

Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum – Management Committee

7pm, 15 August 2024

Consett Business Park

Attendees:

Christine Thomas – Chair
Mike Shiels – Secretary
Anne Louise Grant – Treasurer
Mark Russell – MC member
Ian Peart – MC Member
Richard Lumley – MC member

Apologies:

Lucy Reed – Data Protection Officer
Anthony Robson – MC member
John Million – MC member
Maureen Clyne – MC member
Niamh McDonald – MC member
Jo-Anne Garrick – Planning Consultant

Minutes

1. GIS Mapping update

Meetings on heritage and green spaces went well, especially Leadgate and Iveston where we were able to fill in blank areas. Also added missing war memorials.

Plan now is to produce a list of all features, for people to provide photos and useful supporting information, as well as description. Ian can export the data from GIS into Excel for people to update content, and he can then re-upload. It was agreed that the list should be split by area, so different members can take an area to complete.

Niamh has uploaded the green spaces layer online. Might need to adjust boundaries.

Ian demonstrated the story board display that can be linked from the CANF website for the public to view.

However, Ian may not have as much time in the next week or two, due to commitments around a family bereavement.

2. Locality Update

Christine has still not heard back from Locality on starting with Housing Needs Assessment and Design Codes, due to pressure of work on them. May not be done to the timescale previously expected.

3. Community Events

Christine, Anne Louise and Maureen attended “Consett in Focus” at Willowburn on 1 August 2024. This was a photography exhibition about local community groups. Chris who leads this may be able to help with photography in future.

Christine, Maureen, Mike and Richard met with Liz Twist and her assistant Sam on 1 August 2024. Christine briefed her on the background to the Neighbourhood Plan and progress made to date – Liz asked to be kept informed of progress, and to meet with us again when the full draft of the plan is completed. Consett is a new part of her revised constituency, so the neighbourhood plan could be very useful to her in getting to know the area and its priorities. Liz agreed to mention the Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum to any relevant organisations she meets with, and to let us know about any events that would be useful to us.

4. Future Events

Jeff Singleton from Shotley Bridge Village Trust has invited Christine to speak on 24 September 2024. Expect about 20 members to attend. See action log.

Building Self Belief AGM is at Derwent Manor 4-7pm on 26 September. All MC members are welcome to join.

5. CIO status update

Christine and Mike have been working on the draft constitution for a Consett Area Neighbourhood Forum CIO. Some specific questions were raised that we need to address with Debbie Lamb from Locality, who is helping us in this regard:

- Can we assume that members of Forum are automatically members of CIO?
- How do the two constitutions co-exist?
- Is there any compelling reason to have an alternative to voting in person, e.g., disability? If so, MC would prefer proxy voting to postal/email.

6. Actions completed - new actions

Actions were reviewed and updated - See action log.

7. Date / time of future meetings

- Management Committee meeting – Tuesday 27 August, on Zoom
- Next Forum (29 September) is St Johns Hall, Moorside
- Following scheduled Forum meeting for 19 January 2025 (likely Steel Club, Consett – to be confirmed)