

Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – Management Committee

7pm, 19 June 2025

Zoom call

Attendees:

Christine Thomas – Chair
Anne Louise Grant – Treasurer
Mike Shiels – Secretary
Ian Peart – MC Member
Richard Lumley – MC member
Maureen Clyne – MC member
Mark Russell – MC member
John Million – MC member
Lucy Reed – Data Protection Officer

Apologies:

Jo-Anne Garrick – Planning Consultant
Kelli Turner – MC member
Niamh McDonald – MC member
Anthony Robson – MC member

Minutes

1. Feedback from appeal

Christine has sent WhatsApp messages from appeal, as a future record of what was said.

Appeal has now been suspended, after application by appellants, so likely will not continue until later in 2025.

2. Response to Project Genesis claim that we haven't engaged them in a consultation

Christine has drafted a response

3. Prepare meeting with Stuart Carter

Stuart has requested a meeting. Topics to be discussed will include:

- an update of the NP draft - including design codes. Jo-Anne still awaiting info from DCC on listed buildings
- approach to settlement boundaries, e.g., taking account of areas that we believe should never be settled, such as contaminated land
- whether we need a business element, or just reference existing parts of county plan
- community consultation – estimated timescale

4. Update on draft Neighbourhood Plan and any remaining gaps

- 2.4 Anne Louise will propose some text for history of other villages in the Consett Area
- Niamh has offered to look at sections 5.7 & 5.8 and 6.10

- 6.11 Leisure Centre, Empire Theatre – invite suggestions in consultation

Contributions to be sent to Jo-Anne by email – do not edit the document

MC agreed that we should aim to complete all remaining gaps for 6 July.

5. Funding

It was noted that Locality has now stopped issuing any further grants for Neighbourhood Planning.

Christine will explore any other sources of funding to complete the plan, e.g., consultation, such as Point North.

6. Photography project to support consultation

Local photographers are looking for a new project. Christine has suggested they take photos of proposed green spaces and heritage sites., which could make up an exhibition to support consultation (in various locations) and help the community visualise what the plan is aiming to protect.

7. Actions completed / new actions

Actions were updated - See action log.

New Bank account

Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum HSBC 40-19-31 02389231

Anne Louise has access via phone but still struggling to set up online banking.

8. AOB

- We have retained only 2 GIS licences now, to save on costs
- John, Mark and Ian agreed to organise Pont Heritage section – in progress
- Design codes by 3 July or as much as done

9. Date / time of future meetings

- Next MC meeting: 3 July, 7pm, hybrid meeting at 46 Steel Street and online
- Date for next Full Forum meeting: Sunday 6 July 2025. Invitation has been sent out to Forum members.