H8EW1pKtQRP-YJQmkzaOYMCKZXXbiLFH/view>

1. **SGOSF update:** Tim summarised the Forum’s main activities over the last six months (see attached summary). The highlight has been an award of £5,980 from the National Lottery Community Fund which will contribute towards sustaining the Forum.
2. **Open Space:**

David: it is essential to get a firm basis/agreement for land left derelict/in effect, to develop gardening projects, so avoiding claims on the land by others later on.

Jenny: loss of public land is a problem, where green/brownfield land is fenced off by individuals or organisations who later claim ownership, often successfully.

Darinda: DWT can help Friends groups to identify different uses for parks and green spaces.

Ashley: THPG had a talk on wildlife in Tunstall Hills following which a sparrow hawk was spotted on a recent visit. A recent lick pick included eight volunteers and some children. DWT staff are leading a flower walk and THPG is applying to the VCS Community Chest for equipment.

FoMP: 16 people joined a guided walk; a geology walk will be on 20 Oct.

Kathy: FoHLCP has half-term environmental education sessions with DWT including 29/10/19, 1-3pm one on hedgehogs and hibernation.

Graeme: Climate Strike week of action is 20-27/9/19 with several events in Sunderland. Sunderland University Students’ Union and Climate Emergency & Extinction Rebellion groups are involved and all are welcome. A leaflet with events was distributed.

Becky: see discussion under 3 above.

1. **AOB:**

None

1. **Date and time of next meeting**

The role of the Environmental Records Information Centre (ERIC), Paul Stephens. Monday December 2nd, 2019, 18.00-20.00, Washington Leisure Centre

ERIC works with wildlife recording groups and individuals to collate environmental data which is used to inform nature conservation.