

Wooler Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of the meeting of the interim steering group on Monday June 5th 2017 at the Cheviot Centre

Agenda

1. Present: David Bull (DB), Clive Coyne (CC) - NNPA, Kevan Curry (KC) -WPC, Catherine Dunne - WPC, Patsy Healey (PH), Alfreda Hindmarsh (AH), Tom Johnston (TJ), Frank Mansfield (FM) -Chair GGT, Shirley Mills (SM) – deputy chair and WPC, Anthony Murray (AM) – NCC, Mark Napier (MN)- (from 7.15), Diane Perry (DP), Lynne Pringle (LP) - chair, Peter Rutherford (PRf) – NCC, Rachel Sinton (RS) - WPC, Bob Snooks (BS), Michael Stanwix (MS), Sue Welch (SW)

Apologies: Margaret Brown (MB), Malcolm Pringle(MP), Rosanna Reed (RR), Pam Ratcliffe (PR). Caroline Cumming (CCu)

2. Minutes of the meeting on 2nd May 2017

The minutes were agreed.

3. Matters arising

All matters included in the agenda

4. Newcastle University Project

PH reported on the presentations given by the students. There were 3 groups of students and each group produced a report on 'Background' and 'Strategy'. These have been e mailed to all members of the group along with the PowerPoint presentations which are 'easier' versions to digest. **PH asked all for comments so that they are fed back to the students.** AH commented that the analyses were very useful and gave an outsiders point of view.

LP agreed to write a letter of thanks to the students and staff of the university.

5. Stakeholders and other working parties update

a) Local Economy

AH reported on the results of the survey of small businesses (attached)

Issues arising included:

- the need to generate publicity to attract people and businesses (BS). TJ suggested someone from the Chamber of Commerce might be asked to talk to the group about different possibilities. Does it exist?
- issues around a local workforce because of the elderly population
- the idea of using the cluster of antiques shops as a draw to increase visitors, giving Wooler a unique identity. **SW to e mail the group TJ's 2004 report on this**
- the possibility of pop-up markets – perhaps will be tried at this year's Festival Sunday to see how the idea works?
- the challenge of making Wooler a place to live and work as well as retirement community
- the need for the WNP to reflect on land use and marketing strategies.

LP thanked the Local Economy group for their work and asked **all those present to send their ideas to the Local Economy group so they can be documented.**

b) Landscape, Townscape and Heritage

SM reported that the group had identified 3 areas

Landscape - parks etc.

Townscape - buildings

Heritage - what we want to keep

and have identified documents that will help to pursue these areas further and provide links with 'accessibility'

c) Accessibility and Sustainable Vibrant Community

Issues around these themes are emerging from the 3 working groups.

d) Housing

PH reported that the group has suspended meetings until the end of July. Issues that were raised by the steering group were

- the need for lifelong provision of housing
- exploration of why Wooler doesn't seem to attract builders/developers. Factors include geography, commute to nearest cities etc
- investigation into what has happened in Belford to help it flourish
- the need to revisit reports to ensure that we are considering everything in our analysis

6. Land ownership

TJ reported that site owners for potential development sites have been identified and any queries will be checked when GGT and WNP representatives meet Savills on June 16th. This meeting might also get info. about

- demographics, in particular the need for residential and extra care and the interest of the private sector in providing this
- what would attract investors and builders

DB has developed questions that can be used with landowners and developers to gather and give information

7. Plan

- Planning consultant

The Planning Consultant (JL) will help us to look at progress and materials. It is likely that another session will be needed with her soon.

- Relationship with the Core Strategy

The NCC Core Strategy is not yet in place but has been submitted to the Secretary of State. There was discussion about the potential impact of the change of membership of the CC after the recent election. The current WNP is based on information extracted from the Core Strategy and if it was withdrawn we would have to conform to the earlier Berwick Plan which would mean an extra raft of work. AM explained that there shouldn't be any conflict with WNP even if there were some changes to the Core Strategy .

CC reminded the meeting that the National Parks Plan also needs to be analysed and referenced.

- Vision and aims, general start for the plan

SW provided a draft of 'The Vision' that incorporated the earlier draft and that suggested by planning consultant JL. The Vision needs to be part of consultation with the community to make sure that we are going in the right direction and any changes identified at an early stage. As a way forward to move from the Vision to objectives and policy it was suggested that a small group, made up of those who have a solid understanding of the thinking behind each of the working groups, could meet to develop a web of what the overlapping issues might be so that links are made across the different areas. SW, AH and PH all expressed an interest in doing this. PH suggested that **each of the 3 working groups identify their objectives and issues around 'Accessible, sustainable, vibrant community'** so there was a good basis to undertake this piece of work.

- Statement of Intent etc

LP highlighted the need for a common message and approach in all discussions and communication with the community, landowners, developers etc. re land and housing issues. AM suggested that one person (LP) should be the spokesperson

- Timeline

We appear to be on track in relation to the Timeline. The summer is for consultation so by the end of July we need to have clear initial ideas.

8. Publicity/Consultation

- Website

LP thanked BS for the work done on this. It was suggested that photos and images would enhance the pages and Meg Vickers from the Camera Club is happy to take photos with guidance. **Members of the group are asked to access the website and read the text emailing suggestions for photos to SW who will forward these to Meg.**

We need someone to work with Meg and look at the work that was done with the children to see where this might be used.

SM agreed to be the central point for any new text for the website. All suggestions etc to go directly to Shirley for oversight and she will submit to BS

- Facebook

LP will put on a few words about the group and work with MS to get this up and running. There also needs to be links to the WNP website and the Parish Council website. **LP, MN and DP agreed to be administrators for the site.**

- Press Release

Feedback has been sent to LP and a **draft is ready to send to PRf.**

- Public engagement exercise

DB suggested 4 meetings to discuss What? Why? How? in early September. There was discussion around leafleting and it was agreed that a leaflet would be delivered to every household early in July (after the press release) possibly with the Festival leaflets. It would give information about progress made and the vision and objectives to test that we are going in the right direction.

- Collation of information from Drop In events

LP has collated feedback from the community. We need to make sure this always referred to and is kept in mind.

9. Budget

TJ and SM have made a second application for funding. The additional funding for the Parish Clerk was turned down. The suggestion from GGT to fund and monitor the workload for 6 months and then invoice the Parish Council was accepted but needs to be confirmed by the Parish Council. The issue of signatories will be discussed and moved forward to a conclusion.

There was discussion about the Complex Case funding. Initial soundings appear to be positive but a case needs to be made at the end of 6 months for the next application in October.

10. Three monthly review of position of Chairperson

AH suggested it was very difficult to change at this point and it was agreed that LP and SM would continue but would ask for help if they felt they were overburdened.

11. AOB

MN is kindly organising the marquee and tables for the Glendale festival on Saturday 22nd July. We are really keen for this to go ahead as it may target a younger age group .PLEASE, anyone **who is able to help should contact LP who will collate details and forward to MN.** So far, according to previous minutes, DB, PH, SW, MN, PR and SM could attend at different times on different dates.

Jane Field from Belford is doing a Needs Assessment for the elderly in her area **and LP agreed to contact her to see if there could be a useful information exchange.**

The possibility of a 'natural burial site' was raised. GGT are looking into the possibility of this.

12. Next meeting & dates for diary.

WNP and WPC meetings are usually held on Mondays, at 7 pm in The Cheviot Centre

Further WNP meetings: 3 July, 7 August, 4 September (review Chair), 2 October, 6 November, 4 December (review Chair)

WPC meetings 17th July, 21st August, 25th Sept, 23rd Oct, 27th Nov, 18th Dec

Press Release, June?July?.date to be confirmed (PF, SW, DB)

July Leaflet Drop, date to be confirmed (BS)

Glendale Festival Saturday 22nd July (need helpers)

Glendale Show Monday 29th August (need helpers)

Sept "What , Why, How ?" meetings this month. DB to confirm dates.