

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Minutes of meeting on 17 December 2013, 6:30-8:15pm, held at the Council Chambers, Clayport Street, Alnwick

Present:

Sue Patience, AYPAs, Gallery Youth
Colin Barnes, Northumberland Estates
Gordon Castle, NCC (part meeting)
Roy Todd, Education topic
Martin Murphy, Transport topic
David Lovie, Heritage and Culture topic
Philip Angier, Retail and Town Centre topic
Rachael Roberts, Environment topic, FoE
Marc Johnson, Community topic, CAN
Bill Grisdale, Alnwick TC (part meeting)

In Attendance:

Peter Biggers, Project Coordinator and chair for the evening
Bill Batey, Alnwick TC
Charlotte Colver, NCC
Kevin Bartlett, NCC (notes)

1.0 Apologies:

John Taylor, David English

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting:

2.1 Minutes approved

2.2 Peter introduced Roy Todd, former Headmaster of the Duchess's High School, Alnwick, who has stepped in to take the lead on the education topic.

3.0 Matters Arising:

3.1 Item 7.3. Bill B to follow up further discussion with various NCC Service contacts on the perceived status of the Neighbourhood Plan.

3.2 Item 8.3 Planning Aid supported meetings for topic leads still to be agreed, including confirmation of Planning Aid supported transport topic meeting on 15 or 16 January. Other topic meetings also to be arranged for January

4.0 Community Engagement Group:

4.1 Paul Larkin, Editor of the Northumberland Gazette and Morpeth Herald, attended the Community Engagement meeting on 22 November 2013. He is keen for the paper to be involved in engagement on the Neighbourhood Plan for example including information in The Gazette and on the Gazette website in the run up to the launch of the Plan and a spread in the paper to coincide with the Plan launch. He is also willing to help with surveys etc. The steering group discussed the need to define a target audience as this will influence the style submitted.

4.2 The subgroup is still looking for an author for an "easy read" version of the document.

- 4.3 A market stall is to be used on 21st December to promote the plan. Volunteers are needed to help set up from 9.30am and to work on the stall for some time between 10.00am and 1.00pm.
- 4.4 Chris Anderson has supplied good examples of community engagement from other neighbourhood plans and has suggested other media such as video to be added to the existing engagement.

5.0 Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy consultation:

- 5.1 In addition to the Town Council's proposed response to the County Council's current consultation, Peter and Colin tabled a draft response from the ADNP Steering Group. Discussion around the draft response highlighted concerns, corroborated by Martin, that the Core Strategy consultation document does not satisfactorily explain the link between proposed levels of development growth and population change. There was a view that the proposed housing numbers could have been higher and a sense of dissatisfaction that the allocation of sites had not been left for the Neighbourhood Plan to determine. Charlotte explained that apparent contradictory statements for example in Amble a suggestion that additional new homes would lead to reduced population, related to the effect of different growth scenarios on the proportion of the population of working age.
- 5.2 Discussion also focused on the current consultation document proposing lower 5 hectares of additional employment land compared with 10 hectares in the previous consultation. There was no objection from the Group to the proposed Core Strategy response suggesting a higher level of 12 hectares. However there was some discussion around the likely increase of home and retail based employment due to greater proportions of older workers. It was noted that the Town Council intends to suggest reverting to 10 hectares.
- 5.3 The Group was invited to submit any additional comments to Peter before the end of 24 December to enable him to finalise the response to be sent to County Hall before the deadline of 2 January 214.

6.0 Drafting the Plan:

- 6.1 Community Facilities topic: ready for meeting with Planning Aid but would welcome input from the Education topic lead.
- 6.2 Education topic: still talking with key people but will complete as soon as this is done, probably by mid-January. Charlotte is to get contact details for relevant NCC Education advisor.
- 6.3 Sport and Recreation topic: it was proposed that this topic is merged to become a section within the Community Facilities topic. A draft has been written but would benefit from a conversation with Education Topic lead on joint facilities
- 6.4 Environment topic: A draft has been written but due to technical difficulties in designating local nature reserves, needs amending to refer to potential sites as general Greenspaces. Further work still to be carried out on determining where to designate Local Greenspace in accordance with the NPPF but paper is nearly ready to discuss with Planning Aid. Charlotte has provided Peter with a draft landscape section to be considered for incorporating into the plan.

- 6.5 Retail and Town Centre topic: 1st draft has been completed but the topic lead would appreciate help on policy wording. Cross links with other topics have been identified including relocation of the High School, which will effect retail trade.
- 6.6 Heritage and Culture: the Culture subsection requires further work but work on the Heritage subsection has progressed well. A draft was submitted to English Heritage and the topic lead is still waiting for a response from them. The two subsections need to be knitted together and Planning Aid meeting dates agreed for early in the New Year
- 6.7 Transport: this was the first draft to be written and meetings have been booked for 20 December and either 15 or 16 January with Planning Aid and Rob Naples (NCC Planning Officer, Spatial Policy and Delivery).
- 6.8 Employment: a draft has been written and a meeting with Planning Aid and James Cowen (NCC Planning Officer, Spatial Policy and Delivery) is to be arranged for January 2014.
- 6.9 Housing: a draft is progressing but would benefit from site measurements etc. Colin offered the services of Northumberland Estates to help with GIS.

7.0 Site Assessments:

- 7.1 Peter tabled a schedule of sites that have been assessed so far, using the Planning Aid workshop derived methodology. There was some discussion about the schedule including the need to ensure that referring to a mix of housing and open space on two sites did not obviate the need to include open space on all proposed sites. The Group is to submit comments on the schedule to Peter as soon as possible.
- 7.2 Colin tabled a plan of the Industrial Estate and Business park area south of Alnwick and there was general discussion on the need for increased employment land provision.
- 7.3 Other site assessments including those for open space allocations are to be presented to the next meeting

8.0 Budget:

- 8.1 £4,611 already spent, which includes £290 from the Community Development Foundation grant. Bill, Bill and Sue to ensure that publications and the Plan's website acknowledge the Community Development Foundation's contribution to the Plan.

Date of Next Meeting:

January 21st 2014, 5.00pm, at Council Chambers, Clayport Street

NOTE: meeting to be 1 ½ hours earlier than usual