

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

“What is going on with the Neighbourhood Plan?” we hear the community asking!

THE STORY SO FAR

Since so many of you attended the community engagement evening way back at the end of January, progress has been slow for a number of varied reasons. All the comments and information from these evenings, which were held in all three parishes that make up the North Tyne Planning Group, along with comments received by post, have been analysed and the main points summarised.

After two meetings with the other two parishes, it was felt that the interests of Tarset and Greystead would be best served by withdrawing from this group of three and developing our own independent Neighbourhood Plan. It was the National Park that initially applied for Front Runner status for the three parishes and, whilst they would have liked the three parishes to develop a joint plan, they understood our reasons and have since confirmed that we would still be eligible for our share of the remaining grant money and continuing help from the National Park when we ask for it.

Having been given the go-ahead to develop our own plan, the Parish Council requested a meeting with the newly appointed Head of Planning, Conservation and Communities in the National Park, [REDACTED], with a view to obtaining some assurances about the practical application of any Neighbourhood Plan that may be produced by us. Due to her induction and then her going on holiday, we were unable to meet with her until early August. At this meeting she pointed out that, *“Whatever ends up in the plan – it will not be able to provide an absolute yes or no answer to every development proposal that might come along in the future. Although the statutory development plan is the lead consideration in planning decisions, the policies in them always have to be considered and balanced against all ‘other material considerations’.”*

Not to be put off, it was felt that we had to take this opportunity to help influence the way in which the Parish develops in the future, (and not just regarding planning issues) by continuing to develop Tarset and Greystead Neighbourhood Plan.

WHAT NOW?

Additional members have been invited to work with the group and so the group now consists of: [REDACTED] to whom any comments and suggestions can be directed.

We are now putting together a document which will highlight the main issues for consideration which will be communicated to the community before we hold a consultation evening to make sure that we have addressed all the issues and that we have general agreement on them. Hopefully this will be before the end of October. We will then start the task of putting the issues into a Draft Neighbourhood Plan. This will again be put to the community for comments before a final plan is produced which, once approved by the NP and NCC, would have to receive a simple majority in a community referendum. We have set a target date for completion of the final plan as the end of April.

With your help we hope to produce a neighbourhood Plan that will help to maintain the beautiful landscape that we all appreciate but will allow the area to adapt to external; changes in such a way as to maintain the essential character of the area that makes this such a special place to live and work, whilst providing employment and suitable housing opportunities for those that require them.

Neighbourhood Planning Group
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