

ACOMB NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th September 2017 6.30 p.m. in Acomb Village Hall

1. **Present:** Norman Robson (local resident, in the chair), Matilda Bevan (local resident and Minutes), County Cllr Trevor Cessford, Chris Anderson (Planning Officer), Jane Wrigley (local stakeholder), Cllr Rachel Gagliano (Acomb Parish Council)

Invited Guest: Jenny Ludman, Ludman Planning

2. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Charles Enderby, Bill Grigg (Clerk to Acomb Parish Council, Administrator and Treasurer), Cllr Lorna Farr
3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday August 15th:** were approved as a true record other than two corrections. 1) Tuesday June 13th stated as date of the previous meeting should be changed to Tuesday 19th July. 2) In notes on Howford Haulage Yard the word "landowner" is to replace the personal name mentioned.
4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting:** There were no matters which were not covered later in the agenda.
5. **Draft Plan**

Green Spaces

Norman had photographed all of the Green Spaces, except the Common Land near Acomb Fell Farm as its exact location had not yet been verified. Jane Wrigley reported that a local resident was currently researching the ecology and history of this piece of land. Jenny Ludman observed it was not of amenity value (used by the public) and not under threat, so that it need not feature in the Neighbourhood Plan. At the meeting of 15th August, it had been agreed to remove this land from the list.

Community Facilities

Jane requested that Little Oaks Nursery, a separate entity from the School, be added to the list.

Jenny recommended looking at the Stannington NP, which had a policy-regarding possible future expansion of their school. Jane commented that any future development at the school was partly dependent on the consultation currently being carried out by the Hadrian Learning Trust. She felt it might be more appropriate to discuss this issue with Governors once the situation was a little clearer.

Cycling and Walking

Matilda and Jane reported back on the Footpath Group meeting held on August 15th, which had concentrated on upgrading the footpath between the allotments and the old Hexham Road, a possible bridleway along Howford Lane and a suggestion that Acomb PC discuss with Wall PC the creation of an off-road route between Acomb and Wall. This last project was likely to be the most challenging. It was noted that specific cycle ways and footpaths were Community Actions.

Infill Housing within the Settlement Boundary

Chris recommended using the term “Small Scale Development” rather than “Infill Housing” which could be misleading. The Settlement Boundary on the Policies map needed to be finalised.

Local Economy

The industrial site around the bus depot on A6079 was a Brownfield Site.

There was discussion about whether a site-specific policy for that site was appropriate. Should it be within the Settlement Boundary, or contiguous with the inset boundary?

It was agreed that Public Access Footpaths to the River and Pit Heaps should remain in place within any future development here.

Future development on this site needed to be making a positive contribution to the entrance to Acomb.

Conservation Area and Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Jane would meet with an expert from the local History Society to confirm details of buildings in the area. She would then begin work on Policy 9 (Non-designated Heritage Assets)

Action: Jane

The Draft Plan was currently in good workable framework form, ready for the input of our comments.

There were no Community Actions in the Plan.

Jenny would have editorship of the Draft Plan, adding further material, in consultation with Chris.

Action: Jenny and Chris

Norman urged all Steering Group to read the Draft Plan, and submit content as it arises.

Action: All Steering Group members

Norman would draft a section on Key Issues.

Action: Norman

- 6. Evidence:** All Steering Group members should send any relevant evidence to Rachel, for inclusion on the website.

Action: All

7. **Community Facilities/Infrastructure Audit:** See “Community Facilities” above. In the Infrastructure Audit the Community Facilities (not Assets) that are listed should be those that cannot be lost e.g. Acomb First School, Little Oaks Nursery.
8. **Footpaths and Bridleways Mapping Progress:** Chris now had a copy of the definitive map showing all Rights of Way and was ready to add-further information (on all policies) to the map, until it was finalised
9. **What next:** see above
10. **Website:** Rachel confirmed it was up to date
11. **Date of next Meeting:** Tuesday 24th October 2017 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall