

## **Neighbourhood Planning Forum- Working group September 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 Miners Hall, Redhills**

**Present:** David Hook, Jonathan Lovell (note taker), Kirsty Thomas, Roger Cornwall, Mike Costello, John Ashby, John Lowe, Nigel Martin, Pippa Bell, Sue Childs and Ann Evans.

**Apologies:** Ruth Chambers

Last meeting was at Kirsty Thomas' 27<sup>th</sup> July when feedback from the two opening meetings was discussed. Nick Rippen took the notes

### **County Durham Neighbourhood Plans**

17 plans are in progress County wide.

Sedgefield Neighbourhood Plan was submitted five weeks ago. The Durham County Council have to respond to the plan in two weeks, Sedgefield to date have had no acknowledgement from the Council. There was speculation around the table that this could be due to holidays.

### **Questionnaire**

There was a discussion whether to keep it open. It was decided to close it. A huge amount of information has been already collated through it. Comments will still be possible to post on the website.

**Action:** Sue - ASAP

### **Consultation with children and young people**

Pippa to contact local primary and secondary schools in NPF area and ask their opinion about issues in the city using the same questions used with the adults at the Open Meetings.

Suggested schools: St. Margaret's Primary, Neville's Cross Primary, St. Oswald's Primary, Durham Johnston, St. Leonards and Sixth Form Centre. All are within the NPF area.

**Action:** Pippa – by December 1

### **Other public consultation with stakeholders**

- Dean and Chapter – **Action:** Pippa to contact David Kennedy, acting Dean from October
- Friends of Wharton Park and Friends of Flass Vale – **Action:** Sue to contact
- University – Graham Towl, via DURF, invite to become a member of NPF – **Action:** Mike to contact

There was a brief discussion about the new Vice-Chancellor, Stuart Corbridge, who has contacted DURF via letter.

- New College
- University Students – via college JCRs ?
- Hospital
- World Heritage Site – Jane Houston? – **Action:** Kirsty
- Houghall
- Durham County Council, a brief discussion about where there relocated offices might be situated.
- Developers in the city, their involvement would hinge on their landownership in the city and the County Council can help NPF identify this. **Action:** Jonathan to write to Gavin Scott asking for his help with engagement with the County Council and developers

**Action: All** - need more help to contact stakeholders

## **Writing the Neighbourhood Plan policies**

Need professional help with writing the actual policies and a quote for doing this. A figure of £9,000 had been mentioned but not sure of the source.

John A (?) had made an approach to Ros Ward a retired planner for help but she was reluctant to commit at present (not certain of this?)

Where do we get the funding for this from?

Need more quotes from consultant who can write the policies and funding to pay for it

**Action:** Nick

## **Sources of existing evidence to support policies**

- Student Accommodation figures
- Saved policies from the City of Durham Local Plan 2004
- Land allocation Housing
- Tourism figures
- Recreational and wellbeing
- Cycle routes
- City of Durham Trust document (not sure which one?)

John A suggested that each member of the working group write five rough policies for each of the 6 topic areas.

**Action: ALL - ASAP**

## **Press**

Thanks were offered to Sue and Pippa for writing a press release following the Open Meeting. Ask the Durham Times to write an article, about the findings of the Open Meeting - When??

**Action:** Pippa

## **Neighbourhood Plan full Forum Meeting, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

Suggested items for the agenda

Article 4 and Council's Interim Student Policy: - What is the timetable and when does the consultation start?

Election of Chair, nominations were invited for candidates, Roger has agreed to stand.

Communications Officer, nominations were invited for candidates, Pippa has agreed to stand.

## **Student Accommodation Map**

Following an email request from Ruth Chambers there was a discussion about mapping to show student accommodation.

Suggestions included:

- Open Street Map, view online
- Help from the University Geography department
- County Council have a good system, which is flexible

## **Topics**

### **Economy and Infrastructure**

Pippa reported her progress so far, which has included meeting representatives from:

Durham markets – Colin Wilkes

Durham City Chamber of Trade –Peter Jackson

BID- Adam Deathe

There had been a shoppers survey in 2002 and there was a discussion about whether to re-commission it for evidence, it was agreed not to.

It was suggested that the following issues should be considered:

- Promotional events eg. Lumiere
- Bus station – existing is ok, but it needs an upgrade
- Park and Ride – more flexible
- Council's sustainable transport plan
- Circular walking route around the city including a new footbridge
- Greenspaces and nature routes
- Street signage

Pippa reported that due to work commitments Jonathan Elmer could only offer a supporting role in this topic group. He has contacted Matthew Phillips and Karen Elliott to help with the infrastructure topic. They both work at the University and are involved in sustainable transport projects. They have agreed to offer additional support and become members of the Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

**Action:** Pippa to meet them next week.

**Next working group meeting, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2pm Antioch House (tbc) and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 9.30, 41 Old Elvet**