

Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
18th February 2014
Clayport Street, Alnwick

Present:

Bill Grisdale, Alnwick Town Council (Chairman)
Martin Murphy, Transport Topic
David Lovie, Heritage and Culture Topic
Gordon Castle, Northumberland County Council
Sue Patience, AYPAs, Gallery Youth
Colin Barnes, Northumberland Estates
Rachael Roberts, Alnwick Friends of the Earth
David Farrar, Alnwick Friends of the Earth
John Taylor, Denwick Parish Council

In Attendance:

Peter Biggers, Project Coordinator
Bill Batey, Alnwick Town Council

Apologies:

Roy Todd, Charlotte Colver, Kevin Bartlett, David English,

1.0 Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2014 were approved.

2.0 Matters Arising:

2.1 **Bill B** to follow up discussion with County Council re the status of the plan.

2.2 No reply from Barbara Henderson, **Peter B** to chase up.

7.0 Topic group amended meeting dates, 7th March Environment and Culture and Heritage, 8th March for Communities.

3.0 Community Engagement:

3.1 Sue Patience updated. There had been no meeting since before Christmas but a meeting was planned in the next couple of weeks. Harry Henderson a freelance video producer was willing to assist for a fee. **Bill Batey** to supply contact details for Paul Kiddell regarding aerial photos.

4.0 Drafting the Plan

a) Sustainable Development Strategy

4.1 PB went through his draft Development Strategy chapter and proposed that it formed an early part of the Plan. There was discussion around the Policy SCS1 which had been adapted from the Core Strategy and made Alnwick specific. It was felt that a simple definition of Sustainability would help and it was worth having a glossary. Comments to be submitted back to Peter by the end of February. **(ALL)**

b) Retail and Development Strategy Chapter

4.2 A Copy of the draft chapter was tabled for discussion. Peter explained that the paper introduces a concept of retail shopping frontages to give flexibility on what happens behind the frontages. Discussion points made included:

- A map would assist
- The upper floors of Town Centre premises will be picked up in the Housing Paper
- Policy TC2 deals with the flexibility and scope to redevelop the rear of frontages
- Policy TC3 relating to retail development along the South Road corridor is also covered by the Core Strategy.
- It was best to delete the reference to Alnwick Schools Federation in TC4A and replace with 'local schools'
- There was a view that TC5 was not necessary and a visitor stop would affect town centre businesses, the evidence base for this proposal was also questioned.

Comments to Peter were requested for the end of the week. **(ALL)**

c) Alnwick Market Place

4.3 Peter had drafted a paper on the Market Place which pulled together comments made by Philip, David and Martin. The paper had been produced as this was a cross cutting issue that impacted on many topic areas and Peter wished to get views on how best to treat this important space, in the plan. There was discussion about the suggested draft policy, particularly about the wording of the primary use of the Market Place as a predominantly pedestrian space, given the impending introduction of car parking spaces adjacent to the Northumberland Hall.

Comments to Peter were requested by the end of the week. **(ALL)**

d) Reviewing progress with remaining chapters

4.4 A table had been circulated and was explained, giving updates on the chapters and the topic policy review discussion meetings.

5.0 Budget Update

There had been no additional expenditure since the last meeting, so expenditure remained at £7,313.51.

6.0 AOB

None.

Date of Next Meeting:

18th March, 6.30pm at Clayport Street (Apologies given by G Castle).