

GREAT AYCLIFFE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN



Notes of a joint meeting of the Great Aycliffe Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Thematic Groups, held on Thursday 12 November 2015

Present: Cllr B Hall – Great Aycliffe Town Council
 Cllr A M Chandran – Great Aycliffe Town Council
 Cllr M A Dalton – Great Aycliffe Town Council
 Cllr I Gray – Great Aycliffe Town Council
 Cllr C A Wheeler – Great Aycliffe Town Council
 Mr S Howarth – Voluntary Sector Representative
 Mr B Riley – GAMP
 Mr I Wiggett – Public Representative

Mr C Peacock – Thematic Groups
 Mrs S Cooke – Thematic Groups
 Mrs K Woodhams – Thematic Groups

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 for absence were received from Cllr J Atkinson, Cllr R S Fleming, Cllr W P Hillary, Cllr J P Hillary, Cllr P Kjenstad, Mrs K Clark, Mrs S Bainbridge, Mrs C Benson, Mr K Robson, Mr M Rowcroft, Mr D Sutton-Lloyd, Mrs E French, Mr John Snowball	
2.	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Notes of the Previous Meeting The notes of the previous meetings were confirmed as correct records, although it was noted that the Retail Thematic Group notes should be amended to reflect that the meeting was held on Monday 24 August 2015, not Thursday 24 August. These will be amended.	
4.	Your Issues, Our Proposals Update This consultation was ongoing, with 125 responses to date and the closing date being Monday 16 November. Although the response rate had been rather low, despite the questionnaire being available from a number of venues throughout the parish, in addition to online, it was anticipated that this reflected public satisfaction with the proposals put forward in the document. Work would begin shortly to analyse the results.	
5.	Neighbourhood Plan Front Cover A range of designs for the front cover and supporting documents of the Neighbourhood Plan was displayed for	



	<p>consideration. After discussion, it was agreed to use sample number 1 for the front cover and number 22 for the supporting documents.</p>	
6.	<p>Character and Heritage Assessment A draft version of this document had been received and a number of amendments made. It was noted that the typescript was extremely small and difficult to read. This had been repeatedly drawn to the attention of the consultants who had produced the document and they had been requested to increase the pitch size. It was noted that the document had been funded by a grant from Communities and would be audited by this organisation. Unfortunately, we therefore had only a limited amount of control over the appearance of the document. It was suggested that the local MP may be able to assist if there were any major issues.</p>	
7.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Project Update Progress was being made on writing a number of required sections of the Plan. However, some delays were being experienced while information or guidance was awaited from Durham County Council, for instance the Sustainability and Impact Assessment could not be completed by DCC planners until January or February next year. In addition, a number of tasks remained unfinished, such as mapping all of the green spaces, although this is now nearly finished. It was also noted that there are some 10,000 comments received from the public to be incorporated into the Plan in some format, advice on how to do this was awaited from DCC. A new project timetable had been produced, indicating key changes, with the forecast finish date being moved from 25 May to 16 June 2016.</p>	
8.	<p>Low Copelaw Housing Site A letter had been received from Barton Willmore, requesting support in the Neighbourhood Plan for the development of the Low Copelaw site. This site had already been identified for development in the County Plan and the GANP will include a paragraph of support to endorse this. At the County Neighbourhood Plan meeting last week a number of smaller parishes were dismayed that they were being hit with a number of planning applications for houses on any available site. Developers were taking advantage of the 'pause' in the County Durham Plan. As there is a pause in the County Durham Plan it would be prudent to include paragraphs in the GANP in support of the proposed housing and employment land allocations.</p>	

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	<p>This would hopefully lessen any speculative housing development applications elsewhere such as the greens. It would also give us greater control over the supplementary planning guidance for the site so we can deliver a site that reflects the character of Newton Aycliffe.</p>	
9.	<p>Future Meeting Dates A schedule of forthcoming meeting dates was agreed, with the proviso that these may need to be adjusted depending on future progress.</p> <p>Thursday 10th December – already agreed Thursday 7th January 2016 Thursday 18th February 2016 Thursday 31st March 2016 And hopefully the final meeting will be Thursday 12th May 2016</p>	