

**Minutes of the Acomb Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting  
Acomb Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 6.00pm**

- 1. Present:** Jane Wrigley (Acomb Parish Council, and Steering Group Chair)  
Lorna Farr (Acomb Parish Council/Action 4 Acomb)  
Charles Enderby (Chairman, Acomb Parish Council)  
Matilda Bevan (Local Resident)  
Barry Knott (Local Resident)  
Norman Robson (Local Resident/ Minutes Secretary)

Barry was welcomed by the Steering Group as a new member.  
He gave a brief summary of his relevant experience

- Invited guests:** Jenny Ludman (Independent Planning Consultant)  
David English (Strategic Planning and Housing, NCC)  
Bill Grigg (Clerk to Acomb Parish Council and Steering  
Group Secretary/Treasurer)

- 2. Apologies:** Rachel Gagliano (Action 4 Acomb)  
Sybil Gill (Acomb Parish Council)  
Naomi Liller (Acomb Parish Council)

**3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016:**

These were accepted as a true record.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere in the agenda**

None

**5. Report from our planning consultant Jenny Ludman on our progress so far – to follow**

a) Jenny was thanked by the group for the provision of such a comprehensive report on the progress to date.

b) Jenny summarised the report. She had taken the Objectives as defined by the Group, and reduced and amalgamated them to bring more focus to the identification of future policies. She had also separated the objectives into those which were specifically relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan (NP), and those which were more appropriate to the Community Led Plan (CLP). The CLP objectives could be included in the NP, but would act as supporting evidence to the NP Policies, rather than producing Policies in their own right.

c) There followed much discussion of the detail of the revised Objectives, as follows:

Objective 1: Natural Environment and Wild life

It was agreed that Bullet Point 1 should be retained, and the Pit Heaps area between the A6079 and Watersmeet designated as Local Green Space.

Bullet Points 2, 3 and 4, relating to the SSSI along the North Tyne, Net Gain in biodiversity and the Red Burn corridor for wildlife, would be deleted, as they are already covered by County and National Development Policy and, therefore, are superfluous. It was also agreed that mention of the potential Hydro Electric Scheme would be omitted, as there was no positive or negative Parish Council opinion on it.

There was inconclusive discussion about policies relating to land within the Parish, but outside the Village, and the any protection given by Green Belt of these areas. However, it was felt that any Local Green Spaces, currently within the Green Belt, should be specified to give them further protection.

It was agreed that Bullet Point 5, covering allotments or a community orchard, should be retained.

#### Objective 2: Flooding

Whilst some of these bullet points are included in County and National Policy, it was agreed that they would remain in the Plan, as there was a significant focus on flooding in the community. Jenny stressed that it would be vital to have local evidence e.g. photos and accounts of flooding incidents.

#### Objective 3: Traffic, Walking and Cycling in Acomb

The bullet points were agreed but it was recognised that these are supporting policies rather than definitive ones, as the NP could not specify where Bridle Paths and Footpaths would go.

#### Objective 4: Housing

It was agreed that these bullet points would remain for the purposes of consultation and recognising that Housing was a major part of the any Neighbourhood Plan. However, it was noted that the recent Housing Needs Survey did not indicate the requirement for any specific type of property or tenure. Jenny suggested approaching Rachel for evidence of any need for housing for older people.

**Action:** JW, RG

#### Objective 5: Local Employment and Business

It was agreed that this should be restricted to Home-Working and supporting the creation of small businesses, although there is a need for further evidence of this requirement. It was understood that a survey of existing businesses in the Community would probably provide little response or information.

## Objective 6: Heritage, Conservation and Green Spaces

These bullet points were all agreed

## Objective 7: Community

These bullet points were agreed for the purposes of further public consultation. However, some of them may come more into the CLP arena than the NP. It was agreed that the recommendations of the Conservation Area Appraisal should be enforced.

d) It was agreed that the next stage of the process would be to seek further public consultation on the revised Vision and Objectives. This process would be discussed at the next meeting. Jenny would provide a revised set of Vision and Objectives based on this meeting's discussions.

### **Action: JL**

Norman agreed to supply Jenny with a map showing the location of the four identified Local Green Spaces.

### **Action: NR**

## **6. Feedback on December walks round Acomb (LF, MB, NR and JW -see attached Green Space Assessment; SG and JL)**

Jenny said that the (comprehensive) village walk that she and Sybil had taken, were very useful in learning about the village, its history and its geography.

The walk by Jane, Matilda, Lorna and Norman had resulted in the production of a first draft Green Space Assessment (for Local Green Spaces), in a format supplied by Jenny.

## **7. Updates:**

The Steering Group vacancy had been filled by the appointment of Barry Knott. However, other contributors would be welcomed.

Jane would discuss further updating of the website with Rachel.

### **Action: JW, RG**

## **8. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 6.30 on 21st February 2017.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm