



Blyth Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held in the Council Chamber at Arms Everytne House on Thursday 28 January 2016 at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Councillors: J R Potts (Chair), A Gibbs-Barton, A Cartie, R Parker, O Potts, J Reid

Officers:

Town Clerk
Committee Clerk

Stephen Rickitt
Maureen Hawthorne

Members of Public: 1

No	
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE G Knox, K Nisbet, A Turnbull
2	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS None.
3	ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE TOUR OF BRITAIN (please see attached report) Gareth Davies attended the meeting to provide feedback on the Tour of Britain and the economic impact. It was noted that feedback was extremely positive, particularly regarding Blyth as a finish location. Mr Davies confirmed that negotiations are

	taking place for the event to return to Northumberland in 2017. The Town Clerk stated that if the event is to return in 2017 then the Council need to consider this as part of their base budget review and asked Mr Davies for some indication regarding the amount of money NCC would be suggesting.
4	MINUTE OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2015 The committee agreed to ADOPT the minutes.
4.1	MATTERS ARISING 6.1 Pooled Contributions The Town Clerk advised he is still trying to find out what the financial impact will be.
5	PLANNING APPLICATIONS
5.1	Please see Appendix 1 for a list of planning applications and comments from Blyth Town Council.
6	DENT STREET/WENSLEYDALE TERRACE BACK LANE (please see consultation letter attached) Councillors supported the restrictions, however, they queried why the restrictions had not been extended to include the lane to the south. The Town Clerk agreed to raise this query with NCC.
7	PODS ON QUAYSIDE (please see attached paper from Steve Bradley) The Committee welcomed the proposal and agreed to a sum of £10,000 towards this proposal on the understanding that Mr Bradley provides further detail and evidence of expenditure at appropriate times. The Committee agreed that the Town Clerk has the authority to agree to the release of funds. Committee noted Councillor Reid's reservations in respect of this project.
8	RECEIPT OF PETITION The Committee noted receipt of the petition to keep Blyth

	Quayside for public use, but do not support it.
9	ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT MATTERS
9.1	Flooding on the former mineral railway The Town Clerk advised that the Environmental Officer has reported the flooding to Environmental Health. Councillors raised their concerns about the flooding and the affect it may have on residents on the development and homes close to the site. The Town Clerk agreed that he will raise this issue with planning at NCC and feedback to Councillors.
10	The provisional next meeting of the Planning and Development Committee is scheduled for Thursday 18 February 2016 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber.

MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councillors:

J R Potts (Chair)
G T Knox (Vice-Chair)
A Cartie
A Gibbs-Barton
K Nisbet
R Parker
O Potts
J Reid
A Turnbull

Officers:

S E Rickitt Town Clerk
M Hawthorne Committee Clerk

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
PLANNING APPLICATIONS LISTS
JANUARY 2016

REFERENCE NO	PLANNING APPLICATION INFORMATION	COMMENTS
15/04037/FUL	Erection of front porch – <i>8 Hartleigh Place, Cowpen, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 5AY</i>	Already Decided at NCC
15/04053/DISCON	Discharge of condition 3 (fences) of approved planning application 15/01924/COU – (Change of use of open space to private garden area) – <i>Private Garden Area, Grebe Close, South Beach, Blyth, Northumberland</i>	Already Decided at NCC
15/03997/DISCON	Discharge of conditions 7 (Contamination), 15 (Surface Water) and 16 (Construction Method Statement) relating to planning permission 15/01008/CCD (Proposed residential development of 26 no. affordable bungalows) – <i>Morpeth Road Primary School, Disraeli Street, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 1HZ</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application.
15/04090/FUL	Proposed ground floor extension – <i>1 Felstead Place, South Beach, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3HL</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application.

15/04112/HPA	Householder prior approval for rear extension – <i>9 Melville Avenue, South Beach, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3SU</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application.
15/04119/FUL	Shop front colour change and installation of new plant equipment on flat roof – <i>Co-op 2-6 Newcastle Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 4AL</i>	The Town Council recommend that the proposed plans conform to standards.
15/04184/FUL	Proposed 2 storey extension to rear - <i>124 Bondicar Terrace, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 2JZ</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application.
15/04185/FUL	Proposed demolition of existing farmhouse and outbuildings for creation of 42no new dwellings – <i>Newsham North Farm, South Newsham Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3PW</i>	The Town Council have no objection to this application.
15/04256/FUL	Construction of 2 no. two bedroom semi detached houses, 2 no. three bedroom semi detached houses and 1 no. four bedroom detached house incorporating access road and parking – <i>Land South of Hunter Avenue, Shotton Avenue, Blyth, Northumberland</i>	The Town Council have no objection to this application. However the Town Council recommend a Grampian condition is imposed to make sure the properties are linked to the public highway network.

15/04302/DISCON	Discharge of conditions 6 (Boundary treatment), 9 (Gas Protection), 11 (Ecological) & 13 (Landscaping) from application 15/01008/CCD (Proposed residential development of 26no. affordable bungalows.) – <i>Morpeth Road Primary School, Disraeli Street, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 1HZ</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application. *
15/04308/DISCON	Discharge of conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 from application 14/03033/FUL – <i>Poundstretchers, 18 Bridge Street, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 1BL</i>	The Town Council welcomed the improvements to this building.
15/04334/NONMAT	Non-material amendment to application 15/01008/CCD (Proposed residential development of 26 no. affordable bungalows) – <i>Morpeth Road Primary School, Disraeli Street, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 1HZ</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application. *
15/04197/DISCON	Discharge of conditions 3 (Community Use Agreement) from planning application 15/03010/FUL – Construction of a bike pump track – <i>Morpeth Road Primary Academy, Bates Avenue, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 5QT</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application.
16/00011/FUL	Proposed rear lean to pitched roof extension – <i>39 Arcadia Terrace, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3JX</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application.

16/00045/MISC	Proposed upgrade to telecommunications radio base station installation – <i>O2 Communications Mast, Rooftop 2, Elliot Street, Newsham, Blyth, Northumberland</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application.
15/03744/CCD	Construction of 2 No Classrooms – <i>The Dales School, Cowpen Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 4RE</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application. *
15/04246/ADE	Advertisement consent of Aluminium lettering to gable elevations, trough illumination; Lettering to vertical 'fin' facing car park; Signage above entrances on shop-front fascia – <i>Land North East of Bath Lane, Quay Road, Blyth, Northumberland</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application. *
16/00006/FUL	Proposed five bedroom dwelling, detached garage and off street parking – <i>Land South of 46 Shotton Avenue, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3JU</i>	The Town Council supports this application but suggest that that public pedestrian access is retained.
16/00130/NONMAT	Non-material amendment to planning application 15/02945/FUL	The Town Council has

	(Proposed first floor side extension over existing garage) – <i>17 Collingwood Terrace, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 2EX</i>	no representation to make on this application.
15/02968/FUL	Planning permission is sought for the construction of 38 residential units including 2, 3 and 4 bed dwelling houses, 2 bedroom bungalows and 2 bedroom apartments on the site of the former Venture Workshops on Plessey Road in Blyth – <i>Blyth Valley Venture Workshops, Plessey Road, Blyth, Northumberland</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application. *
16/00163/FUL	Proposed workshop, orangery and extension to master bedroom – <i>11 Elstree Gardens, Sandringham Park, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 3RW</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application.
16/00171/ADE	Advertisement Consent: Display of 2 no. wall mounted internally illuminated fascia signs, 3 no. wall mounted externally illuminated fascia signs, 1 no. double sided free standing externally illuminated hoarding, 1 no. internally illuminated posted display and 1 no. Estate Pylon internally illuminated sign - <i>Land North West of South Quay Nursing Home, Cowpen Road, Blyth, Northumberland, NE24 5TS</i>	The Town Council has no representation to make on this application.



Briefing paper for Blyth Town Council

28JANUARY 2016

Tour of Britain 2015 – Feedback & Economic Impact Assessment

1. Attached is a copy of the report presented to the Area Committees of Northumberland County Council (NCC), relating to the Tour of Britain 2015.
2. The report should be of great comfort to Blyth Town Council; it sets out the outcomes achieved by the event, which reflect in some considerable part the commitment and effort of Blyth Town Council as a partner in the staging of the event, and of the people of Blyth in supporting the event.
3. NCC staff and event staff have placed on record their gratitude to the staff of Blyth Town Council for their commitment to the event, and there have been fruitful discussions since about future events and their role in Blyth's development as a town.
4. It is of course entirely a matter for the two authorities, who enjoy a productive partnership, to evolve their own view of the future plan for the development of Blyth. As officers involved in developing and delivering events county wide, we would however commend the approach taken with regard to the Tour of Britain, and set out in the report, as an effective way of delivering events that reflect the goals of the sponsoring authority.
5. The report begins by setting out the links between the corporate goals of NCC and the Tour of Britain; simply put, by organizing this event, what did we wish to achieve? These goals were discussed with officers of Blyth Town Council at an early stage of event preparation.
6. Details of the evidence gathered follow in the report. The staging of an event is not necessarily success in and of itself; an event is only a success if evidence can be gathered that links back to the goals set out before the event. This is followed by a more detailed exploration of the background, aims and outcomes of the event.
7. The report also uses qualitative data, in the form of customer feedback, and has a section dedicated to lessons learned from the event. These lessons are already forming part of our thinking about the planning of future events.

AREA COMMITTEE – NORTH

11 JANUARY 2016

Tour of Britain 2015 – Feedback & Economic Impact Assessment

Report of Head of Culture and Leisure

Cabinet Member: Cllr Val Tyler

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an assessment of the economic impact of the Tour of Britain in Northumberland, with some highlights of feedback from residents and partners, and an overview of some of the lessons learned in relation to future events.

Recommendations

The committee is recommended to accept this report as an information item.

Link to Corporate Plan

1. *Economic Growth* – our aim is to promote a more prosperous county through sustainable economic growth that provides residents with ready access to high wage and skilled jobs and opportunities to create thriving businesses
2. *Stronger Communities and Families* – our aim is to ensure that all residents genuinely feel safe, belong, and have a say in how the county is run, and to provide a range of quality community and cultural services and facilities which inspire creativity and participation
3. *Health and Well Being* – our aim is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to lead healthy, independent lives for as long as possible and to safeguard our most vulnerable residents in a way that maintains their dignity and confidence.

Key facts and figures

- Direct economic impact of hosting the race in Northumberland was £2.2 million, equivalent to 28 FTE jobs
- Total number of spectators who watched the race in Northumberland was 115,000 and of these 21% came from outside the North East region.
- Over 67% of attendees were inspired to cycle more often
- The race visited 29 communities in Northumberland and there were 5 organised community events
- Over 10,500 children from 63 schools watched the race in an organised group
- 85,000 people visited the dedicated Tour of Britain micro site on Visit Northumberland
- The potential audience reach of #NlandTOB was 17.8 million and there were 34.3 individual tweets using #TourofBritain

- The Tour of Britain site, featuring Northumberland content, was visited by 665,000 people
- There was a 37% rise in unique visitors to Visit Northumberland during September as a result of the Tour of Britain
- The TV audience average viewing figures for the Northumberland stages was over 300,000
- The TV audience for the stage highlights Edinburgh to Blyth was 519,000 – the highest figure for all eight stages
- The equivalent advertising value of primary ITV coverage approximately £3 million
- TV Coverage was broadcast by 13 broadcasters in 129 countries or territories and this represents a total potential TV reach of 116.5 million people
- Online coverage for 8 days by BBC online and Sky Sports
- Extensive coverage in cycling press including a 12 page preview in Cycling Weekly
- 120 articles in local press with a potential readership of over 8 million people
- Extensive coverage in regional news bulletins on ITV and BBC over both days
- 33 major international publications reported daily on the race including Gazetta Dello Sport, L'Equipe and the Times of India

Background

1. **Our mission was to** 'Maximize the economic, community and health promotion opportunities from bringing the Tour of Britain to Northumberland in 2015.'

Return on investment

2. The overall economic impact of hosting the race in Northumberland equated to £2.2 million which represents a return on investment of almost £7 for every £1 invested. This figure was arrived at by an independent report, commissioned by the race organisers and is based primarily on in-person spend during the race. The calculation takes account of spend that would have occurred in any case, and of the displacement of planned spending by the event. As a result it is considered to be a conservative estimate of the economic impact of the event, but a reliable measure.
3. This figure does not include the value of media and PR coverage as the race sped through some of the most beautiful parts of the county and pictures were beamed to key international and domestic audiences. The equivalent advertising value of national ITV coverage alone reached almost £3 million. Adding this figure to the £2.2 million gives a total economic benefit of £5.2 million meaning a return on investment of closer to £16 for every £1 invested. This secondary figure does not take into account the unquantifiable impacts of worldwide TV coverage, radio, national and regional press and specialised cycling press.

Aims

4. The council had four main aims in hosting the Tour of Britain
 - i. Benefit Northumberland's Visitor Economy by using the TOB to raise the profile of Northumberland to a regional, national and international audience.

- ii. Increase public health and wellbeing by using the TOB to encourage healthy lifestyles through participation in sport, and in particular cycling.
- iii. Increase community cohesion, local pride and wellbeing by providing opportunities for communities across the county to celebrate together.
- iv. Use the TOB as a catalyst for the promotion and development of Northumberland as a high quality cycling destination.

Outcomes

- 5. The event outcomes were appraised against the stated aims via a process of debrief and discussions both internally and with partners.

- i. Benefit Northumberland's Visitor Economy by using the TOB to raise the profile of Northumberland to a regional, national and international audience.

The national TV coverage and press coverage met expectations. The worldwide broadcasts included territories such as USA, Netherlands and France, all of which represent target markets for Northumberland. The quality of the broadcasts was on the whole high. In terms of key visitor products Holy Island, Bamburgh and Warkworth featured prominently on Stage 4 coverage. However the lack of coverage of Hadrian's Wall on stage 5 was an issue which provided some key learning for us about the nature of a cycling stage race and the broadcast schedules.

Regional TV coverage exceeded all expectations with breakfast, lunchtime and evening coverage on both BBC and ITV. The local press, including the Newcastle Chronicle which covers an important target market for Northumberland, embraced the race and ran pre-race supplements, extensive race coverage and follow up articles.

One of the lessons learned in post race conversations with stakeholders and partners was that one of the main reasons the media coverage was so positive and therefore so valuable was because the logistics of the race were smooth and there were few of the operational issues which dominated coverage on some other stages.

There were successful partnerships with tourism attractions including ticket promotions with English Heritage, The National Trust and Northumbrian Water.

Visitnorthumberland experienced a 37% uplift in unique visitors during September, meaning significantly more people were exposed to marketing messages.

- ii. Increase public health and wellbeing by using the TOB to encourage healthy lifestyles through participation in sport, and in particular cycling.

A programme of schools' sport activity including leisure rides, time trails and portable velodrome sessions enabled over 1100 young people to try cycling as part of an organized activity.

Over 10,000 school-children from 63 schools watched the race as part of an organized group. Schools were offered varying levels of participation activities from watching the race or taking

part in a poetry competition to having a day of sporting activity around the Tour. Each school was e-mailed twice via the e-courier and in addition schools on the route received a letter. Though the final number of children exceeded initial estimates some schools felt they had not received information early enough so, for future events, another method of communicating to schools in addition to the e-courier and post should be identified.

A number of cycling route guides were distributed at events taking place within the county leading up to the tour. The guides were given out along with information from staff encouraging participation in cycling activity and provided information on a number of cycling routes, catering for varying levels of ability across the county. Over 5000 cycling guides were distributed at information stands at the start and finish locations over the two Northumberland stages of the Tour.

WATBike, a Northumberland based cycling charity, were actively involved with supporting the Tour, as a lead partner with the bike donation and decoration project and working with Active Northumberland on delivering a number of cycling events around the county. Funding the charity to deliver elements of this work has helped support its day to day role in promoting cycle ownership and healthy activity to those living and working in the county. A surplus of bikes generated through the bicycle donation project were gifted to the charity, helping increase its capacity to meet the demand for the service it runs, repairing unwanted bikes to then sell at an affordable price to members of the public who may otherwise be unable to afford one.

- iii. Increase community cohesion, local pride and wellbeing by providing opportunities for communities across the county to celebrate together.

Community participation was strong and the numbers of people watching in person were higher than was initially forecast. There was a strong turn out from schools and there were several instances notably Wooler, Alnwick, Prudhoe, Hexham and Haydon Bridge where community leaders and councils coordinated activity to ensure engagement with the race. Race organizers British Cycling provided feedback that the visitor numbers and engagement at the finish in Blyth and in Prudhoe for the start was extremely strong. The atmosphere in Prudhoe for the start received particular praise from all those involved with the race.

We provided information via selected networks i.e. town and parish councils, business forums and chambers of commerce, schools e-courier service and letters, to cycling clubs and interested organisations which enabled buy in from communities and businesses. Route dressing and branding for the race created a festival feel in some locations and the bespoke Northumberland TOB lamppost banners added to the overall affect. The street dressing at the start, finish, king of the mountains and sprint locations was significant and created an excellent atmosphere. The sheer length of the race within the county did result in large gaps between branding, however there cannot have been a resident of Northumberland who did not come into contact with some race branding and therefore be aware that the county was hosting a major international sporting event.

The route was designed to showcase our tourism assets but also to provide opportunities for spectators and residents to see the race and celebrate together. The route balanced these two

priorities well, however the traffic management costs of racing through urban areas are significantly greater than in rural areas, and can cause some dislocation or inconvenience to local residents. Consideration should be given in future to a lower number of urban areas being covered, enabling a greater concentration of resources in the communities which the race does visit to support local community leaders and councils. This learning should not obscure the fact that 115,000 spectators and 5 community events supporting a midweek, term time event represents a considerable achievement.

- iv. Use the TOB as a catalyst for the promotion and development of Northumberland as a high quality cycling destination.

The vast TV and press coverage presented Northumberland's cycling offer to the world; long scenic stretches of open roads, challenging climbs, breathtaking coastal routes and iconic attractions. The specialised cycling press featured the Northumberland stages prominently in their coverage. There was a 12 page special in Cycling Weekly previewing the whole race and there was significant on-line coverage from Cyclingnews.com, Velonews, Road Cycling UK and Road.

To enable the county to take advantage of these opportunities we created a cycling tool kit which will be rolled out over the coming months and years to encourage businesses to make the most of cycling.

A priority list of cycling signage and infrastructure improvements was identified in advance of the event, however following an audit of the route by the race organiser, the road conditions were found to need little improvement. Plans currently in place to improve cycling infrastructure will be reported as they are brought forward to fruition.

6. Feedback

'As a person born and bred in Blyth and a devoted arm chair fan of cycling I would ask you to pass on to all those involved in the Tour of Britain's visit to our County and Blyth in particular my sincere congratulations. We had a wonderful day. The town centre was transformed and buzzing from early morning. The crowds cheered and clapped everywhere the cyclists went in our town. The whole event is a potential logistical nightmare but the organisation was brilliant. It was a day young and old will remember for a long time.'

Bill Golightly, Blyth

'Just wanted to say well done to everyone involved with the Tour of Britain cycling event. Great for residents of Northumberland. We really enjoyed the TV coverage and arial shots of Northumberland.'

Heather Proudlock, East Sleekburn

'The Tour of Britain through Northumberland was fantastic and it was brilliant watching the racers and their entourage speeding through Cresswell. Congratulations to everyone involved.'

Barry Mead, Cresswell

The Tour of Britain really helped to put Northumberland on the map. Four of our attractions were directly involved, as the race whizzed past them. At Housesteads Roman Fort on Hadrian's Wall, around 30 people turned up with picnics and deck chairs to see the race go by. English Heritage offered them 2-4-1 on entry, so we were able to encourage people to step over the threshold and discover Northumberland's Roman story. The weather was beautiful on the day, which meant the footage showed the county in its full glory.

Emily Railton, Marketing Manager, English Heritage

"Northumberland National Park Authority is totally committed to developing outstanding cycling experiences around its network of quiet country lanes, byways and bridleways; and marketing the National Park as a cycling destination for all kinds of activities, whether it is participating in a sportive event like the Wooler Wheel, or riding the Sandstone Way on a mountain bike. "

"The decision by Northumberland County Council to host the Tour of Britain this year was an excellent one. The media impact and reach of an event such as this cannot be under estimated, with its ability to sear images of our beautiful countryside, coastline and communities onto the public consciousness. This year, we saw thousands of people from all over the UK line the route and be fully engaged with the whole sense of carnival, an atmosphere that was warm-felt and genuine. Visitors could not have failed to be impressed by the Northumbrian welcome they received and I am sure they will return to savour more of what we have to offer. The Authority would not hesitate in giving its support to a future bid by the Council to host a future Tour of Britain."

Duncan Wise, Northumberland National Park

7. Future events

- i. The council received extremely positive feedback from the race organisers for our traffic management approach which was designed to ensure safe, quality racing. However this called for lengthy road closures so consideration should be given for designing a route which minimises longer road closures outwith the essential start / finish closures.
- ii. A route which involves less traffic management and fewer closures could mean the race visits less communities, in turn this would allow a more focused activity programme in those communities. We would be able to work with local community leaders, build capacity, enrich the viewing experience and provide more targeted sports development and community events such as the Velodrome.
- iii. The principle of the route passing tourist areas and finishing in the denser populated areas of the South East worked well. Blyth market place provided an excellent finish location which was praised by the organisers; it enabled crowds to see the finish and provided ample space for additional activities. From an economic benefit perspective consideration should be given to including more of the Northumbrian Coast, which is an important tourist draw and which would lend itself well to the TV coverage. From a cycling perspective there has been some feedback that iconic cycling routes and venues in Northumberland could feature in future routes; balancing these demands will be part of any future route planning. Similarly, because of our inexperience at hosting such an

event some technically difficult locations were ruled out, such as Berwick upon Tweed when, with this experience behind us, we can consider whether some locations, even if they are too challenging for through routes, could provide venues for starts, finishes or associated events.

Implications

Policy	Supports Corporate Plan
Finance and value for money	This report explains the economic impact of the County Council's investment in the Tour of Britain.
Legal	None
Procurement	Procurement for the event in so far as it is controlled by NCC is managed in line with NCC policy and current frameworks
Human Resources	There are no HR implications.
Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A X	N/A
Risk Assessment	Risk assessments for this activity were conducted by NCC, by contractors and on a multi agency basis, as for any major event in Northumberland.
Crime & Disorder	N/A
Customer Consideration	Customers were kept informed before and during the event via all media channels available to NCC and partners.
Carbon reduction	The event sought to encourage increased use of cycling by residents and visitors which will contribute to county wide targets for carbon reduction
Wards	All wards

Subject to ratification
Final

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

Finance Officer	initials
Monitoring Officer/Legal	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Procurement	N/A
I.T.	N/A
Executive Director	BL
Portfolio Holder(s)	VT

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BVEL (Blyth Valley Enterprise Ltd)

Blyth CEC, Ridley Street
Blyth, NE24 3AG
25/01/16

Blyth Town Councillors
C/O Stephen Rickitt (Town Clerk)

Blyth Town Council

Arms Everytne House Quay Road

Blyth, NE24 3AS Dear Blyth Town Councillors:

Once again thank you for the funds you have offered to contribute towards the Blyth POD training and build project we are working on. We are extremely grateful for your support and once the initial phase is complete regarding the training plan we will look to present the next stage of the project formally to the council.

Following a discussion with the Council Clerk, we would like to see if any of the funds from the grant can be released during the prototype phase. So far we've spent approximately 6k on the project with the next step being a 3D rendered design. Talks have begun with a training organization in Blyth and we are looking to secure further funding to help pay for the young people / unemployed to be trained. Any support at this point would help speed up the process whilst we wait for applications elsewhere to be secured. In the foreseeable future we need to gain access to between £7k and £10 and any help would be greatly received.

We'd also like your permission to begin the PR campaign for the project. Anything we release we'd happily run by yourselves first (as we'd like to highlight the Councils support in this project) and would be grateful if quotes supporting this from yourselves could also be used.

Kind Regards, S Bradley (BVEL development trust lead and secretary) BVEL (Blyth Valley Enterprise Ltd) "Enterprise, Training and Education throughout the Blyth Community"