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| Present: Kirstin Richardson Kathryn Tutill Dave Hutchinson Roy Wilburn Susan Lawrence Howard Lawrence Mervyn Butler Jane Howarth Joe Thompson Grahame Tobin Barbara Hutchinson Cllr Joan Atkinson Keith Blenkinsop Karen Blenkinsop Cllr Margaret Meling Mike Smith Ken Burnitt Barbara Collins Jim Stuart Jen Stuart Delia McNally Sue Balmer | Apologies: Cllr David Townsley Barbara Bowman Roz Hughes Jayne Mackie Vivien Davies |
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Opening remarks:

Kirstin welcomed visiting Planners from South Tyneside: Matthew Clifford and Neil Cole.

Minutes of previous meeting:

Acceptance of the minutes was agreed by the members present.

The draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The Planners explained the role of the NPPF and reasons behind draft changes.
Overview: The NPPF is out for consultation until May 10th and will be published on July 24th. It includes a greater focus on housing delivery linked to a 25-year core strategy with 12 core principles embedded into themed chapters. It addresses 5 key policy areas:

- affordable housing
- plan making, including the housing requirement
- determining planning applications
- green belt and brownfield development
- housing delivery.

Housing: Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans will address strategic priorities based on up to date evidence for Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAN). 10% of major sites to be affordable housing ownership. Small sites, i.e. less than 0.5 ha, are favoured by Government.

Green belt: The role and function of the Green Belt is unchanged with all possible alternatives considered before any Green Belt sites.

Neighbourhood Planning: Neighbourhood Plans are important to Government. They cannot promote less development or undermine policies, but they encourage development of a shared vision for their area based on community involvement.

Housing numbers: Planners quoted a standardised calculation for South Tyneside of 335 houses per year over the next 10 years. This will be reviewed in May. Calculation for EBNF area is difficult because it does not follow the ward boundaries.

Action:

- *Secretary to attach a copy of the Planners' presentation to these minutes.*

Questions and concerns raised:

- concern about changes to the SLR to include opportunities for smaller sites, which could encroach upon Green Belt.
- inclusion of fields next to primary school was not in the original draft SLR and is a cause of concern for the community as it is unclear why the change has been made.
- transport and traffic are major concerns, including impact of traffic from IMAP site (see website <http://www.iampnortheast.com/>) (Planners responded that they were in dialogue with neighbouring Local Authorities to maximise release of land).
- concern raised about possibility of an unnecessarily high number of houses in the Local Plan when published. (Planners say that this is not likely because they give the minimum number).
- importance of infrastructure raised, including parking (Planners response that transport is looked at eclectically).
- question raised about possibility of new Metro station near Tile Sheds. (Nexus bears responsibility for future strategy of network).
- question raised as to the receptiveness of the Local Authority to community ideas. (Planners response that Neighbourhood Forum input is important, and our ideas are needed).

Kirstin thanked Matthew and Neil for their input.

Action:

- *Members interested in finding out more about planning design to access useful pdf "Building for Life 12"*
https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/Building%20for%20Life%2012_0.pdf

Change to Executive group:

Kathryn Tutill resigned from post as Secretary and was thanked for the considerable work she has done for the forum. Dave Hutchinson has agreed to take over the post. This was agreed by the members present.

Feedback from sub-groups:

All groups will report back to next full meeting.

Action:

- *All sub-groups to meet and prepare report on progress to next meeting*
- *Comms group to work on Facebook page*
- *Member of Executive to contact Whitburn Neighbourhood Forum to compare notes on their progress and to learn from their successful strategies.*
- *Members are encouraged to view FB page and website for Whitburn Neighbourhood forum at: <https://whitburnnf.weebly.com/> and to bring comments on best ways to communicate with our community to following meetings.*

AOB

Focus for next steps:

- research on grants available
- planning for next consultation event

Action:

- *All communication with the Forum via the Secretary by email to: info.eastboldonforum@gmail.com*

Date of next meeting: Monday 23 April at 7.30 pm in Scout Hut Meeting closed 8.55 pm