

Tarset and Greystead NP Steering Group meeting held on 13th March 2014

Present: Preston Hoggan (Acting Chair), Rex Cooper (Secretary), Mary Lou Downie, John Holland, Anne Monroe, Megan Nixon, David Watkins, Tammy Adams (NNPA), Jenny Ludman (Independent Planning Consultant), David English (NCC), Sarah Dyer (Conservation Officer at NNP), Tina Gough and Colin Haylock (Spence and Dower)

1. Welcome

Preston welcomed everyone to the meeting at 2.00pm.

2. Introduction

Each person introduced themselves to the group. Preston outlined the purpose of the meeting – to explore the proposed work and its finer nuances through discussion and by taking advice from experts around the table.

3. Resume of the rationale behind the design/landscape guide

Through various consultations, including the questionnaire, the community have expressed strong views that the landscape should be protected and that although people are not against new development, there is a significant majority stating that buildings should be appropriate to the parish. Residents have a passion for their locality.

4. The anticipated synergy between the design/landscape guide and policy

Policies are embryonic – group members are in the process of drafting policies. Through previous discussions, it was decided that the design and landscape guide should be combined and be integral to the Neighbourhood Plan, not merely an addendum or a supplementary guide.

5. Information already available together with community engagement to date

A separate list is available of information to date. The following references were highlighted:

- Tarset Archive Group Atlas of Archaeological and Historical Sites 2006
- Heritage assets – ongoing work by NP steering group members.
- Notes / minutes of meetings from 24th August 2012 to date available on www.tarset.co.uk
- Consultations November 2012 – to date
- Questionnaire analysis
- Tarset and Greystead 2012 The Year of the Queen's Jubilee

6. Examining the 'finer nuances' of this project

- Sustainability Appraisal Item 2 from Northumberland National Park underlines the residents' wishes "To protect the special qualities of the National Park from unsuitable development". We recognise that this statement is entirely subjective.
- Issues about accumulative development in and around Greenhaugh and Lanehead, both in design terms and the impact on the landscape.
- Majority of local residents at saturation point for extending tourism: – resistant to redundant buildings being used only for tourist development rather than as residential homes; attracting yet more people thereby reducing the tranquillity of the NNP and potentially more light pollution impacting on Dark Skies status.
- Heritage assets are highly important.
- Recognition that the landscape throughout the parish is dynamic and has been like this for thousands of years. Views of the landscape are highly important to residents and visitors.
- Increasingly important issue of renewable energy with the recently proposed Kielder wind farm. Residents in favour of small renewables but against commercial wind turbines.
- Vital to protect community assets, protecting land and buildings for the benefit of the community e.g. Holly Bush, school, church.
- The design / landscape guide aspect of the neighbourhood plan must inform policy. The aim is to produce a really clear document that has an accurate characterisation of landscape and design within Tarsset and Greystead thus enabling future applicants to describe how their proposals respond to the defined characteristics. Policy needs to be tested by the design and landscape information, not just guided.
- The challenge is about principles e.g. Not preservation but conservation. Find a way of sustaining local businesses, encourage opportunities but proposals have to fit with the Parish and not be at the cost of the Parish.

7. Other matters

Spence and Dower were formally offered and accepted the brief, agreeing that no additional work be undertaken without prior consent from the Steering Group.

Action Spence and Dower to prepare a format for relationship of design /landscape elements with policies and how they will look together. Initial ideas to be sent by e-mail to Rex (secretary) by Friday 21st March 2004.

Meeting closed at 3.55pm

Next meeting will be: **25th March 2014 at 10:00am, Tarsset Village Hall**