

# Parish Meeting Feb 2022

Crosthwaite and Lyth Neighbourhood Plan  
Background and Process

# What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

- A document that sets out planning policies for the neighbourhood area – planning policies are used to decide whether to approve planning applications
- Written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority
- It is a statutory document and is a powerful tool, promoted by Government to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place to meet local need and avoiding conflict in the future.

# Why Prepare a Neighbourhood Plan?

- Local people and stakeholders can identify and protect things that are important to them - such as Local Green Spaces, community facilities, local heritage assets etc.
- Community can be **proactive** rather than reactive in planning decisions.
- The community has more say on the type and where development should go (e.g. for housing), rather than just responding to planning applications on a cases by case basis.

THE GOVERNMENT IS PROMOTING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS TO ENSURE DEVELOPMENT MEETS LOCAL NEED

# How does it work?

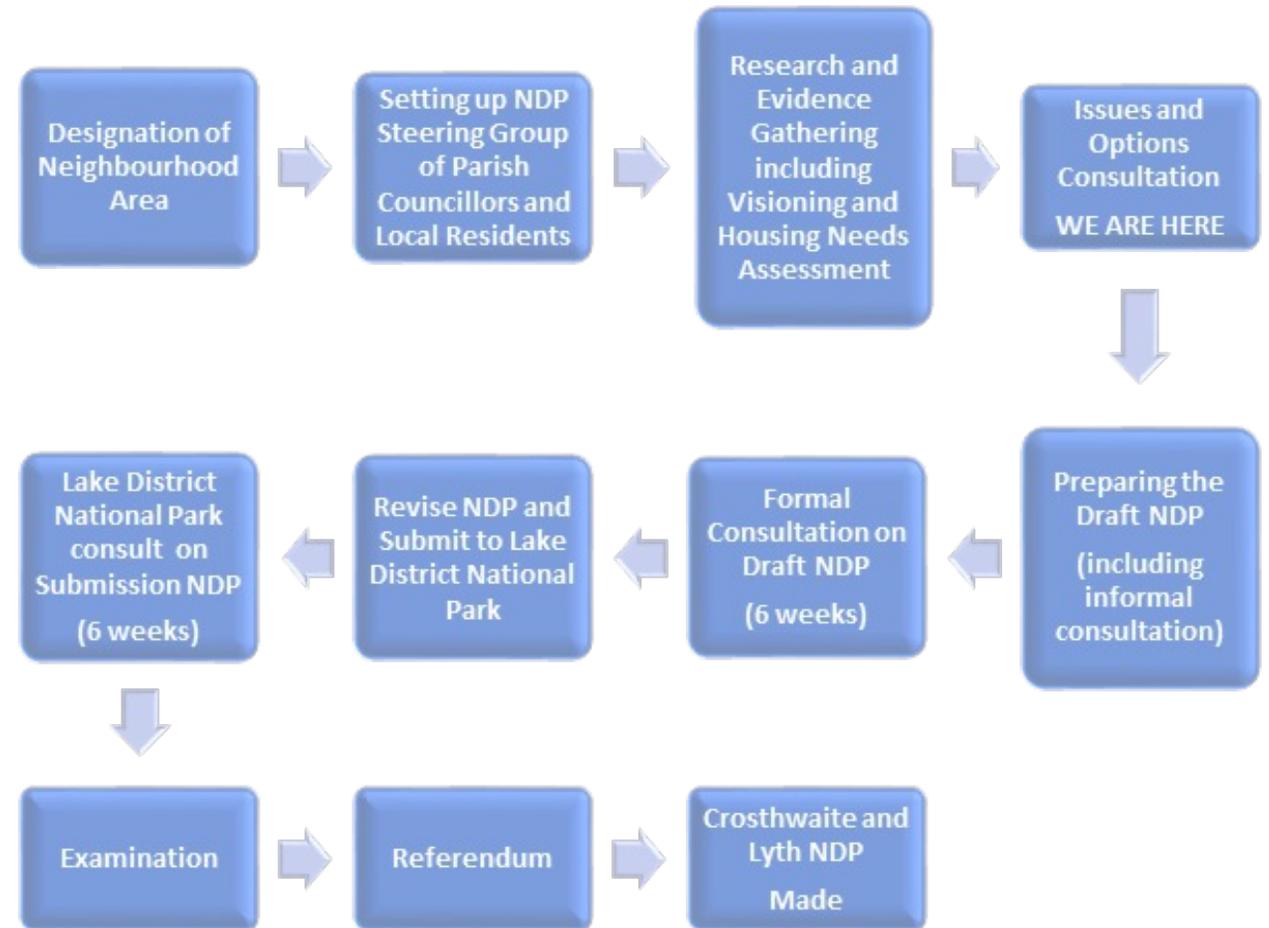
- 1) It contains local planning policies that the planning authority ( Lake District National Park) must abide by when determining all planning applications for development, whether for new buildings, conversions or a change of use, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 2) It also acts as a advisory document for anyone considering developments in the Parish. Helping them understand what local people need and want.
- 3) It identifies and can designate areas that the community want to protect, for example, retaining the Memorial Hall as a community asset in the future.
- 4) It can also identify and designate areas that community want to promote for development e.g. for affordable housing, leisure or commercial development to bring new jobs to an area.

# What a Neighbourhood Plan cannot do.

- It cannot stop development that is already allowed by law and existing planning policies
- It cannot stop activities that do not require planning permission e.g. it cannot stop landowners carrying out farming activities.

# How is it Prepared?

- A Neighbourhood Plan is prepared according to The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- There are eleven distinct stages to the plans development.
- The Crosthwaite and Lyth NP has reached stages 3/4



# Community consultation

Within the 11 stages there are 3 formal community consultations:

- Two consultations on plan documentation AND
- a final referendum

**None have these have yet taken place.**

# Progress made to date

Stage 1 - Designation

Stage 2 - Steering group established

Stage 3- Evidence gathering and research

Stage 4 – First draft of Issues and Options document

# Stage 1: Designation

- Parish Council (PC) sought allocation of entire Parish as Neighbourhood Plan area in July 2018
- Area was approved by LDNPA in Sept 2018
- Parish Meeting held in Sept 2018 to confirm Parishioners supported Neighbourhood Plan
- Mandate given to PC to proceed

# Stage 2: Steering Group established

- PC called for volunteers and a steering group established in Oct 2018
- The group's membership has always included at least 1 Parish Councillor and several residents appointed by the Parish Council
- Under the terms of reference, the steering group had no delegated authority and all decisions were to be made/have been made by the full Parish Council.

# Stage 3: Research and evidence gathering

- In February 2019, the Parish Council consulted all Parishioners on their future vision for the Parish
- Questionnaires were delivered to all residential properties and there were a number of consultation events including at Damson Day.
- The results were shared at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2019.
- Following this the Parish Council applied for grant monies in August 2019 to fund the appointment of external consultants in recognition of the technical complexities of a plan's preparation.

# Stage 3: Research and evidence gathering

- In late 2019, Kirkwell consultants were appointed to guide and support the development of the plan.
- In the absence of development capacity data being available from the LDNPA ( i.e. how many houses are required to meet need) the Parish Council applied for a grant to undertake a Housing Needs Assessment
- Eden Council were appointed as independent consultants
- During this time independent consultants were also appointed to map the characteristics of landscape and buildings to inform any design codes that maybe developed in future.
- The HNA was completed, approved and published by the Parish Council in February 2021.
- At the same meeting the PC approved moving to the first stage of formal consultation – consideration of the Issues and Options Document
- This would be led by the external consultant with support of the steering group.

# Stage 4: Issues and Options Consultation Document – two Sections

## Section 1: Issues

- Contains a map of the designated area highlighting existing areas of interest such as sites of specific scientific interest, heritage sites and any areas that have already been allocated for development.
- Contains background on the parish, its history, details of community facilities and types of employment and activity.
- Contains the outcome of the mapping of landscape and building characteristics.
- Outlines known issues relating to previous, current or future development based on research such as Housing Needs Assessment.
- Confirms the policy framework already in place, for example what the LDNPA Local Plan says.

# Issues and Option Consultation Document (cont.):

## Section 2: Options

- Proposes a draft vision statement for the Parish based on the consultation undertaken in late 2019.
- Gives options and examples of the sorts of policies that could be developed locally: for example prioritising development of affordable housing or accessible housing for older people.
- Critically, it then asks the Community to feedback on whether they agree with the vision and whether they want local policies or not.
- Depending on the consultation feedback, some, all or none of the possible local policies might be developed through informal consultation with the community.

# Where are we now in the process and what is next?

- Although the Parish Council had approved progression to the formal consultation on the Issues and Options Document the process was paused to allow for the PC elections in May 2019.
- Following the elections some of the newly elected Councillors asked for the plan's development to be paused further.
- As it stands there is a draft Issues and Options document but no further work has taken place since January 2021.

# What happens next?

If the plan's development were to pick up where it was left, the next stages would be:

**Stage 3:** Finalise the Issues and Options consultation document through engagement with the community on four key themes.

**Stage 4:** Formal consultation – questionnaire to every household.

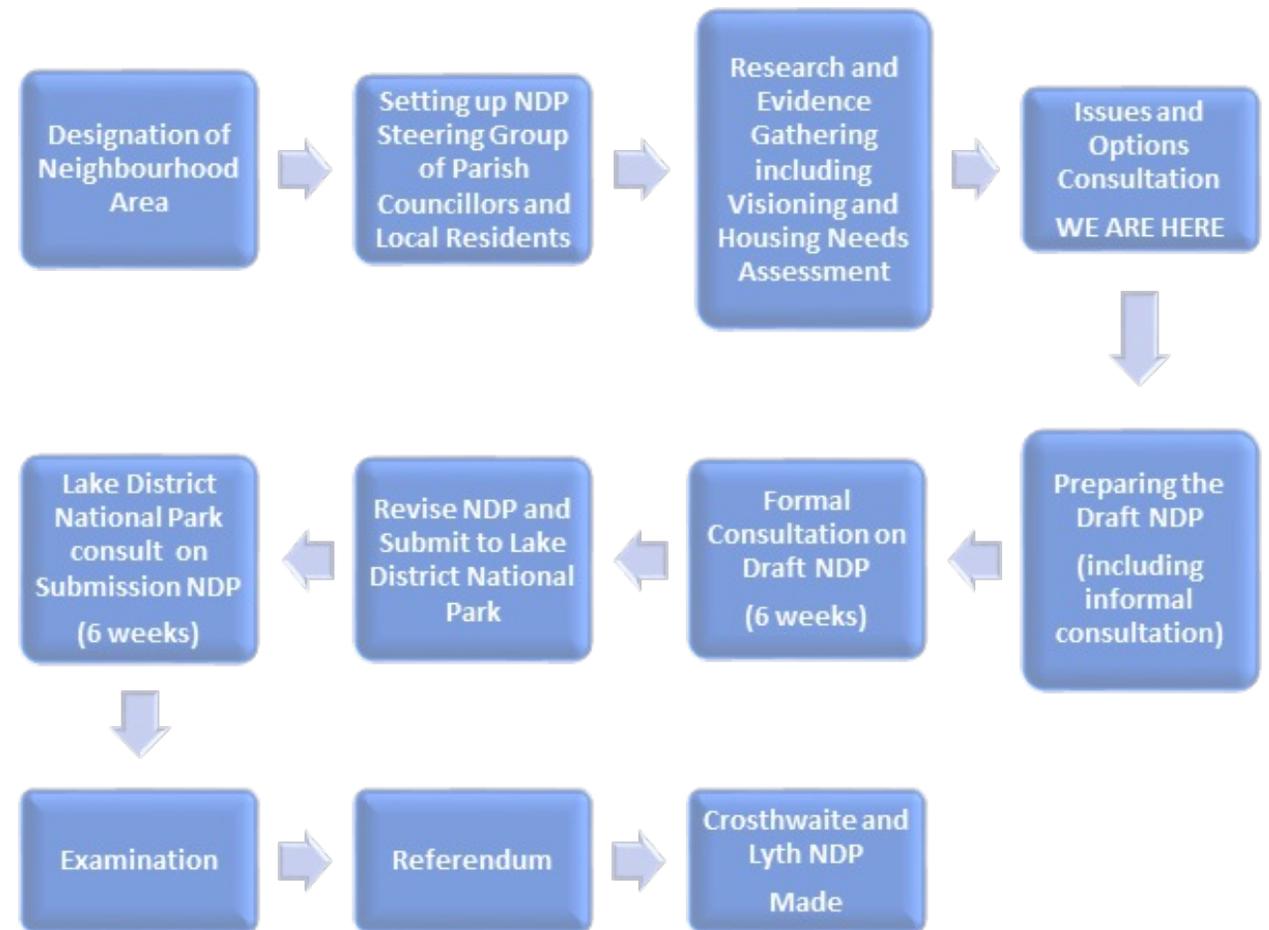
**Stage 5:** Wide spread engagement with parishioners and stakeholder groups to develop a draft Neighbourhood Plan including detailed local planning policies.

**Stage 6:** Formal consultation on draft Neighbourhood Plan

**Stages 7- 9:** external consultation and examination

**Stage 10:** Formal referendum ( a community vote!)

**Stage 11:** Made – i.e. LDNP planning decisions have to be made in line with the Neighbourhood Plan alongside other policies.



# Issues and Options/Neighbourhood Plan Themes:

- Local housing
- Local businesses, community facilities and infrastructure
- Design and sustainability
- Natural environment