

# GREAT AYCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



## Notes of a meeting of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan Environment Thematic Group, held on Thursday 28 May 2015.

**Present:** Cllr R S Fleming – GATC  
Cllr P Kjenstad - GATC  
Mr C R Peacock  
Mrs C Benson  
Mr J Snowball  
Mrs S Cook  
Mrs S Bainbridge

**Officers:** Miss A Corner – Neighbourhood Plan Engagement Officer  
Mrs CA Walton – Corporate & Policy Officer  
Miss A Donald – Town Clerk's PA

Item No	Discussion	Action
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Mr J Cokill, Mrs K M Woodhams, Mr M Rowcroft, Mr S Cooper	
2.	<b>Notes of Previous Meeting</b> These were accepted as a correct record.	
3.	<b>Parking Issues</b> The purpose of the meeting was to consider issues and options relating to parking on the town, which had been identified by responses to the questionnaire as a considerable problem.  Four main categories of parking issues had been identified:  1. Aycliffe Village – parking on the greens. It was advised that many of the areas in question were classed as Registered Village Green and were protected by law. It was agreed that the Town Council would be dealing with this issue.  2. Residential parking – particularly in the older part of the town.  3. School parking  4. Town Centre and business parking.	



	<p>This meeting would specifically focus on residential and school parking.</p> <p>It was advised that NPPF guidelines required the promotion of sustainable transport and set out a number of parking standards. Policy 48 of the Local Plan further addressed this requirement, with a number of minimum standards for compliance. Details had previously been circulated to members for consideration.</p> <p><u>Options Exercise</u></p> <p>Some 229 comments relating to parking had been received from the questionnaire and members were asked to consider options to mitigate these problems. The options would then be voted on by residents in a further consultation exercise.</p> <p>Funding had been received to carry out the issues and options consultation and residents would have a number of ways in which to comment – including a printed survey via the Newton News and online via Survey Monkey. Printed surveys would be widely distributed to residents’ groups etc throughout the town.</p> <p>Members of the thematic group were asked to consider options available to improve parking, both currently and in future housing developments. A number of comments were made:</p> <p>Additional laybys – small areas of green, unused space had already been identified, although cost and land ownership would have to be taken into consideration. It was also noted that the presence of underground services, particularly in the older parts of the town, could prevent the use of some green verges as laybys.</p> <p>Durham County Council members’ neighbourhood budget or CIL money from new development could be used to fund additional parking spaces and it was noted that the Neighbourhood Plan could specify where CIL money would be spent.</p> <p>It was felt that it would be helpful to include photographs or illustrations in the issues and options document to assist residents in understanding the implications of their choices.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that many garages are used for</p>	
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	<p>storage rather than for car parking – not only because storage space tended to be lacking, particularly in newer homes, but also because many garages were too narrow for modern cars. It was agreed that this issue could be dealt with by the Housing Thematic Group.</p> <p>It was agreed that initially there were three options to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not develop any part of the greens for parking.</li> <li>2. Install laybys where appropriate and affordable.</li> <li>3. Develop parts of selected greens where appropriate.</li> </ol> <p>These three options could be expanded to include specific named greens if required and implications and further choices, such as the use of Geo-Grid could also be added. Further advice would be obtained from a planning officer regarding the wording of this question. It was also felt that a comments box should be included with the question.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>School Parking</b>                  The questionnaire had highlighted parking problems at all local schools. Cllr Kjenstad explained that he was working with 12 local schools, looking at parking and speed issues and would be holding a meeting with Durham County Council in July to examine various options. However, it was noted that from a planning point of view, little could be added to a Neighbourhood Plan to deal with school parking.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>                  The next meeting would be held on Thursday 11 June at the Council Offices.</p>	<p>All to Note</p>