

Minutes of the Acomb Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Meeting held

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Acomb Village Hall on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 6.30pm

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

Invited guests: David English (Strategic Planning and Housing, NCC), Chris Anderson (Strategic Planning and Housing, NCC), Jenny Ludman (Independent Planning Consultant)

Chris Anderson was introduced to the meeting, as he would be the future interface between the Group and NCC Strategic Planning and Housing. Thanks were given to David English for his contributions to date.

- 2. Apologies:** Charles Enderby (Chairman, Acomb Parish Council), Bill Grigg (Clerk to Acomb Parish Council and Steering Group Secretary/Treasurer)

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 11th April 2017

Approved

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

1. Lorna said that letters of thanks had been sent to all those involved in the distribution of Questionnaires and help with the Consultation Event.

2. Jane said that at the next meeting it would be necessary to elect a new Vice-Chair. The Parish Council would also need to nominate a senior representative of the Council (usually Chairman, Vice-Chair or Clerk) to act as the applicant/contact point for Locality (for Grant Application purposes).

Action: Charles, Bill

5. Feedback from Consultation Event on Sat April 22nd 2017

34 people had attended the Consultation Event on Sat 22nd April 2017. This was regarded as a good turnout. The general view was positive in relation to the Vision and Objectives, although there was clearly no desire for additional large-scale Housing in the Parish. The WI was thanked for its contribution of Coffee and Cake. Norman would write a brief report on the event and the associated questionnaire results for posting on the website and as evidence for the Plan.

Action: Norman

6. Analysis of questionnaire responses (and comments at the Consultation Event):

- Overall statistics

The overall outcome was very strongly in favour of our Vision and Prime Objectives, with all achieving over 93% positive response. The only significant negative responses were for Orchard/Allotment (17.2% against) and further Housing locations (70% against). Given the current Housing Development in the village, this is unsurprising. Full details of the results will be shown in the brief report of the event (see above)

- Land-use related comments

Based on all the comments from the questionnaires, the following conclusions were reached. These will form the basis of the policies to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

- a. Vision** – it was agreed that, following comments, the Vision would be changed to include “safe”, a phrase about future generations, and changing “Acomb” to “Acomb Parish”.

Action: Jane

- b. Objective 1 - Community facilities and green space** – It was agreed that this objective was now approved. After much discussion, it was agreed that:

1. For Plan purposes, Green Spaces should be separated from Community Facilities

Action: Jane

2. There was a need to develop the Green Spaces Spreadsheet to identify the new ones shown on comments. These would also be shown on a Map supplied by NCC

Action: Norman, Chris Anderson (NCC)

3. The issue of the Village Hall/Pavilion would be resolved by the Parish Council. The Neighbourhood Plan would enable any resolution.

- c. Objective 2 - Flooding** – it was agreed that this objective was now approved. However, the Plan would probably only contain 1 policy, relating to Flood Alleviation plans. Lorna agreed to look at the Flooding Policies of other Plans (e.g. Morpeth)

Action: Lorna

d. Objective 3 - Traffic, walking and cycling - It was agreed that this objective was approved. It was further agreed that:

1. Car Parking issues could not be part of the Neighbourhood Plan unless there was an intent to build a car park.
2. Any policies would be supporting and enabling this objective.
3. Any policies on Bridleways and Footpaths would be co-ordinated with the local Footpaths Group. Lorna would supply names so that Matilda could follow this up.

Action: Lorna, Matilda

e. Objective 4 – Housing – It was agreed that this objective was approved. It was further agreed that:

There may no policies associated with Housing, but that there should be an explanation of the reasons (i.e. the only land available outside the Green Belt would allow in-fill only, and current County Planning regulations would control design aspects and Conservation Area issues).

f. Objective 5 - Local employment and business – It was agreed that this objective was approved. It was further agreed that:

1. This objective would be supported in the currently designated areas.
2. Some areas (west side of A6079) were currently used by business but not designated as such, and should be. Lorna agreed to determine ownership of this land ~~via the Parish Council.~~

Action: Lorna

g. Objective 6 - Heritage, conservation and buildings - It was agreed that this objective was approved. It was further agreed that:

It was difficult to define the “local character” of the Parish/Village, but that we should try to define polices that protected the Conservation Area and Listed Buildings. Jenny advised that the Group might want to seek specialist advice on this matter. Jane would supply Barry with the Acomb Conservation Area Character Appraisal (ACACA) and would work with him to provide a brief summary of the issues.

Action: Jane, Barry

h. Further Comments

These comments were included under Vision and Objectives

7. Non-land use related comments

Jane agreed to pass, formally, the non-land use related comments to Acomb Parish Council and Action4Acomb.

Action: Jane

8. Draw for Marks and Spencer vouchers from those who responded with contact details

The draw for the prizes was carried out, monitored by the Invited Guests. The winners were numbers 48, 50, 47 and 19. The numbers were associated to J. Nicholson, Michael McElroy, Helen Harpham and Ve Craggs. Norman would arrange prize distribution and Village Notes/ Noticeboard publicity.

Action: Norman

9. What next?

It was agreed that the actions from this meeting would move the Group forward and further actions would be discussed at the next meeting.

10. Website

There were no apparent issues

11. Date of next meeting: Tues June 13th at 6.30pm

12. The meeting closed at 8.20