

Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – Management Committee

7pm, 9 March 2026

Online meeting: Zoom call

Attendees:

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

Apologies:

Anthony Robson – MC member
Maureen Clyne – MC member
Ian Peart – MC Member
Kelli Turner – MC member
Jo-Anne Garrick – Planning Consultant

Minutes

1. Design code schedule

Jo-Anne reviewed and sent to Durham, who have sent it back. Some revisions had not been applied, so are now being completed by AECOM. Deadline is mid-March.

2. Draft Neighbourhood Plan update

Once the final Design Code is received, Jo-Anne will make final updates (in one go). Material from the information booklet can be used to enrich the plan.

3. Mapping approach

Niamh has had an issue as there are 3 Heritage spreadsheet, so need to rationalise this. Suggested Niamh emails these out to MC and we can help resolve. Jo-Anne has indicated that we can use Google images, so we are completing the outstanding needs with that.

We have provided a variety of justifications for green spaces, especially for small ones, such as drainage. The examiner will look at a random sample, so we just need to complete all of them, even if this is repetitive.

Jo-Anne would like a hard copy – ideally this should be downloadable from mapping system. If not, we have original spreadsheets.

4. Landlords and notification

We have identified a good proportion of landowners. Jo-Anne has indicated that this need not be exhaustive, if we can show best endeavours.

A draft letter has been created, that can be sent out to all landowners.

5. Immigration centre research

Student doing PhD research on Medomsley Immigration centre has reached out to see if we can help. He has been invited to next full Forum, where he can talk to members.

6. Next steps.

Jo-Anne has sent the following indicative schedule

Action	Who	Timescale
Update plan with design code information	Jo-Anne	By end March
Comments on amended plan	Group	End March/early April
SEA/HNA screening	DCC	April
Arrange consultation material, drop in events and identify consultees (including list of statutory consultees from DCC)	Group	April
Consultation on pre-submission draft plan – minimum 6 weeks	Group	May-June
Review comments made on the draft plan and update the plan and evidence base (where appropriate)	Jo-Anne/Group	July-August
Screening of the amended plan for SEA/HNA	DCC	September
Prepare consultation statement and basic conditions report	Jo-Anne	September
Submit plan to DCC for examination	Group	October
Formal 6-week consultation on the submission draft plan and appoint an independent examiner (with agreement from the forum)	DCC	November-December
Examination	Examiner	Early 2027
Draft examination report provided to DCC and the forum for 'fact checking'	Examiner	Early 2027
Final report provided - DCC make the changes to the plan (where DCC agrees) and arranges the referendum.	DCC	Spring 2027

7. AOB

- No items were raised

8. Date / time of future meetings

- Next MC meeting: Monday 23 March, 7pm
- Date for following Full Forum meeting: Sunday, 19 April 2026, 2-4pm