

## Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – 23 January 2023

### Attendees:

Jane Brown  
Matthew Clarke  
Michael Dynes  
Kevin Earley (Councillor)

Carole Forbes (minutes)  
Anne-Louise Grant  
Dominique Haney (Councillor)  
Carrie Hargreaves  
Niamh McDonald  
Susan Mellor  
Rachel O'Neil  
Lucy Reed  
Christine Thomas (Chair)  
Barry Tupper  
Kelli Turner  
Judith Twiss  
Michael Twiss  
Jonny Hall

### Apologies:

Lisa Evans  
Janet Matthews  
Kathryn Rooney (Councillor)  
Michelle Walton (Councillor)  
Steve Newcombe  
Stephen Robinson (Councillor)

### Draft Constitution

Christine has contacted Stuart Carter (Durham County Council (DCC)) and Fiona Kelly (Derwent Valley Area Action Party (AAP)) regarding setting this Forum up to establish a community voice. Potential Forum members have been approached from the 'Say No to Consett Incinerator' group, who contributed to the Appeal. This includes cross political party representation/community interest and those that were part of the Rule 6 Party and the Section 106 Debate. Christine has been clear that this Forum is not against growth in Consett, but to make sure the residents of Consett area are aware and have a voice regarding any future developments. Christine has shared the draft Constitution via email.

Project Genesis can contribute to this Forum and be a stakeholder – honesty/transparency is essential, and it is important that the Constitution of the Forum is clear and what it is to be utilised for. If they join, their representative Project will need to declare their interest and sign the Constitution. Kevin E suggested having a conversation with the Planning Department at DCC regarding Project Genesis.

Kevin Parkes has given Christine details of other communities that have completed a Neighbourhood Plan

The Forum requires a minimum of 18 members and 3 officers.

Management committee requires 21 members (we currently have 22 members who have completed/returned forms).

Minimum of 8 attendees for meetings – this would need to be balanced so that no particular group/political party dominates.

The Forum will have an open membership and the criteria for membership is:

- To live or work in the Consett area.

Commented [FC(C&YPSC1)]: His surname was not visible during the meeting - please can you add

Commented [FC(C&YPSC2)]: Please delete the row with incorrect figures - 13/21

Michael highlighted the following points with regards to Project Genesis members:

- 9 are over their tenure time.
- Only 2 live within the Consett area. Others live outside of the Consett area and do not have business interests in Consett.
- Apart from 3 members, it is unlikely that the others would qualify to be in this Forum.

#### **Vote for Chair, Treasurer, Secretary**

The following were voted and agreed:

**Chair:** Christine Thomas  
**Treasurer:** Lucy Reed  
**Secretary:** Carole Forbes

#### **Feedback from Meeting with Stuart Carter (DCC) and Fiona Kelly (Derwent Valley AAP)**

Stuart will be attending the next meeting.

Fiona stated that Derwent Valley AAP will remain neutral, they will not be actively involved with the Forum, and will be available on an advisory position only.

#### **Website/Facebook**

Once the Appeal decision has been made, the name of Facebook group 'Say No to Consett Incinerator' will be changed (name to be decided). Anne-Louise pointed out that the current Facebook group is a closed group and as such, nothing can be shared from it. Further discussion needed as to whether a new page should be set-up or keep the existing one.

#### **Online Membership Form**

Christine has sent out membership forms. If you have not done so already, please complete and return to Christine as soon as possible. Information will only be shared between Christine Carole and Lucy.

#### **Setting up a Bank Account**

This will be completed by Christine and Lucy.

#### **Ideas for Sub-Committees**

Some of the objectives put forward were:

- Ratio houses to amenities (i.e., dentists, play areas)
- Air pollution
- Biodiversity and climate
- Restrictions/regulations regarding industrial parks next to residential areas
- Research former local plans
- Traffic volume (look at recommendations)
- Community monuments
- Protecting the Derwent Walk
- Open spaces and improved environment for residents and wildlife
- 'Interests' from membership forms can also be fed into sub-committees

#### **Initial Plans and Timescales**

Christine shared the Consett Unparished Area map that outlined the area that does not have a Neighbourhood Plan.

Discussion took place whether Dipton/Flinthill area could be included, Anne-Louise said residents may consider Consett as their local town. To check if Knitsley is included in area?

It is believed that Castleside are part of Healeyfield Parish, however it was not known whether Healeyfield have a Neighbourhood Plan. Moorside may be joining Lanchester, however Kevin said that there is a boundary ward review shortly and new sets of boundaries are being put forward. Kevin will check Parish boundaries with DCC.

Once the area designation proposal has been agreed it will be sent to Head of Spatial Planning at DCC (Michael Kellaher).

Christine said there are grants available for this type of group/forum. There may be additional grants available, depending on the percentage of deprivation within the area agreed. Timescale for the Constitution to be completed has been set at 5 years, however it is hoped this will be completed in a much shorter timeframe.

**AOB**

N/A

**ACTIONS:**

- Share presentation from AAP and area map from today's meeting to everyone, so questions can be prepared for next meeting (Stuart Carter attending) – Christine
- Contact Judith Burler (Dipton resident) – Christine
- Complete and return membership forms (if you have not already done so) – All
- Set-up bank account – Christine/Lucy
- Check Parish boundaries and confirm name of Healeyfield Parish secretary – Kevin
- If anyone knows any local groups or an individual that may be interested in joining the Forum, please send their details to Christine – All
- Formal documents to send to DCC

<b>Date/Time of Next Meeting</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Monday 13 February 2023 at 19.00 hours	Zoom