

Wooler Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th November 2018 at Overacres, Coldmartin

1. Present: Lynne Pringle – chair (LP), Margaret Brown (MB), Robert Donkin – WPC (RD), Patsy Healey (PH), Alfreda Hindmarsh (AH), Mark Mather – WPC (MM), Anthony Murray -- NCC (AM), David English – NCC (DE), David Bull (DB), Mark Napier – WPC (MN), Sue Welch (SW), Caroline Cummings – WPC (CCu), Pam Ratcliffe (PR)

Apologies: Clive Coyne, Shirley Mills

2. Minutes of the meeting on 28th September 2018 were agreed (PH, SW)

3. Matters arising

- WPC members of the WNPSG are RD, MM, CCu & MN. AM is the NCC member.
- PH had responded as a private citizen to the planning application for development at Weetwood Road, using to the policies in the Draft Plan, and had found them comprehensive and relevant.

4. Planning consultant

- **Proposed changes to Draft 4:**

A full and comprehensive discussion took place on each proposed change (generated by discussion with CC and at recent joint meeting of WNP/WPC).

The new policy (p3) is a positive wording of national policy, which applies to all Northumberland.

DE advised that the Plan must be internally consistent, and it may be necessary to define 'open countryside'. The policy is defensive, as hamlets could be considered 'open countryside'. DB considered that the policy protects quality development in the open countryside.

- **Monitoring & review**

The updated Plan will be circulated to WNP steering group and forwarded to WPC for formal approval by 15 Nov 2018. **PR**

PR and SW agreed to proofread Plan.

- **Acknowledgements**

The general statement of thanks to all who have contributed to WNP was approved for use in the Plan.

5. Budget

Funds remaining are £2539.44, which is sufficient only to cover the essential fees of the planning consultant. No money is available for room hire, printing, etc.

6. Consultation preparation

This will take place in January, subject to receiving feedback and assessments on time.

7. Infrastructure providers

A discussion with the water authority took place in October, and their comments will be absorbed into the Draft. PH to prepare proposed changes by 15 November. **PH**

8. WPC, WNP feedback/issues:

- Discussion about pedestrian crossing.
- Community Actions: the statement on Community Actions has been approved by WPC.

9. Screening assessments SEA, HR

- DE reported re: Habitat Assessment that the ecologist has concerns about aspects of the sewage works. NCC will send HR 'screening opinion' to Natural England (for response within 21 days). DE will forward the Habitats assessment to WNP group at the earliest opportunity and will helpfully send the wording for inclusion in the Draft to PR / LP/ PH. A discussion took place around potential issues re: planning applications that may arise until ecologists' concerns are addressed. **DE**
- PH will ask the water authority to expedite their report. **PH**
- PH reported on the progress of SEA. It is anticipated that news should be forthcoming very shortly.

10. Steering Group membership

WPC members of the WNPSG are RD, MM, CCu & MN. AM is the NCC member.

11. Timeline

The timeline may have to be adjusted to take account of the anticipated completion of the screening assessments. Currently. The consultation is now expected to take place mid-February.

12. & 13. Website and Facebook

A variable but increasing number of people are accessing the sites. SW will turn the minutes of WNPSG meetings into pdfs for uploading. **SW, LP**

14. Data Protection

No action required.

15. AOB

* The first edition of Glendale Live magazine featured an article on WNP. There should be another article in the next edition, as an update and to explain any delays. **LP**

* Given Wooler's ageing population and issues of loneliness and isolation, it was agreed that Residential annexes should be supported: to be added to Policy 8. **PH, LP, DB with advice from JL**

16. Next meeting & dates for diary (previously circulated by email)

Meetings are usually held on Monday evenings at 1900

7th January at **Overacres, Coldmartin**

4th February

4th March

1st April

Tuesday 7th May

3rd June (**or** Tuesday 4th June)

1st July

5th August

2nd September

7th October

4th November

2nd December

Venues: The WNP budget will not stretch to booking a room for these meetings; venues for 2019 to be arranged.

We are grateful to Margaret Brown for hospitality for January 2019.