

Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – Forum meeting 2pm, 23 Jun 2024

Location:

Leadgate Community Centre

Minutes

1. Constitution

A motion was presented to amend the Management Committee section of the Constitution, to read “...the Forum shall elect a Management Committee of four Officers, plus **at least** 6 additional committee members from the wider membership, who will direct the policy and management of the Forum”.

This change was approved unanimously.

2. Management Committee

A motion was presented to adopt Anthony Robson as a member of the Management Committee. This was approved unanimously.

A motion was presented to adopt Ian Peart as a member of the Management Committee. This was approved unanimously.

3. GIS Software

Ian Peart presented information on the nature and use of GIS software, including a live demonstration of the tool, and answered questions from the floor. Forum members will be invited to help Ian at future workshops where data (such as location of heritage sites and green spaces) will be quality checked.

Data captured in the GIS tool can be passed directly to Durham, which will avoid the need for considerable manual coding of this information by them, as would normally be the case. It can also be made available as part of the formal consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan, allowing residents to directly view what has been captured and provide feedback.

4. Timeline to Date, Next Steps and Early Consultations

Christine presented progress to date and the next steps towards adopting a Neighbourhood Plan, as well as a summary of the early consultation activity already carried out. In response to questions from the floor, she confirmed that the formal consultation phase has not yet happened, so there is still plenty of opportunity for residents and businesses in the area to give their input.

5. Vision and Objectives

Christine presented the draft Vision statement and Objectives, which were debated.

Forum members would like to see ‘leisure’ included somewhere in the Vision and Objectives, as this is an important aspect of quality of life for residents and visitors.

The phrase “young and old” is used multiple times, but there is no mention of disability. It was suggested to adopt the alternative phrase “of all ages and abilities”.

With the above caveats, the Forum voted overwhelmingly (with one objection) to adopt the Vision statement and Objectives.

6. Finance

Anne-Louise presented the expenditure to date, and the forecast future expenditure assuming receipt of a further grant from Locality.

It was also confirmed that we will request two additional services (at no extra charge) from Locality:

- Housing Needs Assessment.
- Design Codes.

7. Community Actions

The Forum broke into sub-groups to brainstorm possible community actions. These are captured in a separate document.