

Chair's Report – HAG – 2011 AGM 04/09/11

The Holystone Action Group came together in August 2010 following the discovery of plans by North Tyneside Council in their preferred options Core Strategy for changes to the region. The Action Group is an apolitical group of residents concerned with the future of North Tyneside.

The objects of the Action Group are:

- (a) To promote the interests of all residents in affected areas and to take joint action for the benefit of those residents;
- (b) To take action to protect residents against the proposed development sites numbered 65, 71, 72, 73, 77 and 107, although not liable;
- (c) To make representations and to conduct negotiations, through the appropriate channels, with the local authority;
- (d) To obtain information concerning the proposals on behalf of residents and to publish that information into the public domain.

Since the formation of the Action Group the committee have held a series of public meetings to keep residents informed of the development of plans within North Tyneside. We have held two quiz nights to fundraise the multiple informative leaflet drops that have been carried out by the committee and volunteers and we thank all those who have attended and donated enabling the continuation of the leafleting. Any monies remaining should the Action Group be dissolved at any stage will be donated in equal proportion to the appointed charities : - Variety Club Sunshine Fund and to Northumberland Wildlife Trust. HAG have set up both a Facebook group and a successful website that are regularly updated with factual accounts or press releases regarding planning issues and information regarding the core strategy and the activities of the Action Group.

The Action Group have communicated with the local authority on a regular basis since 2010 and are keen to continue this engagement with all political parties and members of the council. We have taken part in Planning Committee meetings, met with developers and achieved dialogue with representatives of land owners and sought expert opinions from wildlife groups including the RSPB and Northumberland Wildlife Trust.

One of the most important actions we have taken is the gathering of signatures for two petitions. The first, comprising of more than 3000 signatures opposing elements of the core strategy was unfortunately not debated by Councillors as it was regarded to be a planning matter. However we have recently submitted a further petition of over 2500 signatures to legal services which aims to protect land surrounding the Rising Sun Country Park and in turn the wildlife corridors by seeking to have this land reclassified as Green Belt/Wedge. This matter will be debated by Council on Thursday 8th September at 6pm where the Action Group will be delivering a report. We ask for as much support at this meeting as possible.

The Action Group have recently submitted a very thorough objections document to North Tyneside Council against the planning application for the Scaffold Hill Site in Holystone. Objections are now being accepted until September 5th for any residents still wishing to object.

We aim to continue to provide residents with up to date and regular information both online and through meetings and leaflet drops. Any volunteers to deliver leaflets would be very much appreciated. Whilst no official date has been set we intend to host further fundraisers and public meetings.