

Allotment Liaison Meetings

A further meeting is arranged with Allotment Associations to discuss the information sourced so far in regards Management Agreements, Tenancy Agreements and Allotment Rules.

NCC ATC Partnership Meeting

A reminder that the next quarterly partnership meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 22nd September**. Prior to the meeting at 11:30am in the Council Chamber, members of Ashington Town Council and Northumberland County Council Neighbourhood Services will enjoy an informal breakfast teambuilding event at the YMCA. All Cllrs and staff are welcome.

Christmas Lighting – New Contract

All columns have now been tested, and the work required is included in the budget review, for agreement. As this is a legal, health and safety requirement, the work must be carried out. Parts have been ordered, following consultation with the Chair, and we are liaising with NCC Lighting for the required permissions.

CCTV

All newly agreed CCTV is now operational.

Officers met with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and NCC Officer Lindsay Green in advance of the Tender Opportunity for Station Road. A preferred supplier option is considered most appropriate, with a decision scheduled for the October FGS Meeting.

Public Access Defibrillators

Work has progressed well. All County Cllrs responded to support investment in two defibrillators each. Officers are plotting suggested locations onto maps to allow a better-informed decision that gives greater coverage, and ensures they are spaced out. The Council has registered with The Circuit and have written to North East Ambulance Service with plans. Paperwork has been prepared that will assist proposed guardians of the equipment. We cannot place an order until we have the required building owner permission and confirmation of a named guardian. Once all 12 locations and guardians are confirmed, the order will be placed and installs carried out without delay.

Schools Initiative - Sustainable Planting

The Station Road Sustainable Planting Press Release was very well received across our media, as well as featuring in NCC Climate Newsletter, Northumberland Gazette and the Clerk and Councils Direct.

Northumberland Miners' Picnic

Officers attended a meeting with Rowan Brown to discuss the event held in this year. A further meeting is being scheduled with John Dunn. Following this a review of the event and future considerations will be brought before the Council.

Jack Charlton Statue/Ashington's Football Heritage

The Planning Application for the Jack Charlton Statue and Ashington Footballing Heritage is live, with an end date of 23rd September.

The Licence with Northumberland County Council is included on the agenda, as is the agreement of a budget for the unveiling event. All plans are proceeding well.

It is hoped that by the time of the meeting, Northumberland FA will have confirmed their agreement to allow several teams to play in a football festival during black-out weekend. Ashington Town FC are very keen to arrange this, they arranged a similar event in July last year. This would be a legacy event.

Great Big Green Week

Plans have progressed well. NCC agreed that all stalls would be at zero cost, which allowed the budget to be used on climate conscious giveaways. Plans for the event have been shared across our media and will be shared again up to the date of the event. Those Cllrs who wish to be on the Council's stall should contact Sharon with their availability and we can hopefully arrange a timetable.

NCC Climate Change Team

NCC has responded positively to the Council's request for the Climate Change Team to attend a meeting to address concerns about plastic recycling; they will attend in October.

The Clerk has been separately seeking updates about Carbon Literacy Training, and the possibility of training being cascaded to Town & Parish Councils, and Town Councillors. This is now being followed up with the Carbon Literacy Trust.

Tree Planting

Site meetings have taken place for the next project of tree planting recommended by the Climate Change Working Group (now the Climate Change Committee). Costs will be brought to the October Climate Change Committee for consideration and approval.

Tree Planting Target and Website Illustration

We have worked with Widescope on a potential system to demonstrate tree planting. As agreed, this will be brought with more information to the October Climate Change Committee.

EV Van

The van has been ordered; we will keep members informed of the expected delivery date.

Potland Burn (Former Surface Mine Site)

David Feige CEcol MIEEM, NCC Environment and Design Team Manager & County Ecologist has been in touch to offer the Council the opportunity to hear a presentation on the development and most specifically off-site habitat creation.

Certain aspects of the Environmental Act 2021 are not mandatory until Autumn 2023, but the site at Potland Burn is considered ideal for development as a site where habitat creation and management can be undertaken. Britishvolt will be funding Northumberland County Council to undertake habitat creation there to satisfy biodiversity net gain obligations. Other developers will do so over time as this becomes mandatory for most types of development.

David is available to present to the Climate Change Committee on 18th October, which is considered the most appropriate forum.