

Wooler Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of the meeting of WNP Steering Group on Monday 8th January 2018

1. Present: Lynne Pringle (LP) - chair, Shirley Mills (SM) WPC – deputy chair, Anthony Murray (AM) – NCC, Rob Donkin (RD) – WPC, Malcolm Pringle (MP) – WPC, Caroline Cumming (CC) – WPC, Sue Welch (SW), Margaret Brown (MB), Patsy Healey (PH), Alfreda Hindmarsh (AH), David Bull (DB), Pam Ratcliffe (PR).

Apologies: John Boardman, David English, Clive Coyne, Rosanna Reed.

2. Minutes of the meeting on 4th December 2017 were agreed (PH, SW) with two corrections:

- Apologies had been received from PR, who was unable to attend
- 9. AM is our elected Councillor on NCC; DE & JB (NCC) and CC (NNPA) have an advisory role.

3. Matters arising: none.

4. Planning Consultant's advice 12 December 2017

Six of the Steering Group and DE were able to attend this meeting; JL advised on the content of the Consultation document and the specific detail required for each objective.

5. Consultation strategy update

DB reported that he has written to 20 infrastructure providers including the Highways Authority and energy suppliers, giving them until the end of January to reply. To date, five responses have been received.

DB will produce a summary for the Group and pass the responses to PH.

DB

It is possible that providers will wish to consider the detailed proposals when formal planning applications are made.

The WNP Steering group were reminded that DE has advised that that the Consultation document and supporting information would benefit from being be publicised using the local press, Facebook and websites of both WPC and WNP and that should continue to include invitations to participate to the whole community and stakeholders including:

1. All the councils of parishes adjoining Wooler's boundary
2. Parents of children and young people attending Glendale School
3. Groups, organisations and businesses in Wooler Parish
4. Local landowners

All the groups, organisations, clubs, stakeholders to be involved in the upcoming consultation (mid Feb). WPC is to inform WNP about who they want to be included. It would be helpful to have this information, including contact details if possible, asap after 22nd Jan before the end of the month in order to prepare and forward invitations.

Draft 6 of the Consultation document

On 4 January the document was scrutinised by WNP group line by line and amended as necessary; JL has approved it. Permission is to be sought from WPC to use the document as the basis for the consultation in mid Feb.

At this evenings meeting the Steering Group made an amendment to Objective 3, so with that change the document is now **Draft 7**. WNP Facebook and website to display Draft 7 (subject to WPC approval) **LP, MP & MS**

The Steering Group unanimously agreed to support the allocation of sites in the plan, to provide the flexibility we need to grow over the next 15 years while providing some 'certainty' to landowners, developers, and residents.

Whilst we would not pursue a settlement boundary we would be mindful of national and regional planning guidelines, landscape sensitivity, and infrastructure issues (via AECOM work and consultations with infrastructure providers, public feedback and feedback from working party group)

SW is continuing to work on the WNP Consultation Statement. LP and PH will assist.

SW, LP & PH

6. Working Groups update; background reports

It is possible that Community assets could be protected through the Plan however WPC can also protect assets directly.

This is one of several issues which Councillors may wish to seek clarification from JL or DE. WPC Councillors have been invited to meet with JL at the Cheviot Centre at 1800 on 22 January, before the WPC meeting.

7. Green Spaces

Some green spaces have been identified for possible protection.

The areas identified are the Tory (war memorial), the Forestry Commission's ponds area, the playing fields and the park laid out by Mr G Dickinson as potential sites for protection.

PH asked that the WPC discuss and consider the merits of such a course of action and feedback to WNP the outcome of their deliberations.

8. Steering Group membership

The NCC representative has changed. Terms of Reference need to be updated.

9. WPC/WNP joint meeting update/ feedback

The Christmas social was both enjoyable and useful for informal discussion. DB was thanked.

10. WPC feedback

No new feedback has been received.

11. Screening Assessments

The Steering Group were reminded of advice from DE that NCC will conduct these assessments just before the pre-submission document is prepared, which will be after March.

PH is in communication with relevant people at NCC.

12. Housing Needs Assessment

CAN feedback is that almost a third of households responded, far in excess of the anticipated 10% and very encouraging. The data produced is complex and work is ongoing to interpret the results, taking into account previous studies, public feedback and the demographics of Wooler etc. Andy Dean from CAN and JL are going to be part of a meeting to progress matters. When we have received the report it will be forwarded to WPC members for their information and their approval sought for a press release.

It is understood that of those respondents to the Housing Needs Survey who stated that they wanted to move home, a significant number would prefer rented housing.

13. Budget and funding applications

The budget is on target. SM to keep a check on this and confirm info for WNP meetings.

SM

14. Website

In due course Drafts – marked clearly as Drafts – could possibly be put on the WNP website following approval by WPC.

It was noted that DRAFT 7 of the Consultation document should be possible to download, so that comments can be made and the hard copy given to WNP Steering Group. Online completion of forms to be checked out with web designer **MP**

The final findings of the Housing Needs Assessment should also be displayed in due course.

All working party groups to forward for inclusion on the website all 'literature'/ studies/documents etc referred to in their respective sections of the plan **ALL & MP**

15. Facebook

LP asked for items/ updates etc to post on Facebook to continue to engage the public.

ALL

16. Timeline

The timeline has been updated.

17. Consultation workshop

The Steering Group will meet at the Cheviot Centre at 1900 on 18 January to prepare for the public consultation event.

18. Issues to discuss (attachment).

Issue re options for land allocation discussed and agreed as outlined in item 5 above.

NNP and Conservation areas issues were not discussed.

19. AOB

LP & SM have served for another 3-month period, and the ToR require the posts be reviewed.

The Steering Group were unanimous in asking LP & SM to continue in post and thanked them for their diligent work.

20. Next meeting and dates for diaries

Thursday 18th January, 1900, Cheviot Centre: planning meeting for consultation event **ALL**

Monday 22nd January, 15.30–18.00, Cheviot Centre: meeting with JL **ALL**

Monday 5th February, 19.00, Cheviot Centre: WNP Steering Group meeting

Thursday 15th February, 1430–1915, Cheviot Centre: public consultation **ALL AVAILABLE**

Monday 5th March, 19.00, Cheviot Centre: WNP Steering Group meeting

Monday 9 April, 1900, Cheviot centre (or at Margaret Brown's home if the CC is not available)

ALL

Tuesday 8th May, 19.00, Cheviot Centre: WNP Steering Group meeting **ALL**