

Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – Management Committee

7pm, 3 August 2026

Online meeting: Zoom call

Attendees:

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

Apologies:

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

Minutes

1. Green Wedges background paper

Christine and Mike have completed a draft Green Wedge background paper. The list of sites should align to those listed in Appendix 1 of the LGS/POS background paper.

The following changes are needed:

- Add justification for Hamsterley Hall Open Space
- Delete Crookhall Wedge (not valid, not on mapping)

2. Distinction between Green Wedges and Protected Open Space

Green Wedge and Protected Open Space can both be extensive (too large for Local Green Space), but Green Wedge has more protection, as it preserves the area between two built-up zones to protect the identities of each.

3. Final draft of LGS & POS background paper

Christine will send Mike further information to fill in remaining gaps.

Agreed that, when background papers are as complete as they can be, we will send to DCC for review.

Landowners are listed in the LGS appendix. Once we have had the final review with DCC, we should circulate the information to landowners.

John: Additional photos to be sent to Mike, if he has any.

Mark: check list of allotments against official list to ensure the names are correct.

Where there are multiple names for the same site, MC will select best one and discard the others.

4. GIS mapping overlays

CANF.org.uk version of Green Spaces map is not working, as it shows only the whole Consett area, not the individual green spaces. Christine to ask Niamh to send new (correct) link.

5. DCC requests

Christine has agreed with Jo-Anne that we can make updates in response to DCC requests ourselves, provided we use track changes.

6. New National Planning Policy Framework

New NPPF was published today (17 August 2026). Main change impacting our Plan is the requirement to allocate sites to meet housing demand. Questions are:

- What defines the housing demand (HNA, or something else)?
- What constitutes “site allocations”

We will ask Jo-Anne and DCC for advice on their understanding of the changes and how they impact us.

7. AOB

No other items.

8. Date / time of future meetings

- Next MC meeting: Monday 7 Sep, 7pm