

Alston Moor Volunteering Group Report
Nick Mason as Group Facilitator

Present were AH/ ZR / HH / EG / MD ---Chair / NM

Nick began with where he is now:--- Living near Appleby, but still has ties with Alston Moor with eg. Nenthead Play park . / PTFA

He was given the support of the group to continue as Facilitator with assurances that he would still visit AM .

He will not be doing the whole project as a sole agent , but as the Facilitator, encouraging other interested people to become Trustees of the Charity (AM Volunteering Group) . There is now a PTFA (parent, teachers, friends, association) at the School , where Nick is Treasurer of the Committee.He also looks after the accounts on a voluntary basis at Fairhill and the local Guides.

Discussion ensued with Councillors which revealed the following :---

Nick will contact those who have already expressed an interest whether it be as a Trustee or Volunteer, (Two Councillors from Nenthead have volunteered in a supporting role as part of the wider Community involvement) now that we are at this stage of the Pandemic.

He needs to know what offers of help groups / organisations require. Developing programme of Volunteers.

Some groups / organisations on AM are already working with a number of Volunteers and would like to tap into that. eg. Railway, AMERG.

There are also acts of kindness by people just getting up and doing things quietly not necessarily needing any recognition Eg. Member of the Community cleaning the “ Alston Bus Shelter. / Litter picking on Tyne Willows.

There's a Richness of people in this Community to be tapped into including young people.

Everything is prepared to get this project off the ground, but needs a couple of hundred pounds for Insurance , Training Eg. Health and Safety. Will have free membership of CVS. He will organise the accounts in a supportive roll, but the group will need a treasurer.

GNS (Good Neighbour Scheme) was discussed and would be ideal for this group to get involved in and even lead on the project . Nick will converse with CCC Councillor Driver .Councillor Ho volunteered as a resident of the Firs to help.

Keen to get Young People involved.Has spoken with Assistant Head at Samuel Kings (AMF) , where a programme of work is to be developed where then young people can be involved in certain voluntary projects with support from the school.

There have been some young people working as volunteers before and during the Pandemic, working quietly in the Community. Want to encourage young people to take responsibility for their Community having a feeling of Ownership and then hopefully this will filter down to those whom recently have been causing vandalism in the street in saying “ No this is not the way to behave “ EDC Councillor Sharp was suggested as a contact to talk to in her role with Young People .

Next Steps :--- To get the AM Volunteering Group together. Project will go ahead once the Charity has been set up and banking arrangements made.

Also will investigate the possibility of joining AMF with Highgate school in London (private sector) as a way of supporting less well off schools with their curriculum and therefore enhancing the students education through the Chrysalis Foundation.

Elaine