

Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – Management Committee

7pm, 22 April 2024

Location: Zoom Meeting

MC members present:

- Christine Thomas – Chair
- Anne Louise Grant – Treasurer
- Lucy Reed – Data Protection Officer
- John Million – MC member
- Mark Russell – MC member
- Kelli Turner – MC member
- Niamh McDonald – MC member
- Richard Lumley – MC member
- Anthony Robson – MC member
- Ian Peart - Guest

Apologies:

- Mike Shiels – Secretary
- Maureen Clyne – MC member

Agenda

1. MC membership
2. Review of draft Neighbourhood Plan
3. Sub-Committees
4. AOB

Minutes

1. MC membership

Anthony Robson was co-opted to the MC at the Forum meeting on 14 April 2024.

The MC welcomed Ian Peart. Ian came to Forum meeting on Sunday 14 April and like Anthony, we can move that he be co-opted as a committee member, at the next full Forum meeting.

Ian lives in the Consett area. Professionally retired 3 years ago to spend time with family. Was IT professional in GIS (mapping on computers). A lot of that was around all aspects of local government but not specifically in planning. Wide range of experience and has skill in Geographic information systems and knowledge of the planning process. Hopefully fits with what we're doing and what would be useful to the group. We have struggled with quality and information to go on website. Has contacted Stuart at planning but does have alternative contacts.

Anne-Louise asked: do we need to consider amending the constitution to allow additional committee members particularly with specific skills and interests if needed?

2. Review of draft Neighbourhood Plan document

It was confirmed that we are currently at "Stage 2" in Jo-Anne's plan for finalising a Neighbourhood Plan, i.e., preparing the plan and need to work through the stages.

Following the Forum meeting on 14 April 2024, feedback on the draft Plan was reviewed by the MC, as below:

Objectives

It was agreed to add an additional objective related to tourism.

Designated Retail

What could be designated as retail?

- Leave Shotley, Leadgate and Town Centre as they are?
- Delves - Lidl and B&M are post-coded for Delves Lane – what's the implication regarding planning if this is designated for retail areas and could it affect rates? Kelli thinks not, as far as rates are concerned which is more about rateable value.
- Bottom end of Delves Lane where Leadgate Village Store, etc., are?
- Shop in Briardene
- There's also retail in Moorside.
- Lucy provided a link to examples of good practice for defining retail areas (see Useful Links below)

Settlement Boundaries

- Christine asked Ian to look at what the settlement boundaries might be for each area.
- There is a methodology to follow that Jo-Anne will advise on
- Knitsley was included in Healyfield parish, but one street was left out, so it needs to be clear that (whatever we do) it covers what already exists.
- Christine suggested that definition of boundaries becomes a priority.
- Lucy provided a link to more information on settlement boundaries (see Useful Links below)

Tourism

- Need to add a separate objective and section on this.

Housing Assessment and Design Codes

- Don't currently have any allocated funding due to number of other applicants.
- Could work directly with DCC on this too as Lucy says this is part of a consultation, so we should encourage members to read and comment on this.
- Christine will also speak to Stuart Carter at DCC about this.

Community Facilities

- Discussion around the number of facilities that have been lost to the community over the last 10 – 15 years.
- Need to do an audit on this to map out what we currently have.

Engagement

- Seem to be under-represented by younger people, do we need to do something proactive to engage with them and get their views?
- Ian suggested using Geography students to give them to document to look at, can easily get into Consett Academy but not as easy to get into St Bede's. Kelli has contacts too.
- Richard suggested asking to speak to the school council.

Green Spaces

- Formal document to work through.
- Quite a big project as need to check if any have planning / previous planning.

Heritage

- It was agreed to hold an open workshop on Heritage on 7 May 2024, at Blackhill Baptist church.
- Aim of the workshop is to generate some more suggestions for designation.

Transport

- One suggestion was a circular bus around the villages.
- Richard asked how our plan would affect this – Christine said that this can be added as an additional policy, Kelli said that it costs us nothing to have it in.

3. Sub-Committees

Ian is happy to work across all of the groups on mapping. Christine suggested that Richard and Ian work together, one on mapping and the other on data. Might be interesting to use previous census data to see what the changes there have been and predicted to be. For example, if schools are at capacity now, will we need expansion in the future or will birth rates reduce the demand?

Discussion on how we could move forward. Perhaps a sprint on each area to get them completed within a set timescale from when we begin?

4. AOB

Project Planning

Anne-Louise asked, did we need to get together to map out what we need to do now that we are clearer on the way forward? Christine said that Mike had suggested we do this on Trello.

Green technologies

Ian raised that he is keen to discuss Green technologies and IT to encourage those sorts of businesses:

- Centre of excellence, information centre?
- Anne-Louise suggested that we perhaps discuss about employment density being lower for green businesses and Christine said that we can include a policy but can't suggest specific developments.

5. Appendix- Useful Links

Lucy provided the following links to useful information:

Design code from Council:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/29085/Design-Code-Supplementary-Planning-Document-consultation>

Green Spaces:

[https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/Data/Prosperous%20and%20Attractive%20Borough%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20\(SBC\)/20090127/Agenda/DRAFT%20GREEN%20SPACE%20STRATEGY.pdf](https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/Data/Prosperous%20and%20Attractive%20Borough%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20(SBC)/20090127/Agenda/DRAFT%20GREEN%20SPACE%20STRATEGY.pdf)

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/30721/Share-your-views-on-green-spaces>

Example Neighbourhood Plans (including good practice for different sections):

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/neighbourhood-planning-to-983.docx>

Settlement boundaries:

<https://www.grcc.org.uk/downloads/community-and-neighbourhood-planning/ndp-workshop-6june2018/settlements-and-allocations-.pdf>

6. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7 May 2024, Blackhill Baptist church, 30 minutes prior to start of Heritage workshop (see, above)