

GREAT AYCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Notes of a Meeting of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, held on Thursday 20 August 2015.

Present: Cllr B Hall – Great Aycliffe Town Council
Cllr J Atkinson - Great Aycliffe Town Council
Cllr I Gray – Great Aycliffe Town Council
Cllr M Dixon – Durham County Council
Mr B Riley – Area Action Partnership
Mr D Sutton-Lloyd – Community Representative
Mrs K Clark – Business Representative
Mr M Rowcroft – Public Representative

Officers: Mrs C A Walton – Corporate and Policy Officer
Miss A Donald – Town Clerk's PA

Item No	Discussion	Action
1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Mr I Wiggett.	
2.	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Notes of Previous Meeting The notes of the meeting, held on Thursday 16 July, were confirmed as a correct record.	
4.	Business Park Update Kerina Clark updated members on the Shaping the Future project. A number of task groups were working to produce reports containing evidence-based recommendations, which would in turn form a consultation document to be used by DCC when any future developments were considered for Aycliffe Business Park. Two points had been raised by the task groups which it was thought could be of relevance to the Neighbourhood Plan: a) The current lack of clear, consistent and up-to-date signage on the Business Park was highlighted. b) There had been problems for new businesses on the Park obtaining planning permission due to existing use classifications. These were mainly service and leisure businesses which it was felt would only add to the attractions of the Business Park. The possibility of facilitating a basic retail offering through the Neighbourhood Plan was discussed by the Steering Group, along with the potential for moving the designated entrance to the Business Park. The feasibility of the points raised would be investigated and reported back to the Steering Group at the next meeting.	



5.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Handover</p> <p>Following the resignation of Angela Corner to take up a new position, all previous paperwork had been reviewed, in date sequence, and a detailed handover information sheet drawn up from this information. This was intended to indicate, to all Steering Group and Thematic Group members, objectives identified and the current position on every question and option that had been discussed to date. These had been categorised under the themes highlighted from the questionnaire responses and previously agreed by Steering Group members.</p> <p>The Housing theme had been expanded to include all information discussed to date and the former Objective 6 – Transport and Access had been incorporated into Housing to avoid unnecessary duplication. It was noted that parking issues inevitably covered both Environment and Housing themes.</p> <p>Two objectives had been identified from discussions regarding Theme 3 – Retail - and the issue of providing local jobs where possible had also been included in this theme as the most appropriate location. Theme 5 – Renewable Energy – was still under discussion with planning advisers and it was possible that this would be incorporated under the theme of Environment.</p> <p>In addition, columns had been included to indicate where items were already covered by existing planning policies, plus a column for further action to be taken. Where an item could not be dealt with under the remit of the Neighbourhood Plan, this had been clearly indicated in red typescript. Steve Barker, independent planning adviser, had reviewed both the information on and format of the handover sheet and agreed that the document would provide useful evidence for the planning inspector in due course.</p> <p>Working papers, which covered each theme in much more detail, were in the process of completion and would be available to the public for further reference if required.</p> <p>Steering Group members agreed that the handover sheets were a concise and accurate representation of discussions to date. It was emphasised that all Steering Group and Thematic Group members would receive exactly the same information so that everyone was aware of progress.</p>	
----	--	--



6.	<p>Soft Market Testing Report</p> <p>The final report received from Sanderson Weatherall had previously been circulated for members' information. It was agreed that, while the results were disappointing, the evidence was very clear that there was virtually no interest from retailers in locating a new store in Aycliffe.</p> <p>Comments received from residents from the retail section of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire had been forwarded to a number of Freshwater contacts, in addition to the Town Centre Managers.</p>	
7.	<p>Your Issues, Our Proposals Draft Consultation Paper</p> <p>Initial drafts of this consultation paper contained only brief information, consequently each theme had been expanded and developed, using information from the handover summaries and working papers. It was emphasised that a careful balance had to be found between residents' wishes and viable options.</p> <p>The theme of Retail had been explained in considerable depth in order to demonstrate that every possible effort had been made to address the concerns raised by residents in the questionnaire. Members present agreed that the wording explained the situation accurately.</p> <p>The Issues and Proposals consultation paper would be published in the Newton News as a pull-out, to allow residents to indicate their preferences. It would also be published on the Council's website, in social media and via Survey Monkey. Paper copies would be available in the library and various public buildings and community centres, to allow the widest possible circulation.</p>	
8.	<p>Character Assessment</p> <p>An initial map had been received from the consultants carrying out this assessment, showing the parish divided into 15 distinct areas. An open consultation on this document had been advised by the consultants and this was planned for Thursday 1 October, 4.30pm-7pm, at the Youth Centre, as a drop-in session. Further details would follow when guidance was received from the consultants regarding the format the consultation should take.</p>	
9	<p>Media</p> <p>Members felt that the profile of the Neighbourhood Plan should be raised following the summer break, with more media items published. It was agreed that this would be implemented.</p>	

GREAT AYCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



	<p>It was agreed that the previously suggested DVD should not be implemented as it was unnecessary and not cost effective.</p>	
9.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting would be held on Thursday 1 October 2015 and would include members of the Thematic Groups. This would also form part of the Character Assessment consultation.</p> <p>The option of just having one meeting with all thematic groups and the steering group was discussed. It was agreed that as we were all now working on the same issues, joint meetings would be better.</p>	<p>All to Note</p>