

# GREAT AYCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



## Notes of a meeting of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan Environment Thematic Group, held on Thursday 14 May 2015.

**Present:** Cllr R S Fleming - GATC  
 Mr C R Peacock  
 Mrs K M Woodhams  
 Mrs C Benson  
 Mr J Snowball  
 Mrs S Cook  
 Mrs S Bainbridge  
 Mr M Rowcroft  
 Mr C Walton

**Officers:** Miss A Corner – Neighbourhood Plan Engagement Officer  
 Mrs CA Walton – Corporate & Policy Officer  
 Mr S Cooper – Environment Officer  
 Miss A Donald – Town Clerk’s PA

Item No	Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Mr J Cokill	
2.	<b>Notes of Previous Meeting</b> These were accepted as a correct record.	
3.	<b>Update</b> It was noted that Cllr J Clark had left the group for personal reasons. Angela Corner gave a general progress update on the Neighbourhood Plan. Funding had been received to carry out soft market testing for the attraction of additional retail outlets to the town. In addition, technical support would be available to provide a character assessment for the town. The Housing Thematic Group would be starting on Thursday 21 May and meeting on a fortnightly basis.	
4.	<b>Renewable Energy</b> A document outlining national and local policies with regard to renewable energy had been circulated in advance of the meeting. There had been considerable support from residents in the questionnaire for renewable energy and solar panels, which had resulted in the Neighbourhood Plan Objective to encourage a move towards low carbon production and the use of renewable energy. Mark Rowcroft gave a presentation to members regarding issues and options surrounding renewable energy	



	<p>schemes, which was followed by a number of questions and discussion. Further information would be available following a forthcoming meeting regarding solar energy farms and it was agreed to revisit this item at the next meeting. Mark Rowcroft was thanked for a very informative presentation.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Allotments</b>                  Although the questionnaire had highlighted a requirement for more allotments, it was noted that there were only 23 people on the waiting list, some of whom would be waiting for a specific site. Garden type allotments were also provided by Livin in certain areas and a community garden was established at the Pioneering Care Centre and other community gardens were being investigated by Livin. In addition, other sites had been designated for potential allotments to be provided by the Town Council, should the need arise. It was agreed that the issue of allotments would be dealt with as an explanatory paragraph only in the Issues and Options paper. This would highlight that the matter had been reviewed and has sufficient options in place should the demand for more allotments rise.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Green Spaces</b>                  An electronic map of green spaces was currently being developed, following the criteria set down in the NPPF. A number of draft options were presented to members for consideration. It was emphasised that an important option to consider would be whether any new development should be in keeping with that already established – this would naturally overlap with options to be considered by the Housing Thematic Group in due course.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>                  The next meeting would be held on Thursday 28 May 2015 at 6pm the Council Offices.</p>	All to Note