

2nd Meeting of Crosthwaite & Lyth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

10th Oct 2018 at 12noon

Present: Roger Smith (Chair), Simon Johnson, Robert Sykes, Henk Mueller, Steve Rowlinson, Dorothy Grace

1. No **apologies** for absence.

Membership

Roger explained that he is withdrawing from the Steering Group for personal reasons. Simon agreed to chair the Group; another member will be recruited and the Parish Council asked to accept the new member.

2. **Minutes** of the last meeting on 17th Sept 2018 were accepted as a true record.

3. Report on actions since last meeting

a) Census 2011 profiles (DG)

Profiles showing demographic and socio-economic data were circulated to the group as background information.

b) Lake District NP local plan analysis of changes over time (SR)

In general, it showed that if there is evidenced community backing, there can be a greater influence on the Local Plan, and also on that of the local council. Some of SLDC's housing allocations were made before the boundary change of the NP, which has a bearing on LDNP's requirements. Meanwhile, builders are looking to build wherever it is economically viable for them to do so. Independently developed homes may be taken into consideration for housing allocations, if they fall into the bracket of the specified requirements.

Steve recommended that the community should challenge the approach of the NP where ticking boxes seems to be more important than the well-being of communities.

LDNP will be open to guidance on a local level, as long as they can fulfil their quotas, so it should be possible to provide evidence-based guidance.

c) Other Neighbourhood Plans and processes to create them (HM)

The questions in other plans varied; some were less objective than others, and not sufficiently specific. Up to three possible stages of consultation were identified:

- Need to know what people want, their vision for the community;
- Questionnaire for housing and business needs and other data to support this vision;
- The process of achieving the vision.

d) Previous research on housing in the Parish (SJ)

The previous questionnaire in 2008 was driven by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust, but some of the questions may be relevant.

There appears to be no logical or joined-up thinking behind the local occupancy clauses and housing provision; would a permanent occupancy clause be more valuable, enabling people working locally to live locally. On the boundary of the National Park where is there potential employment for residents in the National Park to enable them to qualify for local occupancy? There may therefore be a need to challenge the definition of local occupancy to ensure that people who wish to live here permanently can do so.

It will be necessary to compare community aspirations with LDNP policies; inevitably this will highlight gaps and disparities, triggering discussion to find an acceptable compromise.

4. Ambleside Training Session

This was not very helpful as it was hijacked by individuals with very specific parish council issues. There was virtually nothing on Neighbourhood Plans.

Other topics

Roger had a helpful conversation with Paula Allen (LDNP). She advised about timescales in relation to the NP's Local Plan revision, and suggested strongly that a vision of what the community should be like is crucial as the starting point. She stressed the need for everything in the Neighbourhood Plan to have a strong evidence base.

What do people want their community to look like?

- Local industry?
- Different housing types, suitably designed?
- Independent living capacity?
- Public transport?
- Lots of children...?

Paula also advised that our NP needs to be aligned with the new Local Plan, which should be in Final Draft form by next summer. This does not cause any delay in information gathering, but it would be wise not to produce the NP policies until we are clear on the contents of the new Local Plan.

5. Future action

Action: Roger has arranged to meet a representative of United Utilities in order to obtain a clear understanding of the water distribution system in the parish, and the 'hotspots' for supply problems. Simon will join Roger in the meeting with UU, and report back to the Parish Council/Steering Group.

Action: Who? Arrange a similar meeting with the local electricity supplier.

Action: Simon will complete the application for a grant for Neighbourhood Plan work for the Parish Council to submit.

Action: all to identify consultants who are familiar with rural issues to advise on community data gathering. The professional advice will be paid for out of the grant.

Steve will put together some vision statements for the Group's consideration. These will be guidance/catalysts to help people to respond more constructively about their own vision for the community when surveyed.

Everyone to note anything that comes out of conversations with people in the community.

6. Publicising the Steering Group's work

An update will be posted in the new Neighbourhood Plan section of the local website, and in the parish magazine. There will be a dedicated email address for people to comment, and emails will be viewed prior to each Steering Group meeting.

Action: Roger an initial update for November edition.

Action: Henk and Crosthwaite and Lyth Webmaster to set up the email address Neighbourhoodplan@CrosthwaiteandLyth.co.uk and to insert a link from Parish Council page.

Next meeting: Tues 30th Oct 11.30am.