



STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes 12th December 2016

A meeting was held in Ashington Community Centre, on Monday 12th December 2016 commencing at 8pm.

Present: Nigel Spiers, Di Clarke, Tiena Currell, Graeme MacPherson, Colin Hoare, Mike Humphrey.

Neighbourhood Plan Clerk: Karen Dare

Apologies for absence: Clare Barker, Mary Davis (personal) & Brian Clarke (illness).

Karen Dare (Neighbourhood Plan Clerk) had previously prepared and circulated an agenda.

Karen Dare updated the committee on activities since the last meeting:

- a. Call for sites – 26 sites will be considered on their merits. One site (Site 26) had been submitted well after the deadline of 30th September. There was some discussion about whether this site should be included or not: the NHPlan work had not progressed beyond a point where it was too late to consider the new site but it could be seen as 'unfair' to other site owners who had missed the deadline (although no-one had actually contacted the NHPlan Clerk to ask if they could submit a site after the deadline). It was agreed to seek the advice of HDC on this matter.
The NHPlan Clerk was still chasing some Part 1 Site Assessment forms from Developers (distributed on 2nd November) – most had been submitted before the deadline of 7th December, others had been sent a reminder and submitted a few days later. Two sites were yet to submit Part 1 forms and the NHPlan Clerk was chasing these. One site had recently changed ownership and the original Developer no longer has an interest in the site (Site 14). The other site had not responded to any of the Clerk's messages (Site 24). The Clerk will chase again on 14th December and if there is still no response she will write to the site owner to state that the site will be removed from the list.
- b. The NHPlan Clerk had circulated a document detailing how sites should be selected or rejected. It was based entirely on HDC's adopted HDPF. It details the selection criteria, which type of site should be prioritised, rejection criteria and how the NHPlan team should determine how many new homes should be built in Ashington. It identifies possible risks of overdevelopment of the village due to a large number of sites being put forward and how the NHplan team can deal with this. It also acknowledges that site selection must not be influenced by site specific issues eg highways, access etc as these can all be dealt with at the planning application stage. The Steering Group agreed that this document

should be checked with HDC and, if acceptable, be used to select or reject sites.

- c. Detailed Questionnaire – the Clerk and Tiena Currell had circulated the latest draft to the Steering Group, Focus Groups, Community Groups, Parish Councillors and had invited comments. It was important to seek comments from people who had not been directly involved in the preparation of the Survey as they were able to give unbiased views. Feedback would be incorporated into the final version of the document.

The following next steps were agreed:

- a. Call for Sites – the NHPlan clerk would contact the new Neighbourhood Planning Officer at HDC and arrange a meeting for the purpose of updating him with progress to date and checking that everything had been done correctly.
- b. Detailed Survey – the NHPlan Clerk, Tiena Currell & Clare Barker had scheduled a meeting for 13th December to discuss final design, printing, distribution & publicity for the Survey. Tiena Currell would take the lead on this as this gives the NHPlan Clerk more time to complete the Call for Sites work.
- c. Young people – a draft survey was being prepared in conjunction with the Youth Worker & Youth Club Chairman.
- d. Businesses – a business survey had been completed and raw results were available. A summary report would be produced.
- e. Formal documents – once the NHPlan Clerk has met with HDC she will begin the process of writing up the formal documents that are needed for the NHPlan. She will identify these from other Neighbourhood Plans and tailor to the needs of Ashington.
- f. Planning Workshops will be held whereby landowners/agents/developers would present their development proposals to Ashington residents. However, this will need to be scheduled after completion of the State of the Parish report and submission of Part 2 site assessment forms.

AOB:

1. Luckista Grove re-development is now complete and the @20 homes should be added to the distribution list for Surveys.
2. It was noted that many potential sites are 'greenfield abutting the BUAB' and that their Developers are all proposing up to 100 homes each. Individually this falls below the threshold for 'strategic' development as defined by HDC (150-200 homes) but the cumulative effect if all sites were allocated for development would be strategic expansion of Ashington without an over-arching design nor infrastructure plan. It was agreed that the NHPlan Clerk alert HDC Strategic Planning to the situation.

The next meeting will take place after the NHPlan Clerk and Steering Group members have met with HDC.

Signed:

Date: