

GREAT AYCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Notes of a meeting of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan Environment Thematic Group, held on Thursday 5 March 2015.

Present: Cllr R S Fleming - GATC
 Cllr P Kjenstad - GATC
 Cllr I Gray - GATC
 Mr C R Peacock
 Mrs K M Woodhams
 Mr C Walton - livin
 Mr J Cokill – Durham Wildlife Trust
 Mrs C Benson
 Mr J Snowball
 Mrs K Deacon-Brown – PCP
 Mrs S Cook
 Mrs M McDonald
 Mrs S Bainbridge

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

Item No	Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence Cllr J Clark, M Rowcroft.	
2.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Presentation</p> <p>Angela Corner introduced herself, welcomed all present and outlined the proceedings for the evening. This was followed by a presentation outlining the legal requirements of Neighbourhood Plans, evidence gathered from the first round of public consultation, the role of the Environment Thematic Group and objectives to be dealt with in the coming weeks. Members were also provided with an information pack of background documents.</p> <p>Members of the Thematic Group were reminded that Neighbourhood Plans were required to be community-led, with clear evidence to back up every item in the Plan. While it was understood and accepted that people held personal opinions, members of both the Steering Group and Thematic Groups were required to be impartial in their consideration of evidence gathered.</p> <p>It was emphasised that although there was current uncertainty regarding the future of Durham County Council’s Local Plan it was anticipated that this would not</p>	

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	<p>have a major impact on the Neighbourhood Plan, and work could proceed regardless of the status of the Local Plan. Areas identified for development in the Local Plan for Great Aycliffe had not been criticised by the Planning Inspector and it was noted that planning permission was already in place for a number of these areas. The areas being questioned by the inspector were predominantly around Durham City, in particular building on the green belt land, the 2 proposed relief roads and the Drum Industrial Estate additional land allocation.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding costs involved in meeting the aspirations of the Neighbourhood Plan in areas of development, such as the planting of trees to maintain a pleasant environment. It was emphasised that such enhancements would be the responsibility of site developers, not the Council via tax payers.</p> <p>There was a lengthy discussion regarding housing allocations and that some people didn't want any housing. A Corner reminded everyone that the allocations had already been made, it was unlikely there would be a problem in the Great Aycliffe area and that the group must remain impartial regardless of their own personal convictions.</p>	
3.	<p>Task Allocation</p> <p>Volunteers were requested to carry out a number of mapping and research tasks.</p> <p>It was agreed that S Cooper, S Bainbridge, C Peacock, P Kjenstad, K Deacon-Brown, C Benson and K Woodhams would work on an exercise to map the town's green spaces, land ownership and parking issues at a sub-group meeting on 17 March.</p> <p>Cllr Fleming agreed to carry out research on the history of the town and the Garden City Movement, plus the relevant parts of the DCC Local Plan.</p> <p>S Cooke agreed to research environmental aspects of the National Planning Policy Framework and other Neighbourhood Plans. Information would be fed back at the next meeting on 2 April.</p>	All to Note
9.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting would be held on Thursday 2 April 2015 at the Council Offices.</p>	All to Note