

# Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – Management Committee

## 7pm, 5 February 2024

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

### **MC members present:**

- Christine Thomas – Chair
- Mike Shiels – Secretary
- Anne Louise Grant – Treasurer
- Lucy Reed – Data Protection Officer
- John Million – MC member
- Kelli Turner – MC member
- Mark Russell – MC member
- Maureen Clyne – MC member
- Niamh McDonald – MC member
- Richard Lumley – MC member

### **Guests present:**

- Jo-Anne Garrick – Planning consultant
- Anthony Robson

### **Apologies:**

- None

## **Agenda**

1. Introductions – All
2. Financial Summary – Christine
  - Money received, spent to date, committed, and remaining
3. Updates on key developments
  - Meeting with Jo-Anne Garrick (25 Jan 2024)
  - Meeting on Design Code (30 Jan 2024)
  - Website development
  - Social media
4. Formation of CIO
  - Bank account
  - Actions required
5. Planning workshop
  - Vision, objectives, priorities
  - Based on review of Durham Plan and examples of other neighbourhood plans
6. Community engagement
  - Ideas for how we can do this in a consistent and continuing fashion
7. Any other business

## Minutes

### 1. Introductions

All members of the MC introduced themselves briefly.

Jo-Anne Garrick - set out her extensive background as a planner

Anne-Louise – works for NHS, appointed as Treasurer for CANF

Mark – fire & security background, willing to advise on H&S and traffic issues

Maureen – lived in Consett 20 years ago, moved back recently. Business and industry background, as well as diplomatic, currently at Durham University

Niamh – student planner, lived in Consett all her life

Anthony – involved in Consett FC, accountant, worked with NHS. Has own company and CEO for Irish company (US owned)

Kelli – lawyer, long-time resident of Consett

Mike – Born and raised in Suffolk, moved to Consett 20 years ago. IT project manager working for International Airlines Group

John – lived in Consett all life, currently work for finance leasing firm based in Leeds, lots of experience of local business

Lucy – background law and safeguarding, not currently working due to health issues, trustee of Christine's Building Self Belief charity

Richard – lived in the area from birth. Worked as analyst since university, currently for Dept of Education.

### 2. Financial Summary

No change since Forum meeting on 14 Jan 2024 (see minutes of that meeting)

Building Self Belief is holding the CANF funds on our behalf.

We currently have no separate bank account, and likely cannot get one until we set up a CIO

### 3. Updates

#### 25 Jan 2024: Meeting with Jo-Anne Garrick

This meeting was separately minuted. It was a general introductory meeting and Jo-Anne provided some initial advice on key areas of focus, starting with Vision and Objectives

#### 30 Jan 2024: Design Code (meeting with Ishak Khan)

Had to meet urgently to beat funding deadline.

Community engagement is key. Need to get a housing assessment done, to provide concrete information. Need to identify green spaces. Environmental considerations when building new housing, e.g., drainage/flooding.

### Other Meetings

Christine met Michelle Walton (cllr for Delves Lane) – keen to protect fields where people play football, etc. – these are not protected from development

Jo-Anne mentioned that Durham plan is not particularly clear on green spaces – info buried in evidence base.

“Local Green space” cannot be somewhere already designated for something else in Durham plan, or have planning permission, etc. Cannot be “extensive tract of land”. Must be important to local community (e.g., beauty, utility, wildlife, heritage). Jo-Anne has a template to assess spaces against. There are NONE in Durham plan, so this is something we would need to establish through the CANP.

“Protected open space”. Lower level than local green space.

## Website

Christine presented the draft website, which is nearly ready to launch. Requested from members any additional links to:

- Active planning policies
- Current planning applications (applications, etc)
- Historic planning documents

Only need to finalise some links and documents, then it will be ready for final testing and go live.

## Social media

Christine encouraged everyone to follow CANF on all channels they use (Facebook, X/Twitter, LinkedIn)

## 4. Formation of CIO

Christine has meeting with Dave Hutchinson (East Bolden forum). Will talk to him about setting up CIO.

A CIO is needed to get bank account set up. Kirsty said she would help with getting account set up. Christine to provide contact details to Anne-Louise.

## 5. Planning Workshop

At this stage of the meeting, it was agreed that a proper workshop on Vision and Objectives is required, which would take more time than remained. All agreed that a dedicated workshop, in person, would be best.

## 6. Community engagement

Christine raised some questions for MC members to consider:

- How can we access older people, especially those who are not online (older or digitally deprived)?
- How can we access young people (schools, clubs, etc)?

Further discussion to be held at a future meeting.

## 7. AOB

Question raised about whether local Counsellors supporting us? Christine says yes, they are.

Christine has meeting with Steven and Stuart from Durham County and will ask them to put a link to our website on the County’s Consett page.

## Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11 February, 7pm, at Christine’s office in Durham. Main item will be Vision & Objectives.