

Wooler Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of the meeting of the interim steering group on Tuesday 2nd May 2017

1. Present: Lynne Pringle (LP) - chair, Shirley Mills (SM) WPC – deputy chair, Rosanna Reed (RR) – WPC, Sue Welch (SW), Patsy Healey (PH), Tom Johnston (TJ) GGT, David Bull (DB), Anthony Murray (AM)– NCC, Michael Stanwix (MS), Peter Rutherford (PRf) – NCC, Pam Ratcliffe (PR).

Mark Napier (MN)-WPC & Margaret Brown (MB) for part of the meeting.

1. Apologies: Rob Donkin (RD) – WPC chair, Mark Mather (MM)-WPC, Bob Snooks, Alfreda Hindmarsh, Charlotte Picken, Dianne Perry, Clive Coyne

2. Minutes of the meeting on 3rd April 2017 were agreed with the exception that in item 12. 'GET' should read 'GGT'.

3. Matters arising – all included in the agenda.

4. Section 106 protocol

AH had received information from Mark Ketley at NCC which was shared with the group. A wide-ranging discussion took place. The 106 policy will last for many years in varying circumstances; community considerations for each site should be identified early in the planning process, in the pre-application stage, so that prospective developers know how 106 protocols affect the land before agreeing to purchase it. It was agreed that this be kept in mind for the future.

5. Newcastle University school project

The students will give a presentation at 1100 on Wednesday 3rd May, to which all WNP attendees are warmly invited.

ALL

6. Feedback re: 'Other Stakeholders' working parties

A. Housing

PH presented the housing themes. The group discussed the documents which had been circulated by e mail. It became apparent that Housing and Employment are very much tied together with overlapping issues to consider.

The discussion generated the following points:

- Is the key priority housing or jobs ?
- The SHLAA is out of date but we have a plan to update it with current info.
- Employment is necessary to make a more balanced community. Some available sites could be prioritised for providing employment . Should some sites be for mixed use?
- Should the WNP support the move of some businesses to modern units and thereby achieve environmental improvements?
- Should Housing be closer to the centre, with the bigger sites used for other purposes?
- Given demographic trends there is a need identified for supported housing for the elderly and housing for support workers .

- There is a need identified for 3-bed homes for families .
- Many people commute out of Wooler. The trend is towards 'agile jobs', with people changing jobs and professions during their working lives; how does a rural location support this? Is there a shortage of land-based workers?
- What are the barriers to attracting larger employers to Wooler? Business rates? Availability of workforce? How to improve this situation?

It was agreed that the group would turn to other themes and return to 'housing' after time to reflect on it.

B. The local economy/businesses/town centre . – to be discussed at the next meeting.

The group are looking forward to a presentation of the data from the surveys undertaken by BS, MB, AH, RR and DP for the next WNP meeting. **BS, MB, AH, RR, DP**

7. Land ownership

A discussion took place about when and how to approach undertaking contact with land owners and potential developers , AND how to deal with approaches and queries made by land owners and potential developers . It was agreed that all contacts will be made uniformly, by a team of at least three people, to avoid any misunderstandings

. To be discussed further and guidelines developed and circulated.

LP

PRdf explained that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for any sites allocated for housing and that listing the criteria for the different uses of any site could provide flexibility .

8. Social groups and organisations

LP had contacted groups (by phone or email) to invite them to the display in Newtons shop.

9. Website

BS is managing the website. All information for display should go through the Chair to BS.

PRf suggested that Minutes, agendas, housing theme documents and

comments from surveys and Drop In events should be available on the website. This action was agreed . **BS**

MS to contact BS about setting up a WNP Facebook page.

MS

BS

10. Vision for Wooler

The planning consultant had reviewed the Vision statement, and rewritten our text to make it more specific and focused. This method would be used to develop the draft WNP which will be circulated for feedback prior to formal consultation.

11. & 12. Budget & funding application

The current application is being assessed. SM to inform LP and TJ of outcomes. **SM**

Another tranche of funding is possibly available for WNP work. TJ will progress to look at feasibility etc and liaise with SM **TJ SM**

13. Planning consultant.

Jenny Ludlun's feedback document discussed. PH shared information about the content of the meeting with JL, including S 18 considerations, to those who weren't able to attend. JL's view was sought about S215 and she pointed out that it was a complicated process to undertake and explained the County Council's role. The possibility of pursuing additional funding for the WNP was also raised. This was discussed in further detail and it was agreed that we go ahead with enquiries about how to proceed. The benefits of doing so include helpful technical support.

14. Publicity

WNP will have a stand on both days at the Glendale Festival, which should reach different groups of residents, and at the Glendale Show which will engage with visitors. Offers to staff the stands on the three days to LP. So far DB, PH,

SW, M and SM could attend at different times on different dates. MN agreed to provide a marquee etc for the outdoor day of the Glendale Festival (Sat?) **ALL**

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

The display was visited by 40 people who gave considerable feedback on the post-it notes. The group agreed that themes/ comments are collated and shared on website. The information will be in the public domain and potentially useful to add weight to for a wide range of community action projects, eg the Carnegie Twin Town initiative. **LP BS**

16. Timetable

Newtons Drop In events, The Glendale Festival and Glendale Show to be added to the timetable/ timeline on website **BS**

17. AOB

The landscape and heritage theme will be considered by SM, MN, PH & PR.

A press release will be undertaken soon to update the public about the website and other recent developments ,

Bullet points to LP **asap** for forwarding to PRf. **ALL**

LP to liaise with PRf later in the month re press release. **LP PRf**

18. Next meeting & dates for diary

Bank Holiday Monday 29th May 6.30pm Coldmartin, meeting of all available to prepare for further consultation etc.

Next WNP meeting: 5th June

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

Glendale Festival Saturday & Sunday 22 & 23 July

Glendale Show Monday 28 August