

Directors' Report

for the Period 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021
for

Transition Tynedale Limited

(A company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

CONTENTS

Table of Contents

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	3
DIRECTORS' REPORT.....	4
STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT	4
TRANSITION TYNEDALE OBJECTS	4
SUMMARY REPORT	4
HEXHAM SPACES FOR NATURE	5
EDIBLE HEXHAM AND COMMUNITY GARDEN	6
PRUDHOE SPACE FOR NATURE	7
PLAND SWAP.....	7
APPLE PRESSING.....	7
TRANSITION TYNEDALE TALKS.....	7
ORCHARDS	7
ENERGY	7
THANKS	8

Legal and administrative information

The information below forms part of the Directors' Report.

Status	Transition Tynedale Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 9 July 2012
Directors	Stuart Page Ariane Baty Jane Brantom
Secretary	Stuart Page
Treasurer	Megan Payne
Company number	08135495
Registered address	10 Market Street Hexham NE46 3NU
Web address	http://blog.transitiontynedale.org/
Bankers	Lloyds Bank PO Box 1000 Andover BX1 1LT

Directors' Report

Structure, governance and management

Transition Tynedale Limited is run entirely by volunteers. Members elect a Board of Directors who take overall responsibility for the organisation. Decision-making is often devolved to project teams or working groups, who are responsible for determining the best way to achieve the specific project or group objectives, and performing risk assessments. All financial aspects are overseen by the Board of Directors.

Transition Tynedale Objects

For the period covered by this report and accounts the Objects of Transition Tynedale Limited were:

To build resilience and sustainability into our local community by:

1. creating, supporting and encouraging local solutions to the global problems of peak oil, climate change and economic crisis;
2. raising awareness of the issues associated with the challenges of peak oil, climate change and economic crisis and the consequent need to develop a low carbon, sustainable future through ethical, social, cultural, economic, environmental and community action;
3. supporting and working with other Transition Towns and similar community-led initiatives; and
4. engaging with individuals and organisations, including statutory, voluntary and business where appropriate.

Summary Report

This report spans an extraordinary period over which our ability to go about normal life was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Essentially, though the whole of the year on which we are reporting, we were constrained to varying degrees by Government rules on mixing. This meant that, in most respects we were unable to carry out 'normal' TT activities.

We adapted though, employing the now ubiquitous Zoom approach to meetings. We resumed socially-distanced activities when we were permitted to do so, and since July 2021 we've had a return to something that we might recognise as close to 'normality'.

We also had an injection of energy and new ideas with the appointment of our new Directors, Ariane and Jane, and a significant boost to our membership. There has

been fantastic progress on a number of projects, including Edible Hexham, Hexham Space for Nature, and the launch of a Prudhoe Space for Nature. The Hexham Community Garden remains in good shape (although more volunteers to do the 'heavy lifting' are always welcome!), as is the community orchard at Tyne Green. And possibly a 'silver lining' to the Covid restrictions: the start of a series of Zoom-based talks and activities which have been very well received, and which we intend to continue. More details below.

Clearly the pandemic has not gone away, and as we write there is concern about the spread of Omicron. Whatever further developments this may throw at us, we think we can take confidence from what we've achieved over the past 12 months in difficult circumstances. Let's keep working together, doing our bit to create "local solutions to global problems".

Projects and activities (updates include activities up to December 2021)

Hexham Space for Nature (HS4N)

Hexham Space for Nature joined Transition Tynedale in 2020 and has been active in trying to change the way that we manage our parks, gardens and open spaces to benefit wildlife. We have been active in a number of projects under HS4N:

Sele and Abbey Grounds

We have allowed long areas of grass and wildflowers to flower and set seed. We've also created a new woodland wildflower border where there was once a herbicide-sprayed strip of bare earth along the top wall of the park, and by introducing new wildlife plants and seeds into appropriate places elsewhere.

Cemetery

We are working with Hexham Town Council to create a wildflower meadow opposite the cemetery on the main road. Formerly close mown grass, the area was rotovated and then seeded in October 2019 with a wildflower mix. The meadow is cut at the end of every summer and the hay crop removed, gradually reducing soil fertility and increasing wildflower diversity.

Priestlands and Highford Estate

In Priestlands we are working with local residents to consider how to introduce more wildflowers and wildlife into the recreation ground. At the Highford Estate there is a wonderful open area where the grass and wildflowers have been allowed to grow unchecked for over a decade. There is a need for some grassland management here to retain a diversity of habitats, including wildflowers. Accordingly we have persuaded the Council to cut the long grass areas in a 4 year rotation and to remove the hay cut. We put these proposals to residents at a recent open day attending by more than 80 people, and received a unanimous vote of approval for these and other minor management proposals.

Tree Strategy

HS4N is leading on the production of a Hexham-wide Tree Strategy, inviting

landowners and other stakeholders to get involved in its writing, and eventually to sign up to its principles and conclusions.

Guided walks

in 2022 we plan to run a series of informal guided walks to help people learn a bit more about the nature in our own town, from the cowslips and orchids of Highford Park to the spring warblers and sand martins of the river Tyne, and the new wildflowers appearing in the Sele. We need help with this, of course, so if you have any knowledge of wildlife which you would like to share as a walk guide, please do let us know.

Hexham Swift Heaven

The swift project has made great progress with around 50 new nest boxes being erected. The project is undertaking a more thorough survey of existing swift nesting locations, to better enable them to target nest boxes for next season.

HS4N has established good working relations with Northumberland County Council to deliver much of this work, made presentations and is working with Hexham Town Council and is establishing contact with private landowners such as Karbon Homes.

Edible Hexham and Community Garden

The Community Garden and Edible Hexham beds continued to thrive during the pandemic thanks to the tireless dedication of the small team of volunteers. Produce from the Community Garden goes to the Community Grocery in Hexham East as well as to volunteers and passersby.

The future of the Community Garden remains in doubt now the Middle School has vacated the site. We have made representations to the County Council. Our goal is to keep the garden in situ. We organised a 'Rake & Cake' session in the garden in Autumn 2021 to raise the profile. The Hexham Youth Initiative are now regular helpers.

We researched and launched the Edible Hexham Food Trail at Hexham Farmers' Market in September 2021 during Heritage Open Days week with its 2021 Eating theme. The Trail leads you round all the Edible Hexham beds, the Community Garden and Community Orchard, includes local food history en route and encourages you to pick and use the plants. Hexham Community Partnership supported this and promote the trail on the Visit Hexham site

We also tested some recipes that use produce from the planters devised by local food writer and volunteer Jane Torday. We plan to develop and launch more in April 2022 by which time the planters will be well on with early spring offerings.

Both the Community Garden and Edible Hexham always welcome new volunteers, especially anyone who can help with occasional heavy lifting.

Prudhoe Space for Nature

Prudhoe Space for Nature is a new group for those living in Prudhoe and the immediate area that aims to increase biodiversity locally. We've been really impressed with the impact Hexham Space for Nature has had through all its projects and, like them, want to identify, create and maximise the opportunities for nature and wildlife in our town and immediate local area.

We've started identifying possible sites and have approached Karbon Homes about creating a community orchard in Prudhoe. Members of our group met with one of Karbon's Community Connectors on the identified site who was very positive about the idea and PS4N is now awaiting a decision from Karbon as to whether the project can go ahead.

Plant swap

This year's plant swap went really well. Thanks to all those who helped, brought plants of all descriptions along, and donated. We raised £400 split between the West Northumberland Food Bank and TT and good homes were given to locally raised plants.

Apple pressing

After a year of absence, there was a welcome return of the TT apple pressing day at Hexham Farmers' Market in October. We had plenty of apples, volunteers and visitors on the day, and the freshly pressed free apple juice certainly seemed to go down a treat! Well done to the organising team, the apple pickers and pressers and many helpers. Thank you to the fabulous Hexham Farmers' Market for letting us join in.

Transition Tynedale Talks

We had a series of three Zoom talks last winter which proved popular. We covered Air Source Heat Pumps, Ancient Tree Survey, and Swifts. We look forward to resuming these on Zoom early in January 2022 and will advertise them on our newsletter, website and face book page.

Orchards

There are now community orchards established at Acomb First School (planted 2017) and Tyne Green (2018). Early in 2022 ten apple trees funded by Transition Tynedale will be planted with permission from Karbon Homes in Acomb, on their land known as The Gaps. We are aiming to learn from and participate with the Acomb community in the planting and long term maintenance of the trees and proposed wildflower meadow within it, creating a space for biodiversity to flourish that everyone can enjoy, as well as apple harvests.

Energy

Whilst we have not had the capacity to lead on any new work in this area during this reporting period we have been keeping a close eye on developments and been able to support Hexham Town Council in its early work as Community Champions for Northumberland. We will be participating in the March Hexham Net Zero Fair. We

welcome thoughts on both reinvigorating relevant past TT projects and possible new projects for local delivery.

Thanks

Finally, we thank our members for their annual membership fees, every little helps. We give special thanks to all the project leaders, communication helpers and volunteers from all projects for their continuing time and dedication. We cannot deliver local solutions without you!