## **GREAT AYCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**



Notes of a meeting of the Great Aycliffe
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, held on Thursday 11 December 2014.

**Present:** Cllr J D Clare – Great Aycliffe Town Council

Cllr M A Dalton – Great Aycliffe Town Council

Cllr B Hall – Great Aycliffe Town Council Cllr I Gray – Great Aycliffe Town Council

Cllr C A Wheeler - Great Aycliffe Town Council

Cllr M Dixon - Durham County Council

Mr D Sutton-Lloyd – Community Representative

Ms K Clark – Business Representative Mr B Riley – Area Action Partnership

Officers Mrs C A Walton – Corporate and Policy Officer

Miss A Corner - Neighbourhood Plan Engagement Officer

Miss A Donald – Town Clerk's PA

| Item No | Discussion  | Action |
|---------|---|--------|
| 1.      | Apologies for Absence   |        |
|         | Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Atkinson,                                 |        |
|         | Mrs J Hall and Mr B Haldane.  |        |
| 2.      | Declarations of Interest  |        |
|         | There were no declarations of interest. It was emphasised                                 |        |
|         | that, when the thematic groups are formed, any person                                     |        |
|         | wishing to join a thematic group should declare in advance                                |        |
|         | any personal interest – for example if they are a member                                  |        |
|         | of a group with a vested interest, or involved in any                                     |        |
|         | campaign surrounding a relevant issue.  |        |
| 3.      | Notes of the Previous Meeting   |        |
|         | The notes of the previous meeting had been circulated                                     |        |
|         | prior to the meeting. However, Cllr J Atkinson wished to                                  |        |
|         | add "Cllr Atkinson asked Kerina who would be the best                                     |        |
|         | person to talk to if anyone has a query about business                                    |        |
|         | matters. Kerina said that would be the Business Park                                      |        |
|         | Steering Group and that she would be the best person for                                  |        |
|         | anyone to contact then she can make the relevant  |        |
|         | enquires" to the minutes. It was agreed that this would be                                |        |
|         | added to the notes which were then accepted as a correct                                  |        |
|         | record.   |        |
|         | a) It was noted that Michael Rogers now had a new role                                    |        |
|         | which left him unable to attend the Steering Group – his                                  |        |
|         | replacement would be attending from January 2015.   |        |
|         | b) A meeting had been held with Durham County Council                                     |        |
|         | planners. Unfortunately the County Council would be                                       |        |
|         | unable to offer financial support for a retail needs                                      |        |
|         | assessment. Staff time and general assistance and guidance would continue to be provided. |        |
|         | guidance would continue to be provided.   |        |

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## 4. Overview of the First Round of Consultation

Angela Corner presented an updated report, detailing the results of the first round of consultation. The report initially circulated with the agenda had been updated following amalgamation of analysis spreadsheets but the changes were very slight and made no difference to the overall position.

Retail – the overwhelming response and number of residents' comments in favour of improved retail provision was noted. It was agreed that Retail would probably form a thematic group, regardless of the outcome of a retail needs assessment, as it was felt that there were other aspects of the subject which could be addressed by a dedicated group. However, the formation of a Retail Thematic Group was put on hold pending further preliminary investigations and a soft retail assessment.

<u>Environment</u> – It was decided that Environment should form a thematic group, with Housing and Transport considered separately. It was acknowledged that there would be a considerable degree of overlap between these thematic groups and a mechanism would be required to co-ordinate this.

Protecting the green spaces and ensuring green spaces are incorporated into future housing design were seen by respondents as of prime importance for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Renewable energy had emerged as a popular topic with respondents and this would be considered in greater detail, including the exploration of carbon neutral housing and similar initiatives.

Private parking and parking congestion, particularly around schools, would be discussed further in the thematic groups.

Sustainability — A meeting had been held with a Sustainability Advisor from Durham County Council. It was emphasised that every object and policy in the Neighbourhood Plan had to be checked against and comply with 12 different sustainability categories. Much of the baseline data required would hopefully be available from the County Council. Steering Group members discussed the best approach to this requirement, including the setting up of a working group. It was decided to give this more consideration and raise it as an agenda item for the next meeting in January 2015.

<u>Thematic Groups</u> – Angela Corner circulated a draft information sheet with some ideas for the type, formation and make-up of thematic groups, to be further considered at the next meeting in January 2015.

All to note

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| 5. | Vision Statements  |             |
|----|--|-------------|
|    | A list of vision statements extracted from the questionnaires was circulated to members for consideration, with a request to select their top five statements prior to the next meeting. | All to note |
| 6. | Date of Next Meeting The next meeting would be held on Thursday 8 January 2015 at 6pm at the Council Offices.  | All to Note |