**Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Baildon Environmental Action group 23 01 2020**

The Chair of Baildon Town Council’s Environmental committee, Cllr Alan Clubb opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

The first person to speak was Julia Donohoe from Zero waste Baildon, she talked about the current display in the library and the plastic cup initiative for the Harley Davidson rally. Alternatives to polystyrene and plastic, and how to engage with businesses and community centres who use trade waste to question how they discard their waste. Wesley’s is a good example of how recycling bread wrappers, crisp packets and stamps to benefit charity. The group have a Facebook and Instagram page, and distribute leaflets to inform on how and where to recycle. Issue a certificate to people and businesses who address the issues.

David Sturge from the Friends of Baildon Moor. Their main objective is to educate people re the issues arising on the moor, including off road vehicles, littering, tree coverage and natural regrowth. There are currently discussing bracken covering the moor, and Cycle UK’s public access across the region for cycles. They have a Facebook page and website.

James Craig – Co-Ordinator of Baildon Friends of the Earth, a climate action group. All are welcome to join their next meeting on the first Thursday of the month. The group has been going for ten years and is part of 150 local groups who are setting up climate action groups across the UK. They are also members of the Bradford Environment forum, which enable green and sustainable charities get together. Campaign interests include, tree planting partnership, Zero Waste Baildon, cities and science monitoring nitrogen dioxide levels in the area, Fossil Free West Yorkshire, Bradford cycling campaign, Bail Rail, Baildon Fair Trade and talking to local schools.

Susan Kean of the Higher Coach Road Residents Group, they meet regularly as a resident’s group, and their next meeting is next Wednesday. Five to ten people attend regularly and they have a core group of activists. They are involved in the pub crawl litter trail, and local recycling projects, to ensure that items that don’t get collected by the council can be recycled alternatively, they are growing more fruit and veg around the estate. Could another group come along to their meeting and discuss how they can assist? They meet in the lodge at Roberts Park, and talks or presentations are welcome. They are on Facebook, Higher Coach Road Residents and Friends. Group of residents are keen to do more, where to start, what can they do how can they join up etc. Funds are limited due to the area being not as affluent.

Richard Nottidge – Baildon Tree Planting Partnership has support from Baildon Town Council and last Saturday they had their launch event as there is lots of interest in tree planting. The objective of the group is to plant suitable tree in the right area and four have been identified at present. Wildflower meadow to be planted on one site. They are a new group just getting off the ground, but they are working with the residents of the Higher Coach Road and around the river, Friend of Roberts Park and Baildon Zero Waste.

Sarah Clarke, representing Baildon in Bloom. They plant seasonally around Baildon with support from Baildon Town Council, they require additional volunteers, especially on Sunday afternoons to plant weed aand recycle, return empties to the garden centre etc. Sarah currently has fifty hanging baskets in her garage!

Vicky from Bee the Change Events based in Keighley. They are involved in the Pub crawl litter pick and their aim is to make sustainable living available everyone, through funding workshops.

Walkers are Welcome, are the local walking group, and they try to keep on top of the footpaths and report faults work around the lovely village and countryside.

Dave McDougall – Litter Free Baildon have collected 850 bags of litter in the last year and this has improved the area. They have been out with local Guides and Brownies, the Eco group from Sandals school and the Baildon Higher Coach Road residents. The Clean Streets of Shipley group have organised residents, to take responsibility for their area. Can this be done in Baildon? Litter remains an issue and there is a need to educate both children and adults, and pressure should be put on local businesses to take responsibility, especially for cigarette butts, and the waste they leave behind.

Michael Skelton – Tools for self-reliance, a national charity of fifty groups around the country which create kits for Africa, including carpentry tools, cars, cycling, sewing machines, building kits etc. These go to groups in African countries who request what they need. These are put together and are shipped via Southampton. They meet as a group on the 1st Saturday of the month at St Aiden’s church garage. People meet, take items home and repair and upcycle the tools brought in, then bring them back the following month. The group make five kits per year.

Simon Hatfield from the Labour party – they wish to be involved and encourage their members to work on climate action, litter picking and tree planting at a practical and policy level. Town council and city council there are ways in which policy can be discussed and promoted through the labour party.

Gill Dixon – Chair of the Economy and member of the Environment committee at Baildon Town Council. The Council have helped found and establish Baildon’s BIG Chamber of Commerce, to establish healthy business in the area. They work together and enable change to happen. Gill is also a member of the Friends of Baildon Station, which improves peoples use of the train station and the environmental impact on the area. There is lots going on including the repurposing of the station buildings. The group have a Facebook page and meetings are open. They are working closely with the bus services and are close to getting an additional bus service in Baildon, pilot partnership working.

Saria Hussain Refill Shipley – Saria runs a door-step delivery scheme for household products. They use an electric van, and turn up once a week, and refill your bottles, with washing up liquid, shampoo, conditioner, cleaning products, cooking oils etc. They are in Shipley, Bingley, and Baildon and are ethically sourced vegan products. They contribute to a circularly system.

End of the session, Cllr Alan Clubb concluded.

* There are lots of local groups involved with numerous projects, could these be listed?
* How can we join up and work more efficiently? as a larger group there is more impact
* If we join, we can make things happen.
* Councils can lead through actions, what can we do to assist?
* How do we manage our land for nature? Does it make environmental sense? Positive or negative impact?
* The council can facilitate meetings, assist action groups and fund certain things; however, they must have the legal power to spend.
* The idea of this evening is to ensure that people network and see how they fit into the picture.
* Can all groups affiliate themselves with the Friends of the Earth, so they can consolidate information to the group and distribute to the council when required?

**20-minute breakout period – for discussion - Feedback**

* Activities calendar on the town council website
* Listing companies and groups with green business credentials on a directory.
* Public recycling points listed to assist where residents can go. i.e. Wesleys Methodist church, Teracycle points
* Wastage of fruit and gluts of vegetables on the allotments, where can these be distributed?

**Conclusions**

The event has sparked a great deal of interest and allowed connections to be made by residents and groups. A website page will be created on the Baildon Town Council site for information to be passed.

Hope you have found the meeting useful and voluntary groups in the area.

**Minutes compiled by Louanna Winch**

**Town Clerk Baildon Town Council**