

Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – Management Committee

7pm, 23 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 Codes

AECOM said the latest draft was final, but Jo-Anne has identified corrections that have not been made. Have suggested AECOM send an editable version so Jo-Anne can just complete it herself.

2. Update on mapping/spreadsheets

Niamh has told us that there is a 30-word limit on GIS mapping description. So, if we want more words, we can give them to Jo-Anne to hold separately. However, it is important for all locations to have a description (even if repetitious), as examiner will just look at a sample and check they are completed.

3. Images update

Most images are completed, with exception of some of the more obscure location which cannot easily be found on Google Maps. John knows many of these, so offered to help Christine complete the images.

4. DCC meeting about changes to Neighbourhood Planning in April

Stuart Carter has sent an invitation to a meeting on 14 April about government changes to neighbourhood planning. Not expected to impact us, but funding will likely be withdrawn for other areas in future.

5. Locality update

Although no further funding is available, Dave Chapman rang to say he is still there to help, if needed.

6. Actions update and timeline

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

- Christine intending to attend a meeting for university research around the Medomsley Immigration Detention centre. Although there are protesters to it, there is a positive side too – the conditions inside are relatively new and good and it provides considerable local employment for staffing.
- Anne-Louise suggested that she and Lucy could meet Christine on Friday 27 March to help sort out access to bank account.

8. Date / time of future meetings

- Next MC meeting: Monday 13 April, 7pm
- Date for following Full Forum meeting: Sunday, 19 April 2026, 2-4pm