

Minutes of 13th Meeting of Crosthwaite & Lyth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 18th June 2019 at 2pm

Present: Simon Johnson (Chair), Alan Gerrard, Dorothy Grace, Robert Sykes

1. **Apologies for absence** – none.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting 23rd May** – approved, subject to correcting Paula Allen’s surname. All Matters arising are in this agenda.
3. **SG Membership**
Simon will contact three people who have expressed interest, and report potential new members to the PC for approval.
4. **Vision Document results**
Thanks were expressed to Alan for drawing together the data into clear pie charts.
Although 33% return seems low, it compares favourably with other areas that have developed Neighbourhood Plans.

The National Association of Local Councils’ Report ‘Where next for neighbourhood planning?’ was discussed and it was agreed that the implications of its content should form part of the discussion with Paula Allen (see below).

It seems that, to carry greater credibility, any NP should allocate small, carefully considered areas of land for development. It also appears that priorities are shifting in favour of builders, despite the LDNP over-delivering on its building targets.

5. **Questionnaire**
Matterdale NP seemed to have involved less consultation with parishioners; the main questionnaire was carried out through Survey Monkey. The advantage of this system is that it does the number crunching to produce results. It is very straightforward to complete online.

Should our questionnaire be online, e.g. Survey Monkey? What about people who don’t have internet access?

There will be a need to include explanations and definitions to enable people to make informed choices.

Action: Simon to ask Paula Allen for any examples of questionnaires from other rural parishes prior to meeting with her, and create a first draft for comment.

Coniston PC took a different approach; it bought the development land and controlled who was eligible under ‘local occupancy’. However, its ‘catchment’ was more clearly defined, and within the National Park; for Crosthwaite & Lyth we might want to widen the qualification.

Coniston model – the PC controlled the building processes, so that there was no Housing Association or one builder in charge. The PC was able to ensure that affordable housing and self-build were included and designed to meet local need.

6. Meeting with Paula Allen

Simon and Dorothy/Alan to go, depending on availability.

Topics:

- NALC report
- Anywhere where a NP had achieved sensible affordable housing – what exactly does ‘affordable’ mean?
- Can we modify the definition of ‘local occupancy’?
- What does ‘sustainable housing’ mean in a rural community where there is no public transport?
- Communication with parishioners – how can we improve this?
- Which battles can we fight, and which are not winnable?

Action: Simon to organise meeting

Action: Simon to contact CALC to enquire if they can advise on best practice for communicating/engaging with parishioners.

7. Grant Application for Preparation of NP

Further funding will be discussed with PC/Martin French.

Action: Simon to complete the grant application to fund market research and the questionnaire.

Time period of current grant availability is 2019-2022, so no time pressure.

Communication

How do we reach all the members of the parish with information about PC meetings, or about the NhP?

Suggested that a summary paragraph of each PC meeting’s business goes on the website and in the Parish magazine as soon after the meeting as possible. This is separate from the minutes.

Action: Robert to ask the PC, and identify someone to write a suitably accessible account.

8. Date of next meeting – 15th July 10am @ Hardriggs