

Wooler Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of the meeting of the interim steering group on Monday 3rd April 2017

1. Present: Lynne Pringle (LP) - chair, Shirley Mills (SM) – deputy chair, Bob Snooks (BS), Rosanna Reed (RR) – WPC, Alfreda Hindmarsh (AH) WPC, Charlotte Picken (CP), Lynda Cairns (LC) WPC clerk WNP secretary, Margaret Brown (MB), Sue Welch (SW), Patsy Healey (PH), Diane Perry (DP), Tom Johnston (TJ), Clive Coyne (CC) Anthony Murray – NCC, Pam Ratcliffe (PR). Mark Napier (MN)-WPC for part of the meeting.

Apologies: Rob Donkin (RD) – WPC chair, Michael Stanwix (MS), Peter Rutherford (PRf) – NCC, David Bull (DB) Mark Mather (MM)-WPC

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March were agreed with the correction of (4) to read: 'LC told the meeting that councillors will need to be circumspect until after the local election.'

3. Matters Arising – all included in the agenda

4. Section 106 Protocol

AH reported that PRf had sent a list with photographs of possible sites for development. AH will pass these to WPC for action. **AH**

PH emphasised that WNP policies should take into account how they would/could be used in individual planning applications.

5. Survey of self-employed and small businesses – see 7. below

6. Newcastle University school project

The work is largely completed. The school is making a press release about the young peoples' likes and dislikes about Wooler.

Six of the WNP group went to the school for the impressive presentations of their ideas for the future use of Ferguson's Yard, given by 10 small groups of young people.

PH will obtain copies of the young peoples' presentations and material will be displayed at the upcoming Drop In event on Wooler High Street. **PH**

The young peoples' ideas and opinions will be taken into account in the preparation of the WNP document.

7. Feedback re: 'Other Stakeholders' working parties

A. 150 self-employed and small businesses were identified (Inc. some previously contacted) and asked to complete a questionnaire. Many have responded; the group will follow up with the others.

The responses will be collated for the next meeting. **AH, MB, RR & DP**

B. Housing

Working back from the Vision to what needs to be done to achieve it, this working group will summarise information gained from surveys and identify what **types** of housing might be appropriate.

In the Newtons shop display, there could be a map on which the potential building sites are marked, and attendees asked:

If there were to be a housing development on this site, what type would you like to see?

What type of housing is there too little of?

The landowners could then be contacted to enquire about their plans and the timescale, and encourage action.

If need is identified, there might be a special consultation event on housing. **PH, SW, LP, DP & DB**

C. Town Centre

Owing to pressure of work, RD & MM would be unable to undertake this for some months. It was agreed that BS will pick up this work now and contact the residents of the High Street, using a questionnaire already prepared, and report back to the next meeting. LP to send questionnaire to BS. **BS, LP**

8. Land ownership

This item to be deferred to the next meeting.

LP to ask PRf for information inc. the status and route of the proposed bypass. **LP**

9. Social groups and organisations

An extensive list has been made and those on the list have been surveyed by the Housing Group.

LP to prepare information about WNP and share with groups that haven't been surveyed so far and, if possible, put out invitations for the Newton's shop event. **LP**

10. Website

BS demonstrated the new website – **WNP.org** – which is now live. Training and passwords to be given 4 April to BS & LC & LP

More photos are needed. **ALL. Please forward to BS asap**

Hard copy of the Home Page will be on display at Newtons shop. **BS**

DP will advertise the website on the Wooler Facebook page and Wooler parent network. **DP**

PH to find out how it can be advertised in the school bulletins. **PH**

11. Vision for Wooler

The Vision was reviewed and found still to be pertinent. It will be revisited in the August WNP meeting.

SW suggested considering re-wording to emphasise that we want to maintain a 'balanced community'. **SW**

12. Budget/funding application

LP had met with TJ and LC to review expenditure in the past 6-month period; a small amount had been returned but can be made available later. A further meeting was called with TJ, PH, RD and LP to look at likely outgoings for the next two 6-month funding periods. RD was unable to attend. A later meeting took place between RD and LP. The grant is

£9,000 while the current plan requires £11,277. With a 'guestimate' of planning consultant's time, the forecast for March 2017– September 2018 is a deficit of around £2,500. Help with the deficit to be sought from WPC (precept?) and GET. If the need arises, other organisations will be approached to contribute.

Sharing some expenses with Tillside may be mutually beneficial. Contact will be made to meet up with Tillside.

LP

LC will report on the budget monthly to WNP, and will inform WPC.

LC

TJ & SM will develop and submit the bid for the next period of grant funding.

TJ, SM

13. Planning consultant

It had been agreed that the WNP process requires a 'critical friend'.

Two consultants were invited to tender, one of whom withdrew.

Jenny Ludman was interviewed and has been appointed. She will be in Wooler on Friday 21 April, time to be finalised – to meet members of the interim steering group who are available.

14. Publicity

WNP should have a stand at the Glendale Festival (Sunday 23 July). Glendale Show (Bank Holiday Monday 28 August) is booked.

Everyone to let LP know if they can help at either or both events.

ALL

15. WNP Drop-In on the High Street (Newton's shop)

WNP information will be displayed in the shop 10 & 11, and 17 & 18 April. The display will be staffed and the shop will be open 1100–1400, to be reviewed, depending on footfall, at the end of the first day.

LP has circulated the rota. Those available to help over the four days are:

MM, TJ CP, AH, RR, SW, PH, PR, BA DP, MB, LP

Those available at 0930 on Monday 10th to assist with setting up the display are:

PH, MN, TJ, AH, CP, LP

16. AOB

A. Administrative support

(a) LC is taking responsibility for the financial aspects of producing the WNP.

Expenses forms have been circulated.

(b) PR will take the minutes; SW to cover.

B. Town & Country Planning Act 1990, section 215

BS suggested consideration of this provision, whereby WPC can ask NCC to serve a notice in respect of property which has a detrimental effect on the environment. It was flagged up that this is a costly, lengthy legal process.

LP to seek our planning consultant's views about its potential application.

LP

C. Place Standard – How good is Our Place?

This interactive tool circulated to the group may be useful for individuals and with groups.
The details to be put on the website. **BS**

D. NNPA

CC thanked all who had visited the NNPA Local Plan open session.

17. Timetable

Reviewed and on track

18. Next meeting & dates for diary

Mon 10th, Tues 11th, Mon 17th, Tues 18th Newtons Shop Drop In

Friday 21st April Planning Consultant Meeting, time to be confirmed

Next WNP meeting: Tuesday 2nd May

Wednesday 3rd May at the Cheviot Centre: Newcastle University students' presentation to the interim steering group (time to be advised)

WNP meetings:

5th June,

3rd July

7th August

4th September

2nd October

6th November

4th December