

Tarset and Greystead NDP Steering Group, extra meeting held on 4 February 2014 at 10.00 am

Present: Megan Nixon (Chair), Rex Cooper (Secretary), Anne Monroe, Jenny Ludman, Chris Anderson (Planning Aid England Support)

Apologies were received from John Holland and Preston Hoggan.

Anne Monroe nominated Megan Nixon to chair the meeting

1. Scope of meeting

This was an all-day 'extra' meeting falling outside the scope of regular fortnightly meetings (although replacing the regular meeting scheduled for this day).

As the purpose of the meeting was to begin drafting policies for the draft T & G Neighbourhood Plan, Minutes were not taken in the usual form.

Instead Chris Anderson's note-taking of the discussions acts as the formal record of this meeting, and only more general points are listed under the summary of discussions below.

2. Brief summary of business conducted

Megan asked Jenny and Chris to offer general guidance on policy drafting.

Policies should not be too long, but can be very specific. Notes below the policy can explain it more fully.

The Objectives were used as a starting point for all policies drafted. It was agreed that a separate Objective 7 needs to be drafted on Sustainability (excluding energy, which is in Objective 6). This follows on from discussions at our November meeting. It will be necessary to prove the sustainability of the NP. Note that Allendale undertook a sustainability survey via two volunteers to demonstrate that their NP policies were as green as possible.

Upper Eden and Allendale Plans provide good examples of the type of policies we may consider for a rural area such as T & G. Allendale has good policies on Renewables.

Jenny and Chris advised that, for efficacy, the Design Guide should be built into the policy, rather than just referring to the guide. If the Design Guide is an Appendix it will not be voted on. There should be specific criteria for specific areas of the Parish rather than general statements on, for example, scale, size. So, there will be specific policies for Lanehead (dispersed nature of settlement) and Greenhaugh (envelope concept more useful here).

Policies can be proactive, e.g. can designate sites where houses could best be built.

Some of the Objectives cannot be drafted as policy, e.g. Objective 4, rural employment. However, the Plan can include non planning issues, so as to demonstrate to the community that its views on a wide range of such issues have been taken on board.

NPPF policies take precedence over NNPA policies. This may assist with policies in relation to NNPA stipulation for business use (usually tourism) of redundant buildings outside settlements.

There could be a specific policy on Pre-Apps. given small community and hence greater impact of developments on the community.

In some cases, e.g. biodiversity, NNPA policies are excellent and cannot usefully be improved on.

ACTION:

Chris to write up and circulate the summary recording the draft policies agreed on the template for each policy.

All: Group to revisit Allendale and Upper Eden plans for examples of policy writing.

All : Group to draft Sustainability Objective 7

All: (?) Group to consider sustainability survey as per Allendale's

Chris has also supplied a checklist (guidance only) for 'Drafting a Neighbourhood Plan Policy', which all agreed was very useful.

Any other business:

Those committee members present discussed the recent letter from Tarsset & Greystead Parish Council to all residents consulting on the proposed Kielder Wind Farm development.

It was agreed that the completed consultation forms should support the evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan, given that this is a recent development, and hence no direct question relating to wind farms was included in the NP Residents' Questionnaire.

Design Guide

Sarah Dyer is happy to help assess architects' work on Design Guide.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 18th February. **Chair to be nominated.**

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