

Visit to Sleekburn Suez Plant

The visit to the plant was very informative and Sarah, along with Cllrs Caroline Ball, Marjorie Chambers, Louis Brown, and Pauline Thompson, got a lot out of it. We will share a press release on the visit before the end of Great Big Green Week.

Additionally, we are waiting for a link to a video that was filmed at the plant (I can't find it online), so we can have a look and see if it appeals in the way the Council had suggested, with the aim of educating people about using the correct bins. The site manager would be more than happy for the Council to make their own video featuring the plant, which we discussed may be a project we could get LUKLUK filming involved in, with local people, schools, etc.

We took some short videos ourselves and it was unbelievable what some people discard into recycling. On a positive note, it was helpful to see the result of used, sorted and packed recycling that can be sold to off set the cost of the plant.

Carbon Literacy Training

Cllrs will have completed the training and their pledges, and we will be informed of the outcome in due course. Once members are signed off as Carbon Literate we will arrange for a presentation of certificates and some publicity for the Council and the course. ATC is the first Council in this area to undergo the training.

In pursuit of our priority to 'Fight the effects of Climate Change' it would be good to share the experience with others in the hope that the training will be taken up.

We would expect that Cllrs' pledges will translate to motions for the agenda. If anyone wants to speak to officers prior to working up a motion, please let us know.

Litter Picking Group Meeting

A coffee morning was held with volunteers, Cllrs, and officers from ATC and NCC. Various initiatives were discussed; those concerning action by ATC will be brought forward for consideration by the Council when time allows. NCC agreed a dedicated email address for litter pickers making reports and there was a greater appreciation of the challenges on both sides.

Amanda from Asda took away a suggestion for vape disposal in store, as they already collect batteries. The continued offer to support with positive publicity, recruiting new volunteers and attending events was also reinforced.

Love Ashington

Following positive feedback on the Council's barrier planters, Gary had the idea of sharing photographs from members of the public, of their favourite places in Ashington. We all loved the idea and the positive about Ashington message and have included a question to seek further engagement. Members on Facebook may have seen some of the images shared.

Repurposeful

We have engaged with a new social enterprise that hopes to open in Ashington with a 'scrap shop'. You can check out similar using the links below:

[Scrapstores Film \(reusefuluk.org\)](https://reusefuluk.org)

[Virtual Tour | ScrapStore Hull](#)

[Facebook](#)

The aim is to repurpose waste materials from businesses as resources for arts and crafts, namely for community groups and schools. They need a venue to work out of, specifying Hirst Welfare as ideal. We have suggested contacts and will invite Vicky Morgan to the next CCE Committee.

National Lottery Community Fund Application

Martin Conway from NCVA achieved funding from VONNE and Going Green Together (www.goinggreentogether.org) and advised that he has been holding consultations with members of the community across Hirst in particular. Looking at the relevance of climate change in a disadvantaged community and what the reality is on the ground for people in their daily lives.

This needs to move to the 'project development' stage which means pulling together stakeholders from across Ashington, of which we are one, to look at the findings. The aim is to discuss the practicality of a larger funding application with VONNE to the National Lottery Community Fund. We had planned for Martin to attend this meeting, but this has been put back to the next.

Great Big Green Week

To be updated.

Tree Planting – The Great Northumberland Forest

To be updated.

Groundwork Northeast – Wansbeck Estuary

To be updated.