

Update on the Tarset and Greystead Neighbourhood Development Plan – Summer 2015

A big “Thank you” to all those who attended the consultation evening on 25th March 2015 and to everyone who returned their response forms for our consultation on the draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Development Plan. There were 21 attendees at the meeting and notes on comments that were voiced at the meeting were made and subsequently taken into account during our review of the responses. A total of 65 responses were received from residents, 64 forms and 1 email. The Steering Group were very encouraged by the general satisfaction with the policies, with an average approval rate of 95%. 7 respondents were the maximum number who did not approve of any individual policy, with an average non approval for any one policy of only 3 residents.

In addition to residents, a further 9 stakeholder organisations responded to the Draft Plan giving an overall total of 74 responses. These included the National Park, Northumberland County Council, Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England and Northumbria Water.

Clive Coyne is now our official representative from NNPA, but Jenny Ludman still attends meetings as we have employed her to work on some specific items due to her knowledge, not only of planning matters, but also her understanding of what the community wants in the plan. Her contribution at meetings remains most valuable.

All our recent regular meetings have followed a similar format in us methodically going through all the individual responses, reviewing and discussing them and recording what action, if any, was to be taken. This process has nearly finished and we are now incorporating all the changes into the Neighbourhood Development Plan in readiness to send it to our local Planning Authorities, NNPA and NCC for them to initiate their consultation. This will be done well before the end of June and then the process is out of our hands, but the Planning Authorities will ask for any comments from residents and stakeholders on the final Neighbourhood Development Plan, during a six week consultation period before they appoint the independent examiner.

As usual all relevant documents and information can be accessed online
www.tarset.co.uk/community/planning.cfm

It was in May 2011 that the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan was first discussed by a small group of Parish Councillors from Tarset and Greystead, Bellingham, Wark and the National Park and none of us would ever have thought that 4 years later we would still have been working on it. If we had had thought that, I don't think any of us would have pursued the idea any further! Fortunately we did, and the end is now very definitely in sight and the many hours of hard work will have been worth it with a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will truly reflect what the majority of the residents of the Parish feel is needed to help guide planning in the Parish over the next 20 years. Hopefully by the next Tarset News we will have details of when the referendum will be.

- The Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group -