



Chair's Report/Activity for June 2024

Dear Friends,

Well June 2024 has been a lesson in how quickly time goes by. All those things I promised myself I would get done this month have whizzed by along with my 60th birthday! It hardly seems anytime since we began the Friends of the S&DR but it's over 10 years and we have come along way...but still with a way to go. Many of you will be rightly focussed on the bicentenary events for next year when we hope to host a wide audience and get the message across to the world that this is where railways started. Much of my work is however looking at what happens after 2025. All of the investment and effort of the last 10 years has to be put on a permanent, sound footing so that our young in education, our communities and our visitors can be inspired by, value and enjoy our international class heritage. In particular this month three continuing projects are key to achieving this.

Our future business planning project supported by the local authorities and being supported by Tricolor Associates is moving towards a lottery bid in July to provide funds for future development work. If successful this will provide funds for an 18 month project to appoint a full time project officer, supplement our secretary's time, write a conservation management plan for the line, produce a business plan and see how this can all be delivered sustainably for the future. This will have to involve lots of bright ideas such as using old S&DR and railway buildings for new uses such as holiday lets for visitors to make it all be financially sustainable. We hope to hear in September from National Lottery Heritage Fund if we have been successful in applying for this grant.

One key building which may help generate finances to help our work is of course Heighington Station where we continue our project to buy and restore the site, the world's earliest railway station. We have good news and bad news on our appeal this month. First the bad news, we have now confirmed that because the General Election was called early our major grant application for £400k to the Community Ownership Fund (COF), which was due by 26th June has had to be cancelled. Regardless of who wins the election we don't know if the COF will open again and so we need to make alternative plans. The good news is that we are still however receiving lots of support from Durham County Council and others and on July 18th we will be making an announcement and new press release on a significant grant from the Rail heritage Trust. Please do continue to circulate the webpage details (<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/save-heighington-station>) to everyone you know, encourage donations and spread the word. If you can't afford to donate then you can show your support by signing our petition at <https://forms.office.com/r/9sfYKNLbHr>

In Darlington we look forward to the imminent completion and opening of the revamped and extended North Road Railway Museum as 'Hopetown' on the 16th July. We have also had some very progressive meetings with the council regarding purchasing the site form which John Dobbin painted the famous picture of the opening day and landscaping it so that it becomes Dobbin View (a mini park) overlooking the Skerne Bridge and a valuable improvement to the Northgate street scene. With regard to the house of Edward Pease at 142 Northgate our discussions with Darlington Council and their architects are getting much closer to an agreement on its restoration and use by ourselves. I also understand

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(but haven't checked yet myself), that after several years of lobbying and much support from Peter Gibson MP, that Network Rail have now removed all the rubbish from the site of the 1827 Merchandise Station on the east side of North Road opposite the new entrance to Hopetown. This is the site of an exceptionally important early railway building and now the rubbish has gone we hope to explore options for archaeological investigations and hopefully access and interpretation.

2025 Planning.

Again, we are still waiting for September when the official 2025 Festival programme is announced. However, we now know that events for 2025 will be split into three areas. S&DR200 will be the official festival containing the major organised events over several months. S&DR Fringe will be an opportunity for everyone else to put on events large and small and which will then be advertised through an online database, financial support for some of the may be possible from the S&DR Community Grants; clearly this can and will cover a multitude of things from walks, talks, theatre, creative writing, poetry, murals, art and whatever anyone can dream up at venues all along the line. Finally, there will be S&DR1825, the installed permanent interpretation and way finding which will be intended to last long after 2025, we know the brand/design for this and have already included it in our new guided walk booklets. The interpretation boards and signage for this should be in place by Feb 2025. Thanks to our Vice Chair Alan and others who attended a first meeting to announce this at Darlington Dolphin Centre on 25th of June. I understand further dates are being arranged in Stockton and Shildon to explain the festival and encourage participation in the S&DR Fringe in particular.

And finally the reminder of contacts:

Cait Barratt the 'S&DR Heritage & Community Participation Manager' is the person to talk to regarding the S&DR community Fund which can provide grants of a few hundred to a few thousand pounds and which are available over the next 4 years to help people celebrate and conserve the S&DR, If you have an idea then get in touch with Cait and she will provide initial feedback on your idea and if it fits the community grant objectives encourage you to submit an application. Ideas can be submitted to Cait on the following email address s&drcommunitygrantsscheme@darlington.gov.uk. Cait also now has two officers supporting her in volunteer and education development and we hope to meet them at our March monthly meeting, contact details to follow.

The team of various officers in the local authorities including Niccy Hallifax the 2025 Festival Director, Richie Starrs the Project Officer, and Jill Read the Communications and Partnerships Officer can all now be contacted through one single email address which is info@sdr200.co.uk which people should use for any general enquiries.

As ever if you want to discuss anything S&DR related drop me a line at Chair@sdr1825.org.uk.

All the best.

Niall Hammond, Chair, Friends of the S&DR. 30/06/2024.

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Planning Officer's Report; S&DR Friends Meeting 4 July 2024

Any further updates or new applications will be reported at the meeting. Otherwise, this report will be taken as read unless members have comments or questions to raise. Decisions and new items are highlighted in **red**.

1 DURHAM COUNTY

k DM/22/01891/FPA Craggwood Holiday Park proposed extension

No change. The expected details of how the embankment of the Haggerleases Branch is protected have not yet been submitted.

l DM/23/00486/FPA Proposed Bluestone Solar Panel Farm, High Lands, Cockfield

No change; we still await consultation on the interpretation panel(s).

n DM/22/03739/FPA New wall etc at Northern Metal Recycling. Hackworth Industrial Park, Shildon

No change. We await being consulted by Mr Bell on the design of the mural.

Non-Designated Heritage Assets

We have been notified of consultation on a Supplementary Planning Document on Non Designated Heritage Assets.

The purpose of this is to define the selection criteria against which the County's non-designated heritage assets (NDHAs) are to be identified and assessed. These assets are to be identified by plan making bodies as having a degree of heritage significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, but which do not meet the criteria for designated heritage assets (such as scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and conservation areas).

The report confirms that NDHAs already included in one of the following categories will be automatically given weight in making planning decisions;

- The Historic Environment Register
- Conservation Area Character Appraisals
- The County Durham Local List
- Neighbourhood Plans

Numerous S&DR NDHAs exist and most of these fall into one of the above categories.

The consultation document recommends that any asset falling outside these categories should be submitted for inclusion in the Local List and guidance is given on how to do this.

I recommend that the Friends;

- a) support the draft Supplementary Planning Document, and**
- b) identify those S&DR assets which do not fall into any of the defined categories and submit them for inclusion in the Local List.**

The whole consultation document can be viewed via

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/31271/Non-Designated-Heritage-Asset-Supplementary-Planning-Document-consultation>

The deadline for comments is July 14th.

Conservation Area

Some consultation took place in 22/23 on draft boundaries and we have asked to see the Character Appraisal. Following our requests for an update, we received this response; *'..it is still the intention to designate the Conservation area, however, capacity has meant that we have had to prioritise funded and time dependant projects such as the Walking and Cycling route. This work will be picked up in due course.'*

2 DARLINGTON BOROUGH

i North Road Rail Heritage Quarter – Hopetown

23/00186/CON Details for the Head of Steam Station Building

24/00133/CON Details relating to alterations to the Hopetown Carriage works building

As reported at last month's meeting, revised drawings were submitted and the conditions on both applications were discharged on 5 June. Hopetown opens on 16 July.

24/00593/CON Details for landscaping etc at Hopetown Visitor Attraction

Plans showing details for the landscaping of the various elements of Hopetown have been submitted. Of particular interest to the Friends is the plan showing proposed tree planting at the Skerne Bridge car park.

The key to this plan says 'Extra heavy standard trees to be planted in car park adjacent to Skerne Bridge' as well as low level shrub planting. The trees are equally spaced out between the rows of parking bays without regard to any impact they may have on the setting of the bridge and its approach embankments when seen from Dobbin's View. The species and heights at maturity are not given.

There are several national and local planning policies protecting the setting of this asset, as well as the recommendations of the Rail Heritage Quarter Conservation Management Plan. Trees are essential to soften the visual impact of the car park and to respect the bridge setting, but some of the proposed trees should be omitted (or replaced by smaller growing species) and an image produced showing how the bridge will be seen from Dobbin's View when the trees have achieved maturity.

There seems little point in spending public money to buy the vacant site on High Northgate to create 'Dobbin's Park' if you won't be able to see the bridge for the trees.

Interestingly, the car park has already been laid as an unrelieved expanse of tarmac with rows of parking bays marked in white paint, all ready for use. Tarmac will have to be ripped up and the car park relined to create the strips for shrub and tree planting.

m 21/01353/FUL Site of Former Corus Works (East Site) Whessoe Road

No change. Further to previous reports, the applicant is preparing revised proposals to take into account comments received. We raised concerns about the appearance of the development from the railway and the need to include a link to the Walking and Cycling Route.

o 22/00213/FUL Installation of a solar farm on land north of Burtree Lane

No change. Some details have been submitted for approval, but these do not relate to matters of concern to us, eg landscaping, information displays and the walking and cycling route.

y 24/00083/DC Walking and Cycling Route; Upgrade between Mill Lane to St George's Way, Middleton St George.

Following discussion at last month's meeting, I submitted the following;

At last night's meeting, the Friends of the S&DR noted with interested recent objections regarding the damaging effect of the width of the new path on the ecological value and tree presence of the Whinnies Nature Reserve. The Friends agreed to have no objection to a reduction in the width of the path to reduce the harm, provide that it will still be possible for wheelchairs to pass each other.

The period to decide this application has been extended to allow revised plans to be submitted.

Conservation Areas

Further to previous reports, the Council has delayed requesting Cabinet for approval for public consultation on the proposed Northgate CA extension until September, thus avoiding the summer holidays. Cabinet will consider the proposed Middleton St George CA in November, with consultation taking place before the Christmas holiday.

3 STOCKTON BOROUGH

m 23/1768/DCH discharge condition no5 (Soft Landscaping) of planning approval 21/2240/FUL - Erection of industrial/business units at Urlay Nook Road Eaglescliffe.

No change. There has been no progress with this application since November 2023

n 23/2223/FUL Erection of 87no. dwellings on land East Of Mandale Park Urlay Nook Road Eaglescliffe

We have asked for the formerly proposed tree planting on the Urlay Nook Road frontage to be reinstated.

p 24/0249/COU Application for the conversion into 2no dwellings at 519 Yarm Road Eaglescliffe

No change. Tees Archaeology have been consulted (at our request) and they agree that a condition requiring archaeology work be attached to a permission.

4 MIDDLESBROUGH

Draft Local Plan

No change. The Council has acknowledge receipt of our comments but have not yet responded to our request for a meeting to discuss policy to protect the 1830 S&DR extension.

Ross Chisholm, Planning Officer, 01/07/2024

THE FRIENDS OF THE S&D RAILWAY

Notes on Meeting with the S&DR200 Festival Team
Tuesday 25th June 2024, Dolphin Centre

Led by Jill Read, Communications and Stakeholder Manager.

Supported by Festival Organiser, Nicci Halifax, and Cait, Jessy and ? who are the community engagement officers.

They are working with the three local authorities: Durham Darlington Stockton

Attended by about 50 people, mostly members of Darlington for Culture and Friends of the S&D.

Alan Townsend gave a brief intro about the Friends of the S&D, the Purpose and achievements.

He listed our activities for the Festival:

- Early Railways Conference in September 2025
- Public Talks on the Quaker Influence
- Walking Festival
- MSG Activity
- Yvonne encouraged people have a look at the Friends website which is a treasure trove of research and accurate information, with the guided walks booklets and much more available.

A brief summary of what the Festival will consist of was given with the proviso that this is confidential until the Launch in September. This will be the Core activity.

The Events will run from next Spring to October.

All other events from the Community – creative and charity groups - will be marketed as the Fringe. This will sit alongside the main Festival.

They will be seen as Ambassadors for the Festival.

- Festival branding and fringe logos will be provided.
- A comprehensive website Listing will be set up of all Events notified to them which will have a number of search options, e.g. date, type, venue etc.
- Events must be on the website at least 6 weeks before the Event.
- A flash of what others are doing can be shared.
- Grants are available in support of events – contact Cait.
- Some information about other Grant making bodies will be available.

Points raised by those attending:

- A film maker was keen to record the preparations of groups.
- Chris Foote-Wood from Barnard Castle was working more with Kirkby Stephen, but was keen that Groups from other places also joined in.
- It would be good to co-operate and share information amongst ourselves.
- There could be an issue with clashes of dates and duplication.

Its now clear that groups need to organise and be responsible for their own events, although some advice and support is available.

What will be on offer is marketing and publicity.

Yvonne Richardson

Membership Report – 30 June 2024

Fees & Donations: - 27 September 2023 to 30 June 2024:-
Ordinary Members - £3293.24 (including donations of £309.23)

Corporate Members - £848.90
Total - £4142.14

Membership

Individual Members – **285** (6 new members & 1 member re-joined)
Members on Facebook – **30.88 %**

Corporate Members – **18** (2 new members)

Membership renewal

I will be sending renewal invitations end of August/beginning of September.
As with the last 3 years the emphasis will be on renewal via Standing Order.
All new members since 27 September 2023 were advised in their welcome email that renewal would be via Standing Order.
The problem is with existing members who joined prior to 27 September 2023.
Despite my efforts these members are reluctant to set up a Standing Order and therefore I have to contact them every year and then wait weeks/months for them to pay by whatever method.
Every member who renews via Standing Order is one less member to contact each year.

The member who re-joined is the eighth member to do so since 27 September 2023. Had they set up a Standing Order this situation would not have occurred?

Peter Bainbridge
Membership Secretary
30.06.2024

Editor's Report – July 2024

S&DR Podcasts

The fifth S&DR podcast went live on the 28th June (thanks to Archie McKay for staying up very late to get this out). It is a detailed look at Locomotion No.1 and its first driver Jem Stephenson. The special guest was Dr Michael Bailey, who, with Peter Davidson, has conducted detailed research into the engine. There were some surprising reveals in this interview, not least that Locomotion No.1 may have been painted blue and yellow on the opening day. He also suggested that Locomotion No.1 did travel down the Darlington and Yarm branch lines. I am still uncertain about this, but it is clear that we never really have all the answers. It was also interesting to get a more detailed insight into Jem Stephenson (George's big brother) and the tragic early death of his wife Jane. You can access them all here: <https://talesfromtherails.podbean.com/>. Please forward this link to as many people as possible and spread the word. You can specifically access the Locomotion No.1 podcast here: <https://talesfromtherails.podbean.com/e/locomotion-no-1/>

The next podcast (July) will be about Hopetown and its historic buildings. This is to coincide with the opening of Hopetown. Let me know if you would like to participate. I'd love to interview some of the people involved.

Our podcasts have been downloaded 1114 times by the end of June and we have an international audience. Obviously most of our listeners are in the UK, but we also have:

| | |
|-------------|----|
| Australia | 16 |
| USA | 12 |
| Belgium | 5 |
| Spain | 3 |
| Japan | 2 |
| Canada | 1 |
| Germany | 1 |
| Netherlands | 1 |
| New Zealand | 1 |
| Turkey | 1 |

Small numbers admittedly, but if you know any railway enthusiasts abroad, do spread the word. And if you are one of the listeners listed above, why not get someone else to listen in?

As always, do let me know of any events coming up and we will include them in the podcast and on the Friends' web site.

The next walk booklet revision

The walk booklet between Shildon and Heighington has been through one design stage and is being reviewed again before the draft goes out to consultation – it is looking great. This is generously being funded by Husqvarna who are located along the route on Preston Road on the Aycliffe Business Park. It would help hugely with our next update – the Darlington Circular – if there are any local businesses there interested in sponsoring this. In return you will get a page of publicity in the booklet and your logo on the back and a guided walk for any staff interested.

S&DR Music

The music project is underway; I have been working with the arranger on sourcing the date and sounds of some of the tunes played on the opening day and have also asked for help from Beamish.

The Globe

I am working on The Globe now. Thank you to everyone who submitted content. It will be out in July.

Webmaster's Report

I have been adding new information to the web site. This is partly so that the self-guided walk booklet can have QR codes included which will take people to our web site for additional detailed information not printed in the booklet. So the information on Timothy Hackworth has been updated and new information included on the Clements family of Wood House Farm (just north of Heighington Station) and the Gaunless Bridge.

Sales have been healthy this month with 19 products sold amounting to £234.24. The main item sold was new membership.

Other things

I have given a talk to Tudhoe Local History Society and received donations from them for the Friends (given to the Heighington Station campaign) and sold some S&DR publications.

I have had a number of enquiries from publishers, video companies, museums, members and Hornby about S&DR content, historical information or sourcing images. I try to respond to all enquiries but as we approach 2025, they are increasing in number and it is getting much harder to keep up. If you have been in touch and not had a reply, please just prompt me. I spent an afternoon with a journalist from Le Monde daily newspaper who hopes to write two features on the S&DR. I've been attempting to source more help with marketing and publicity but as yet, no firm help is forthcoming. We need this support for the launch of the subscription offer for our coffee table book, to help with the Save Heighington Station campaign and to help increase the audience for our podcast.

Caroline Hardie caroline@aenvironment.co.uk

E I W P C Group

Here at the western end, the cycling and walking route had finally seen some tangible work by D C C with an upgrade of the tarmac path from New Inn Crossroads into Phoenix Row.

The group will be having a display once again at this years Toft Hill Carnival from lunchtime on 6th July..

In September as a reminder, there is to be a garden party in Mary Smith; s garden from 13.00 on Sunday 15th Everyone welcome, however, it is required to contact John prior to the event, so we may know just how many home made cakes to bake.

On the actual 199th anniversary we are hosting an event in Toft Hill Community Centre . This is Friday 27th September. From 13.00 This will include talks by both Bill Rammage on Yarm and Dr Tom Walker of the Etherley Engine . For more info please feel free to contact jraw2883@aol.com

W A S H

Still no tangible work in the entire section of our patch. Dispute asking still no news on the temporary alternative route, to cross the Gaunless A recent litter pick of the Gaunless abutments has recently taken place. On 17th July the very first walk to take in both St Helen Parish Church and also the former Station Masters House will be setting off from St Helen Look out for more details in early July.

ON Tuesday 10th September Mary Smith will be giving her talk on the Etherley Incline to the St Helen's History Society in the Parish Church. Entry £3.00.

On Saturday 28th September there will be an invite to a social in the grounds of St Helen Station

(wish us good luck with the weather) from 15.09. This will be open to all paid up members and their plus one.

B I G

Here work has commenced on three sections of the route, between lifting the stone sleeper blocks (1984) to be temporary stored in Locomotion, while the Walking Cycling Route is put in at the eastern end of Brusselton.

A litter pick has taken place recently around the Mason's Arms site and the next meeting of the group will be taking place on Saturday 6th July from 10.15 in the former Whistle Stop Cafe Redworth Road New Shildon.

On Thursday 4th July you can escape the General Election as there is walk around Shildon pointing out the railway heritage of the first railway town in the world.

To enquire further on anything to do with Brusselton or the site at the former Wagon Works entrance you can contact me on the already given email

FRIENDS of the S&DR – 2025

And More Walks

Thanks to Jonathan Ratcliffe for joining me in establishing the Barnard Castle Circular Walk. The final draft of the Barney leaflet should be ready in the next couple of weeks.

BARNARD CASTLE: The Teesdale Railway History Group has been formed by Cllr Chris Foote-Wood (Member of the Friends and Lead Council Member for the 2025 Celebrations) under the umbrella of the Friends of the S&DR. There will be a railway exhibition at the Witham from 21st August to 8th September 2025 (excluding Mondays). Montalbo School was built on land which was the site of the extension of the S&DR and its garden will be open at certain times in the summer holidays for visitors (the pupils are involved). The Fitzhugh Library in Middleton will have an exhibition of S&DR papers and has arranged for a model (large) of Middleton Station to be on view in the Masonic Hall. GSK (formerly Glaxo), celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2025, came to Barney because of the good communications provided by four railways into Barney! We are working with it on projects. Funding applications have been submitted.

‘A HEAD of STEAM’: As we have found it difficult to get the play presented, it was suggested a film might be the answer and I shall contact Michael Chaplin (playwrite and son of Sid Chaplin who wrote plays about the north-east, such as ‘Close the Coalhouse Door’. The Author of ‘A Head of Steam’, Bill Gibson thinks if we cannot go further, he would like to give the play to the Friends of the S&DR.

OTHER: Tom Walker would like to give his talk ‘The Three Greeners of Etherley and a model steam engine’; Mike Norman with his talk ‘It Wasn’t Rocket Science’ and Dave Reynolds with a talk about the history of ‘The STUTE’. These talks will be presented at The Stute on Wednesday evenings in June, July and August 2025. The Friends of the NRM, NE Branch, will be hosting talks on the lasdt Saturay of each month at 10.30.

We have had an order from Locomotion for 20 copies of ‘Timothy Hackworth & the Locomotive’ by Robert Young, which leaves us with 30. If the meeting agrees, I will contact the publisher I worked with in 2000 to see if we can get a good print deal.

Jonathon has assisted me in putting all my railway photos in files for easy assess and we are now working on filing papers, some gems among them, and we plan to make a list of all the railway books I hold, which are left to the Friends of the S&DR in my will.

I am continuing research for 2025 – something new every day!!!

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JANE HY.

DARLINGTON INTEREST GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE S&D RAILWAY

Notes taken at meeting on 27th June 2024 at Railway Tavern.

Present: Ross, Angela, Keith, Neil, DaveW, Andy, Stephen, Yvonne

Apologies: Dave M, Neil Parker, Hugh, JT

Updates on previous minutes:

- Westbrook: Yvonne has asked the Residents' Group about any progress.
- Walk Booklets 5 & 6: 2 requests have been sent for support to fund the revision and reissuing. Others are planned.
- Sleeper Blocks: Letter sent to SGPetch to see if they have any interest in supporting our work on the Line which is adjacent to their business.

Tornado Way Sleepers:

Much discussion on the report from Andy and Hugh about a setting for the sleepers to enhance display, suppress weeds and make maintenance easier.

Decided:

- 8 inches surround for each block ensuring no encroachment on the Line or Highways property.
- Timber to make surround and weed suppressant has been offered free by a local gardening company.
- Painted grey – Andy has the paint.
- Hopefully source ashla ballast, free, from Weardale railway.
- Bags to contain the ballast Andy obtained free from a local company
- Neil can help with transport.
- Dates to be arranged.

We could publicise the names of the companies that have donated materials. Andy to get permissions first and we can include on the facebook page. The previous photos of the Sleepers and the Throstle's Nest Bridge work both got a lot of interest and some praise so could be a good advert for them.

Hopetown Events Meeting Report:

- It was confirmed that events by community would be promoted alongside the Main Festival, as The Fringe. There will be Festival and Fringe branding and a website will have comprehensive 'searches' for events.
- Each organisation to be responsible for organising, running, financing their events.
- Details about the Main Festival will be announced in September, and will run from next Spring.

Guided Walks:

- Stephen, Hugh and Simon walked Route 5. Agreed that some of it is now embraced by the Hopetown attraction and it seems more appropriate to focus on the town and evidence of the story of how the S&D came into being and Skerne Bridge.
- There was discussion about other guided walks that could be done, whilst the Walk Routes can be self guided.

- A meeting with John Raw last week had discussed provision of Walks along the Line with John in the West, Peter Bainbridge in the East and Darlington in the middle.
- Agreed the Friends Walks should be part of the Main Festival and organised centrally. Ross will report on this to the Members' Meeting next week.

Walk Projects:

Potential for 'info boards'/murals/art work.

- There will be way marking for the Discovery Route which the Line is now called.
- Ross read his proposals for 8 boards which would need funding/permissions.
- Potential for local businesses to support, especially as they may not be aware of their proximity to the S&D history and the potential for visitors to use their business.
- Hopetown will be contacting businesses with branding once the Festival is announced.
- Discussion about the use of QR codes which allows information direct to your phone.
- This relies on a phone signal, and being able to access the tech! But would minimise the vandalism that occurs with signage. Can QR codes be vandalised?

Walk Maintenance:

- A calendar of work dates at the identified sites to be agreed, starting maybe in September.

-Skerne Bridge: Andy had found the Skerne Bridge area in a horrible state with overflowing bins and mess just before the visit of Le Monde newspaper a few weeks ago. Today the same area he found is pristine!

-Will the Council be prioritising that area once Hopetown is open (July 16)?

-Should we be trying to get local residents to look after the area too, especially the Riverside Estate on the other side of the bridge?

-Andy suggested removing the bench to a site on the other side of the bridge which would help prevent people gathering to drink.

-Yvonne will contact local councillors.

-Albert Road railings: Ross had no reply to his email about painting these railings.

Any Other Business:

-Conservation Area – Consultation on the extended Conservation Area has now been put back to September to ensure people don't miss the opportunity to comment during the holidays.

Events:

-Carnival, 29th June: We will have a table to tell people about the Friends and sell some books.

- Monday 1 July. 6 pm. Meet McMullen/Tornado crossroads and walk to green bridge.

- Sunday 7 July. 11am. Town Walk, meet St Cuthberts.

- Thursday 4 July. 7pm. Members' Meeting. Cricket Club

- Sunday 14 July. Tanfield Visit.

Date of next meeting: 25 July. (nb: Also Launch of the film Iron and Steam at Hopetown).