**Sunderland Green & Open Spaces (SGOS) Forum – notes of 5thJune 2018 meeting**

**Present:** Kathy Pickering- KP (*HLCP*) ; David Newrick - DN (*Sustainable Sunderland)*;Gillan Gibson - GG(*CPRE*); Graeme Jobes - GJ (*A Space 2 Grow*)*;* Tim Wright – TW Chaired the meeting (*Friends of Barnes Park/Red Machine Allotment Association); Kirsty Hutchinson – KH (Wear Rivers Trust); Shaun Stevenson - SS (Transition Sunderland); Laura Kelley – LK (Transition Sunderland); Ashley Sutherland – AS (Fiends of Mowbray Park and Tunstall Hills Protection Group).*

**Apologies:**

Allan Rowell

**1. Notes from previous meeting:**  Agreed as a correct record recognising incorrect spelling, should be ‘Tunstall’ not ‘Tunston’ (p3)

**2. Matters Arising:**

* Green Flag Report – Not received from SCC
* Parks Management Plans – Not received from SCC.
* Needs assessment work – No update received from SCC
* Volunteering – different roles, discovering what’s available, signposting process
* Ongoing dialogue/communication with SCC – Awaiting further communication
* Support for Friends of Mowbray Park. The whole group to liaise for ideas and ways to support the friends of Mowbray Park.

**3. The role and function of the Wear Rivers Trust**

Kirsty Hutchinson attended the meeting as representative of the Trust. Kirsty confirmed that a copy of her slide show would be available to the group as point of reference.

Kirsty confirmed that the Trust is a registered charity. The who’s who and background will be sent by email. The Trust is part of the umbrella of the Rivers Trusts Nationally. Kirsty confirmed the current focus is outside the Sunderland Centre and this is partially due to funding but they have been and are involved in projects such as:-

* ‘Metal Mines Project’ with the NUM where contaminated water had been released into sources of the Wear.
* Educational Projects in the area – Lucy Lovett
* The Lanchester Flood Plain – which is an identified flood risk The WRT (Wear Rivers Trust) work with Durham County Council and Northumbrian Water in respect to flood management.

Kirsty did say there was further projects coming in 2019 which will include:-

* Work with the EU funding for Carbon Connect to deal with waste in rivers
* Wear Catchment Strategic Partnership (based at the Spectrum Seaham Business Centre) – Volunteers needed and corporate sponsorship and donations.
* As part of their role – pollution on the Wear can be reported direct to the Trust or DCC or Durham Wildlife Trust.
* It was agreed that part of their role is educational in respect to the blue infrastructure in Sunderland but the majority of their management programmes are focused at the sources of the river Wear.

Action : Kirsty to provide an email with the details of Trust and how to be involved to TW who will circulate accordingly.

**4. Open Space**

a) KP - commented HLCP has had issues in respect to managing Traveller use of Park land and they are working the council to find solutions and ensure protection of the park and its green habitats.

(b) AS – Events with Tunstall Hill Protection Group:- 16th June Litterpick 11am – 2pm. 8th July Wildflower Walk Saturday 2pm

(c) DN – attended the Sunderland Climate Change Group and will feedback wherever needed.

(d) GG –Core Strategy and Development Plan:-Gillan Gibson CPRE provided and update to the group, after which the Forum discussed the following points:-

* Group encouraged to look out for updates and notifications in respect to the plan. Join email list.
* Local Planning Policy due imminently (June 2018) Allocations Plan - expected summer 2018. Register with (if not already ) with planning dept)
* Suggested we – as forum – share any news in relation to any building on greenbelt green sites.

**5. Feedback from Interim Committee:** Ongoing and will be updated to members by email and at the next full meeting .

**6. Any other business**

None

**7. Date, time & venue for meetings:** Proposed for 11.9.18 with suggestion speakers from Council to attend (TW to follow up)

Post meeting note: The meeting scheduled for 11/9/18 is cancelled so the next will be Tuesday 27th November, 2018 where it is planned to launch the Forum