

LONGHOUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10.04.19

- 1 Present:**
Adrian Hinchcliffe (Chair), Bill Bell, Carole Green, Andrew Willmott, Margaret Robinson, Chris Thomas, Suzanne Hodgson, Ayshea Lewis, Bryan Ellis.

In attendance- Sarah Brannigan (NCC)
- 2 Apologies for Absence:**
Peter Bromley, Councillor Wendy Pattison, John Haughie.
- 3 Welcome to new Members**
A welcome was given to Bryan Ellis and Suzanne Hodgson.
- 4 Approval of the Minutes from 06.03.19**
Were approved as a correct record apart from the spelling of Stephanie Lennell.
- 5 Matters Arising from the Minutes**
Minute 5 Longhoughton Detailed Action Plan.
Circulated on 12.03.19

Minute 6 Membership of the Steering Group
Suzanne Hodgson of Howick will attend the meeting on 10.04.19
Bryan Ellis has accepted membership.
Ms Lennell has regrettably turned down membership due to a conflict of interest with her employer.
HeadTeacher of Longhoughton Primary School. AH has had discussions with the Head. She wishes to be kept informed on progress but does not wish to be a member.

Minute 9 Housing Needs Survey
The method of calculating external demand for housing is still outstanding.

Minute 10 Web Site
In progress.
- 6 Vision, Objectives and Themes.**
The purpose of this agenda item was for the Group to put together a vision and objectives for the NDP. In the debate the Group had a wide ranging discussion firstly defining the purpose of vision and objectives and how they should relate to the surveys that have already taken place. This led to a consideration of the three settlements of Longhoughton, Howick and Boulmer within the Parish. Each has distinctive features that can be incorporated into the NDP alongside the common needs and issues. The following notes are a brief summary of this discussion and the actions coming from the discussion are set out within the notes.

Setting the Scene
A number of papers had been circulated to members of the Group as background for the discussions. These were:

 - Developing a Vision & Objectives – Paper by Sarah Brannigan.
 - Compiling the Vision and Objectives & Examples of other NDPs
 - Evidence from the Boulmer and Longhoughton Survey/Reviews.

In addition Sarah Brannigan circulated a plan of the Parish extracted from the Northumberland Local Plan showing a range of designations, settlement boundaries and other planning criteria.

Sarah started off the debate by referring to these documents and the purpose of the Objectives and Vision.

The NDP

The NDP has to set out how we want the land in the Parish to be used over the 17 years to 2036. It is therefore about the use of land but this will need to reflect social and economic needs that impact on the community and result in a need for land use. We would therefore expect the NDP to focus on Housing, Business, retail, community needs and facilities that require land use, the environment, heritage, special places and the development of the community.

The NDP is for the next 17 years but if circumstances change that are not envisaged in the plan it will be possible for the Plan to be updated every five years.

The Vision.

The vision should represent our aspirations for the Parish by the year 2036. It should be a succinct statement of what the community wants the Parish to be like in 17 years time. It will need to reflect the views of residents but in the process of debate and consultation there will be a need to consider 'what if' type scenarios to ensure that the vision is robust and takes account of possible changes that are outside the control of the community. The vision will be unique to Longhoughton Parish and will recognise the differences and common issues that affect the residents/communities of Longhoughton, Howick and Boulmer.

By its very nature the vision will, at a high level, reflecting the changes that the community would like to see by 2036. It will be a statement that identifies local distinctiveness, is strong and positive and gives a sense of ownership to the community.

The Parish Today and what needs to change

The NDP has to start with where we are today. It is important to capture what people value about living here and the things that they do not like. The latter is expressed in the **Needs and Issues**. The Boulmer and Longhoughton Reviews (and the emerging Howick survey) have captured the views of residents on a wide range of topics and these represent the basic evidence in putting together the NDP. We may find that there are gaps in this evidence that we need to consider by further research or surveys eg. The Housing Needs Survey.

Objectives

The objectives are a statement of how we wish to change from where we are today to achieve the vision for 2036. There will be a small number of objectives that link between the themes stemming from the Needs and Issues and each will focus on an aspect of land use eg. housing, business development and tourism, conservation of the environment and special places, heritage.

Policies

The policies that will be eventually compiled will be written to ensure that all planning application for land use within the Parish contribute towards the Vision and Objectives of the NDP and the Northumberland Local Plan (once approved).

Timing of Consultation

Once we have an agreed draft vision and objectives it is the intention to go out to consultation with all residents and statutory Consultees. However, it was identified that there are big gaps in our evidence that will contribute to the vision and objectives eg the Housing Needs Survey. Therefore the question was posed whether we should try to fill these gaps before going out for consultation. This to be reviewed at the next meeting but in the meantime an enquiry to be made on whether the Housing Needs Survey can be brought forward.

ACTION ADRIAN

It was also recognised that we will need to carefully plan the consultation strategy. Residents have already been consulted on the Boulmer and Longhoughton Reviews and there is a need to avoid 'consultation fatigue' but at the same time there is a need to keep people informed and up to date with NDP development and the wider Community Action Plans.

Housing

Housing is seen as a key topic in the NDP. The draft Northumberland Local Plan has allocated a MINIMUM of 88 new dwellings to the Parish from 2016 to 2036 but already Chancel Place and other applications take up over 70 of this number leaving a very small number for the 17 year period to 2036. For the NDP it is crucial that we carry out our own research to establish the number and type of dwellings that are needed in the next 17 years. **The NDP will be based on this number.**

The evidence from the Housing Needs Survey will be one of the key elements that will cause the Plan to identify land areas for development. A review of the existing settlement boundaries for Longhoughton indicates that there is little land available for housing within the boundaries. If there is a need the Plan can put forward a change in the settlement boundary this will be a key point for consultation. It was also noted that there are no settlement boundaries for Howick or Boulmer in the draft Northumberland Plan. Establishing settlement boundaries for these two locations can be considered as part of the NDP.

Reference was made to the aspirations of the Northumberland Estates for house building in the Parish. It was stated that these aspirations have come out of the continuing dialogue between the Parish Council and the Estate. However, in the NDP these aspirations do not represent evidence of housing need.

The issue of second homes and holiday lets in relation to housing for local people along with the price of housing which effectively bars local people from purchasing or renting properties was discussed as an important topic. This applies especially to Boulmer and that this would need to be dealt with in the NDP.

There was also reference to the RAF housing and the continuation of the RAF Boulmer as the major employer in the Parish. Ayshea Lewis explained how the Armed Forces are trialling a change in policy towards housing for its military personnel and how this would give greater choice and, if adopted, this would have implications for housing in Longhoughton and may result in more people staying local.

Retail, Business Development and Employment

The question was raised of whether we should be encouraging more employment opportunities in the Parish by the creation of Business or enterprise parks or are we to become more of a commuter area. The views of residents seem to be that more businesses would be welcome provided they are unobtrusive. The most likely increase in business and employment opportunities is likely to come from Tourism and Visitors and this should be harnessed to support the sustainability of the Parish. It was pointed out that our major employer is RAF Boulmer and should anything cause the base to be closed or run down this would be a major blow to the entire Parish and surrounding area.

The Northumberland Local Plan recognises villages such as Longhoughton as 'service villages' that offer facilities to a wider area of villages, hamlets and isolated properties.

MOVING FORWARD

It was agreed that a small group of the Steering Group (Adrian, Peter and Chris) should put together draft proposals for the vision and objectives starting with a statement of where we are today and what people value but reflecting all that had been discussed at the meeting. Once this is drafted it will be sent to all members of the Group for comment. The comments would then be taken into account and the draft updated before being an item for further discussion on the next agenda.

ACTION ADRIAN CHRIS AND PETER

7 Howick Survey

John Haughie had conducted a survey at Howick and had sent the first draft of the results. These were circulated to Members of the Group. The results represented ten surveys that had been completed being 14% of the population. There was no discussion on the results.

8 Next Steps to Note

- Finalise Draft Vision, Objectives and themes.
- Urge the Housing Needs Survey.
- Develop Consultation Document and Programme

- Development of the Web Site
- Develop Consultants Brief
- Draft the funding application.

9 Any Other Business

None.

10 Date of the Next Meeting.

To be called by the Chair once sufficient progress has been made with the Housing Needs Survey and the Vision and Objectives.

Meeting ended at 8.55pm.