

Full Forum Meeting of Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum

2pm, 6 July 2025

46 Steel Street

Management Committee attendees:

Christine Thomas – Chair
Anne Louise Grant – Treasurer
Mike Shiels – Secretary
Kelli Turner – MC member
Ian Peart – MC Member
Anthony Robson – MC member
Richard Lumley – MC member

Management Committee apologies:

Lucy Reed – Data Protection Officer
Mark Russell – MC member
Maureen Clyne – MC member
Niamh McDonald – MC member
John Million – MC member

Forum member attendees:

Liz Twist M.P.
Cllr Jackie Teasdale
Cllr Sandra Grindle
Leanne Murray
Kenny Hope
V C-Kidd
Philip Turner
K Ashley
Helen Spenceley
Joyce Spenceley
Shirly Walton
Jean Fraser
Andy Plant
Michael Twiss
Judith Twiss
Rosemary Morris

1. General Update

Christine provided a brief background on the Forum and Neighbourhood Plan for new members.

2. Planning Issues

Christine updated on the recent planning issues, where issues are being raised only at inquiry level, which is causing unnecessary costs for the council due to legal representation, etc. For example, issues with building on potentially toxic land, which could be avoided.

There have also been issues raised by developers around “permissive” land, where residents could be denied access to previously open land if the developers do not get their way.

3. Tasks: Identifying Green Wedges, Landowners

A “green wedge” is a larger area of mainly green space, that can be used to keep built areas distinct from one another, avoiding them all getting joined into one sprawl of buildings.

Members of the Forum reviewed existing mapping and annotated it to highlight potential additional green wedges or other amendments to existing areas identified.

Members were requested to submit to the MC any information on landowners.

4. Community Actions

Christine requested members to contribute any additional ideas for community actions (beyond the existing Objectives stated in the Neighbourhood Plan).

5. Draft Design Codes

The draft design code is available on the CANF website. It is a large document, so suggested that members look at their own area and feedback on that.

6. Next Steps

Christine set out the summary plan. Next steps will be:

- Finalise Design Codes, GIS mapping and Neighbourhood Plan
- Submit plan for Durham CC and publicise – 6 week consultation
- Appoint independent examiner to review plan
- Make any final changes required
- Launch a referendum of the community – a simple majority is required to approve the plan

The meeting closed at 3.40pm.