

LONGHOUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 26th FEBRUARY 2020

- 1 Present:**

Adrian Hinchcliffe (Chair), Peter Bromley, Bill Bell, Brian Ellie, Chris Thomas, Andrew Willmott.

In attendance: Rob Naples

Rob Naples was welcomed to the meeting
- 2 Apologies for Absence:**

Councillor Wendy Pattison, Ayshea Lewis, John Haughie, Margaret Robinson, Carole Green,
- 3 Approval of the Minutes from 02.12.19**

Were approved as a correct record.
- 4 Matters Arising**
 - (a) Old Recreation Field Access

The checks to the Land Registry had shown that Northumberland Estates does have access to the old recreation field from Eastmoor.
- 5 Report on the Consultation for the Vision, Objectives and Draft Policy Themes.**

The results of the consultation was set out on the report. It had been successful but the number of people attending the drop-in events and completing and returning the questionnaire was low. Nevertheless, 95 percent of those responding supported the vision and objectives and 92 percent supported the draft policy themes.

Some comments had been received about the lack of comment in the vision and objectives on habitats and species and on climate change. For this reason some minor changes were proposed to the vision and to Objective 3. Also a seventh objective was proposed covering sustainability. Following discussion the meeting agreed to these changes. The updated vision, and objectives are attached to the minutes.
- 6 Progress in producing the Background papers.**

The meeting considered the paper which gave an overall view of progress in producing the Background papers. Jo-Anne had produced one so far but more were expected within days.
- 7 Housing Progress Report**
 - 7.1 Technical Assessment of Housing Needs by AECOM**

Following two telephone conversations AECOM had produced an outline of what they proposed to do in response to our request for this work. They proposed to focus on: tenure and affordable housing; type and size; securing a local connection.

Members came up with some comments in relation to these proposals. The term 'affordable' needs to reflect the wage levels in the Parish which are very low. It was thought that AECOM should scrutinise the allocation of 88 houses to the Parish for the twenty year period to 2036 and that new housing has to be of the type and size to support the local population. These comments would be passed back to AECOM.
 - 7.2 A Count of Second Homes and Holiday lets within the Parish**

The initial analysis of second homes and holiday lets had been provisionally completed and showed an overall figure of 21 second homes and 46 holiday-lets. Overall this was 8.4 percent of the number of homes, however, in Boulmer Ward the figure was 39 % which is more critical. The analysis had been passed to Jo-Anne Garrick.
 - 7.3 Housing Site Assessment and Settlement Boundary Review**

This would not be considered until the AECOM report has been received.
- 8 Draft Environment Background Paper and Discussion on Actions**

Jo-Anne Garrick had produced a first draft of the Natural Environment Background Paper. Members reviewed the format which was likely to be similar to other Background papers when produced. Section 6 dealt with the Planning policy options and preferred policy approach. The Section offered a number of potential policy options under the headings of 'Green Infrastructure', 'Landscape' and 'Biodiversity'. Rather than make educated guesses at the best options to take, Peter Bromley offered to write a paper recommending the options to take. The paper to be circulated around the Steering Group before a decision can be passed back to Jo-Anne. **ACTION PETER**

It was also thought that the table at section 5.3 should include Sugar Sands and the hillside scarp and area around Ratcheugh crags and Snableazes.

9 Heritage Background Report

A listing of potential heritage topics for research had been obtained from the Heritage Group. This had been passed to Jo-Anne Garrick for consideration as part of the Heritage Background Paper. It was not known whether this was sufficient for her to start work on the paper. **Adrian agreed to query this with her.** It was thought that the focus of her paper would be those assets that are distinctive and give the villages a sense of place.

10 Local Green Spaces and Protected Open Spaces.

Jo-Anne Garrick had written a paper for the Steering Group which defines what can be categorised as Local Green Spaces and Protected Open Spaces. She had also forwarded a copy of the emerging Northumberland Local Plan which has these identified. Irrespective of the Local Plan Jo-Anne was requesting the Steering Group to set up a process for the identification of Local Green Spaces and Protected Open Spaces to go into the Background paper. Through the consultation process on the vision and objectives some nominations had been made. It was important that every proposal is put forward via a proposal form to ensure that it meets the criteria. Members agreed that they should meet again to take on this task. **This was to take place on Wednesday 04.03.20 at 3.00pm at the Community and Sports Centre. In advance of the meeting members to complete the proposal form each Green Space or Protected Open Space that they wished to nominate.**

11 Travel Routes

A document produced by the Footpaths Group which includes important travel routes within the Parish had been passed to Jo-Anne Garrick. **Adrian to question Jo-Anne on whether she needs more information.**

12 Consultation with Young People

Adrian had met the Head Teacher of the Alnwick Duchess High School to ask if the Parish could set up some form of consultation/liaison with the young people at the school who live in the Parish. The Head was willing for this to take place and it was now a matter of finding a suitable way for this to happen and the coverage. The coverage would be the Neighbourhood Plan and Climate Change. A similar approach had been made to Longhoughton Primary School but no meeting had taken place yet.

13 Johnny Johnston Site

Adrian had been in contact with Ian Stanners and other members of the NCC Housing Department with regard to the ex Johnnie Johnson site. The purpose of the contact was to make the Housing Department aware of our interest in this site for affordable housing possibly in the form of Community-Led Housing. Ian Stanners had noted our interest and suggested more discussions once we receive the AECOM report.

Bryan Ellis thought that the Johnnie Johnson site could be partly utilised for the creation of offices. He felt that we need to be generating employment in the Parish to encourage younger people and to try to balance out the aging population. This will be considered in more detail in the Business Background Paper.

14 Date of the Next Meeting

Wednesday 3rd March 2020 at 3.00pm at the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre.

The meeting finished at 9.10pm

THE VISION

In 2036 the Parish of Longhoughton, which includes the unique and distinctive villages of Boulmer, Howick and Longhoughton, will be an attractive place to live and grow with a community that is sustainable, cohesive and thriving.

The diverse needs and wellbeing of the existing and future residents will be provided for and the community will be sustainable in relation to the facilities and infrastructure available to residents.

Residents will have good access to facilities and be well connected.

The natural, historic and environmental character of the area will be maintained and enhanced for future generations by ensuring that new developments are of an appropriate quality, scale and design and embed important habitats for wildlife.

New development will minimise environmental harm by ensuring the prudent use of natural resources in both construction and occupation. It will be designed to be resilient to the effect of climate change.

All people who live in the parish will have the opportunity to participate in shaping their surroundings and feel proud of where they live.

THE OBJECTIVES

Objective 1 - Housing: The location, quantity and type of housing built in the parish, is appropriate to its sustainability and reflects the distinct character and needs of the villages of Boulmer and Alnwick and Longhoughton.

Objective 2 - Business: Supporting and encouraging appropriate and sustainable levels of business growth and development across the Parish.

Objective 3 - Environment: Protecting and improving the natural environment of the Parish both within and outside the designated areas, by: conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; protecting the integrity of internationally designated coastal sites; supporting the creation, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and green infrastructure networks whilst ensuring appropriate and suitable access for their appreciation.

Objective 4 - Heritage: Protecting and enhancing the distinctive character of the villages and the built heritage of the parish

Objective 5 – Community: Protecting and supporting the development of key community facilities and infrastructure to ensure that the community is inclusive and sustainable.

Objective 6 – Transport and Access: Promoting access to facilities and services for all residents and creating safe and high quality roads, pavements and green routes including footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways.

Objective 7 – Sustainable Development: Ensuring new development makes a positive contribution to social, environmental or economic needs and that any negative impacts, particularly those contributing to climate change, are adequately mitigated.

Approved 26.02.20