

**NOTES OF THE BEADNELL PARISH COUNCIL WITH NATIONAL TRUST & AONB
VIRTUAL MEETING held on 14TH April at 6pm**

Present: Parish Councillors: A Nation (Chair); J Hall (Vice-Chair),
Parish Councillors A Baker, J Davison, C Scott-Roy & M Dawson
Parish Clerk I Hunter
Gwen Potter & Simon Lee- National Trust
Iain Robson Northumberland County Council AONB
David Feige- Northumberland County Council Environment and Design Team Manager &
County Ecologist
Richard Willis- Northumberland County Council the Space for Shorebirds manager.
John Roper – Newton-by-the-Sea Parish Council
19 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies: Parish Councillor J Rhind

Gwen Potter spoke to a presentation.

Iain Robson, Richard Willis & David Feige- gave a summary as to why the Beadnell Bay site is an important site.

Simon Lee – we will find a way as to what we can support, the viewing platform will be opened once the restrictions are lifted.

Parish Councils-

John Roper of Newton-by-the-Sea – stated that he agreed with what had been said, he was supportive and there were no complaints from the area within Newton-by-the-Sea Parish. However, he said that that signage was not easy to read for people with visual impairment.

A Baker – provided a summary of his interests and involvement in the area raising concerns about the management of the area in 2020 and visitor access. He suggested that National Trust consider a similar to that approach taken on the Norfolk coast. He raised concerns that there has been no consultation, the suggestion from Beadnell Parish Council has received no reply, and the public have not been considered.

Gwen Potter- replied yes there was annoyance last year, however, there was no alternative, but National Trust made changes where they could. She also, stated the alternative suggestions would cause more disturbance.

Simon Lee- replied that National Trust have very few staff, Gwen Potter and the rangers maintain the public access and last year was an exceptional year. The Norfolk Coast is a rather large area compared with Beadnell. Gwen Potter & Iain Robson try to engage with the public to allow the public to enjoy the area. However, they will look at the foreshore area to see if there can be some movement.

Iain Robson- replied, that he hoped to have volunteers in the car park to provide information, and he is looking to holding 2 events for Beadnell people on this subject.

M Dawson- recognised that the birdlife is protected and referred to the 1000 + petition which is requesting the area be managed in a more sensible way. He raised concerns about the

engagement and the inappropriate signage. He requested that there was better engagement, improved signage to include more images and shorter messages. He also proposed that the footpath to the North of the Long Nanny is open to the public to walk quietly and calmly along with dogs on leads, as well as the gate at the south of the nanny bridge be opened. He also, referred to the access to Farne Islands and the closeness to the nesting birds.

Richard Willis- replied that if there was access to the north side there would be a loss which will be harmful to the colony

Gwen Potter- replied that the Farne Islands is a national nature reserve and there are no little terns on the Farne Islands.

Simon Lee- replied that there is controlled limited access to the Farne Islands and no dogs are allowed.

J Hall- raised concerns about access, access to the beach, the public having to return to the car park, and damage to the dunes as the public make their own route through the dunes.

Questions from members of the public:

- 1- As the lead petitioner and landowner, she confirmed that she had already met with Gwen Potter & Simon Lee of National Trust and it is proposed to be just the same as has been. She stated that the issue with Miller's Nick was the responsibility of the National Trust. She requested that the footpath at the north side of the Long Nanny is allowed to be access by the public for 1 year as a trial. She raised concerns that Northumberland County Council are promoting visitors come to Beadnell which means the car park is full by 7am-8am in the morning. She stated that the signage is ignored, and the public will trample over and damage the dunes, the sea level is rising which will affect the dunes, and the proposal of volunteers at the car park to provide information will not work, as the public will ignore the information.
- 2- Stated she had written several letters during 2020, there needs to be a balance between the public and the birdlife, and suggested the National Trust try to keep the access at the base of the dunes, Long Nanny, and Beadnell Bay. She suggested having volunteers on the north side of the burn to engage with the public. She stated that if areas are closed the public will find alternative routes which could be onto private land and other habitat could be damaged. She raised concerns that even at low tide the area is not passable due to water, in 2020 there was a plethora of signage, additional litter and the proposals for 2021 are being rushed through as we are within a month of the terns returning.
- 3- Stated that she would erect signage on her land and if the dunes are damaged, she would blame National Trust. She requested that National Trust give some thought to the points raised
- 4- The Clerk read out the following message from the chat box from a member of the public - I just want to put on record that not all of the public agree with the petitioners. We are blessed with an enormous beach at Beadnell Bay. To lose a small part of it for some of the summer is no great hardship.

Gwen Potter – informed the meeting that there are about 3,000 visitors a year to the viewing platform, with approx. 200 visitors a day on a busy day.

M Dawson- requested National Trust consider what has been said, listen to everyone, have a more friendly approach, open the gate, improve the signage, and allow access.

Simon Lee- thanked everybody for their comments, stating it is challenging, bird experts provide credible advice, they are listening, understand the sentiment and concern, however, they need time to reflect.

A Baker- there will be support from the community if you listen to the community.

The Chair said that she hoped that National Trust would consider all comments and report back to the Parish Council. She thanked everybody for their attendance,