

# Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – Management Committee

## 7pm, 19 May 2024

### Location:

Zoom meeting.

### Attendees:

- Christine Thomas – Chair
- Mike Shiels – Secretary
- Anne Louise Grant – Treasurer
- Ian Peart
- Mark Russell – MC member
- Niamh McDonald – MC member

### Apologies:

- Lucy Reed – Data Protection Officer
- Maureen Clyne – MC member
- Richard Lumley – MC member
- Kelli Turner – MC member
- John Million – MC member
- Anthony Robson

## Minutes

### 1. Software licence

Ian updated that the minimum cost for GIS software licence will be around £1500, which covers the site plus 2 people with editing rights. He will submit requirements to ESRI to get a more formal quote.

Christine expects us to get around £8k in the next funding round, so we should be able to fund this.

### 2. Progress Update

Christine has arranged for an open morning, upstairs at Consett Library, on Friday 24 May 10am-12pm. She has also put slides on the display board in the library foyer, to advertise the event. MC members are welcome to join if free.

Youth consultation with Consett Academy is going well - 32 responses to date. Example opinions include:

- Generally, rate the town as fair or good.
- Would rather have face-to-face banking facilities than online.
- Would like to see more employment opportunities, especially in tech.
- Would like to see young people explicitly recognised in the Objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan

They will present on 11 June at Consett Business Centre (Christine to send details later) – all MC members are welcome to attend.

Christine presented to Consett Rotary. Some challenges but ultimately supportive.

Christine met with Rosemary Morris, who attended the heritage workshop on 7 May. She would like to do some further green spaces analysis with the residents committee at Hamsterley Mill. Christine has provided the template and maps to support this.

It was agreed that we should approach the Shotley Bridge Residents' Association for consultation.

Christine attended a meeting last Thursday morning (16 May) with "Consett Heart" – topic was heritage, presentation with Newcastle Building Society (who are also sponsoring the youth project)

### **3. Neighbourhood Plan**

It was agreed we should collate information on any past meetings where CANF and the Neighbourhood Plan has been discussed, e.g.:

- Ask councillors to provide a list of any meetings where they have discussed CANF/CANP
- Ask Andy Plant to feedback on Leadgate groups where he has raised the CANF/CANP

Brian Stubbs, who has done a lot of social housing in the area, has offered to work with Ian and Naimh on housing section.

Mike noted that he has not had time to write up the notes from the heritage workshop on 7 May. Agreed that Mike should pass the heritage notes to Ian, who will put them straight into the GIS system.

Mike to liaise with Christine to schedule further meetings about green spaces and heritage, to follow up on the previous workshops.

Christine to call Stuart Armstrong at Business Durham to liaise on business survey – Mark to provide contact details.

### **4. Finance**

Our previous bank account was closed by the bank concerned, as they no longer support this type of account.

Christine has arranged for a new bank account with HSBC. Set up is in progress, Anne-Louise is awaiting documentation from the bank to proceed.

Christine noted that we will have to open a separate account when we establish a CIO, as this one cannot be transferred over.