

## Copeland Local Development Framework Working Party

### Minutes of Meeting Held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 at 5.00pm – Bainbridge Room

**Present:** Councillor D Riley (Chair)  
Councillor J Downie  
Councillor S Haraldsen  
Councillor J Jackson  
Councillor G Sunderland  
Councillor J Williams

John Hughes – Strategic Planning Manager (JH)  
Chris Hoban – Senior Planning Officer- Notes (CH)  
Chris Bamber – Senior Planning Officer (CB)  
Louise Kirkup – Senior Planning Officer (LK)

#### 1. **Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

Councillor Jackson asked whether Thornhill is now included as a Local Centre. It was confirmed that Thornhill will be designated as a Local Centre in the Core Strategy.

The minutes were formally agreed.

#### 2. **Apologies for absence** – Councillor G Clements, Councillor A Norwood, Councillor K Connor

#### 3. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests in Agenda Items** – None

#### 4. **Order of Agenda Items** - Agenda items to be followed as laid out.

#### 5. **Items for which the Press and Public will be Excluded** – None (there were no press or public present)

#### 6. **Whitehaven Town Centre and Harbourside SPD**

JH explained LK's role within the team for the new Members to the LDF Working Party.

LK introduced the SPD, explaining the process and progress to date for the new Members to the LDF Working Party. The consultation on the draft SPD had run during April, May and June 2012 and 14 groups and individuals had responded. Full details of the consultation and the comments received are outlined in Appendix 2. The responses had generally been minor and were reported, together with the Council's response to them, in the table on pages 3-5 of Appendix 2. They had been taken on board as far as is practical and appropriate for the SPD.

The following was discussed:

- Councillor Williams commented that Councillor Wormstrup is convening a meeting of relevant people and organisations to look at the risk of flooding in Market Place
- Councillor Williams asked about the Whitehaven Ladies Forum as she was not aware of them.  
**Action:** LK to pass contact details of the group to Councillor Williams.

- Councillor Haraldsen asked about the diagram on page 38 and whether that style would be required for shopfronts in Whitehaven. LK commented that the purpose of the diagram is to illustrate the different features of shopfronts and what they mean. The Whitehaven THI project will look to reinstate traditional features and the SPD can support this aim by being aspirational and demonstrating how improvements can be made.
- Councillor Sunderland noted that the addresses of some of the listed buildings in Appendix 1 were queried as they appeared confusing and difficult to locate. LK explained that they were taken directly from English Heritage's list and as such there was little scope for the Council to make changes.

Members then **approved** the final version of the Whitehaven Town Centre and Harbourside SPD and will recommend it is adopted by Full Council at its next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

## 7. Neighbourhood Planning

CB gave a brief outline of Neighbourhood Planning and the progress made to date as outlined in the report. He stated that Neighbourhood Plans may be useful to the Council, as well as parish councils, as we develop our Site Allocations as they can give more certainty of community support for allocations that emerge. There followed a number of questions as follows:

*Q1 What arrangements will be required for the examination of a Neighbourhood Plan?*

A The Council arranges and pays for the examination. The Government has said it will provide funding over the next 3 years to assist Neighbourhood Planning, but the details around this are not yet in place. We hope it will be £20,000, as has been the case with the Front Runners, which will enable the Council to cover its costs for meeting the procedural requirements of Neighbourhood Planning.

*Q2 Would a referendum be required if a parish decides to produce a Neighbourhood Development Order instead of a Neighbourhood Plan?*

A Yes, a referendum would still be required.

*Q3 Does Neighbourhood Planning only apply to parishes or could it also apply to localities?*

A The assumption from Government is that parish and town councils will lead the Neighbourhood Planning process. If there is not a town or parish council then a Neighbourhood Forum will need to be established for that particular area. It is likely that if a proposed Neighbourhood Plan were to cover an area larger than a parish (e.g. a locality) then a Neighbourhood Forum will need to be established.

*Q4 Could the current lack of active interest in Neighbourhood Planning possibly be due to confusion between neighbourhood plans and Parish Plans?*

A This may be part of the reason. The key thing for parishes to consider at the outset is what they want to achieve. Depending on the answer to this question they may feel that their Parish Plan can achieve their goals, in which case they will not need to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

*Q5 Could a Neighbourhood Plan be used to attract funding for projects?*

A Possibly, but it might not be the most appropriate or effective tool for attracting funding, especially as it takes a relatively long time to produce. A document along the lines of a mini

masterplan, linked to the Economic Blueprint, would probably be quicker to produce and achieve this goal.

*Q6 How are unparished areas such as Whitehaven catered for?*

A A Neighbourhood Forum would have to be established. This could either be for a distinct area of the town or the whole town itself.

There was a comment that the Whitehaven Locality may be considering this, but that in any event we have been producing/have produced SPDs for different parts of the town.

## 8. SPD on Design Quality

CB provided an update on the progress made to date on the Design SPD and the outcomes of the consultation/awareness raising sessions as outlined in section 2 of the report.

Councillor Haraldsen suggested that work done by Wyre Forest on a similar document may be an example of good practice that we could follow as appropriate. It was agreed that Councillor Haraldsen would discuss this further with officers.

## 9. Verbal update on LDF programme

JH circulated copies of the Local Development Scheme to new Members of the LDF Working Party. The GANTT chart at on page 57 formed the focus for the update on progress with each of the documents.

JH commented that all of the documents are underpinned by an evidence base which is listed in the Local Development Scheme and can be found on the Council's website

<http://www.copeland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=1476>

Councillor Williams asked what the **P** symbol stood for as it was not included in the Key to the GANTT chart. It is to indicate when the Annual Monitoring Report will be published each year.

**Action:** CH to ensure that the Publication of Annual Monitoring Reports is included in the Key for future GANTT charts.

An update was then given for each of the documents in turn as follows:

- **Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD** – consultation on the Pre-submission Draft has now ended and we are in the process of going through responses received. Once this has been completed and the responses have been summarised they will be presented to the LDF Working Party and Executive with a recommendation to Full Council that the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD is submitted to the Secretary of State. The milestones outlined after the submission date may be subject to slight change, depending upon the requirements of the Planning Inspector.
- **Site Allocations DPD** – the GANTT chart indicates that a consultation on preferred options/draft sites is due to take place at the end of 2012. However, this may slip depending upon the

amount of work required to support the submission and examination of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD and the remaining staff resources available.

- **South Whitehaven SPD** – this relates to a large housing development adjacent to Woodhouse and improvements within the Woodhouse, Greenbank and Kells areas, building on the Housing Market Renewal Scheme of the early 2000s. Initial boards outlining the project were displayed in St Peter’s Hall in May. The next step will be to produce and consult on a draft SPD. Councillor Haraldsen asked about the potential for any new school in the area to meet the additional requirements for education associated with the development. JH informed the group that there had been positive discussions with Cumbria Education officers around the principle of a new school, but there have been concerns from the local infants school, so it is still something that requires further work.
- **West Whitehaven SPD** – this SPD will cover the *Colourful Coast* and former Rhodia chemical works areas of Whitehaven. Louise Kirkup is beginning to pull together all of the information from a variety of sources in order to provide the basis for initial stakeholder consultation, which is due to take place in September.
- **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)** – the draft document is currently being finalised. The SHLAA Panel will review it in September

Future meetings:

- The next meeting of the LDF Working Party will be on or around Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012 to consider the South Whitehaven Draft SPD for consultation. The Schedule of Responses to the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD will also be considered in August if it is ready in time.
- JH stated that if the Schedule of Responses to the Core Strategy is not ready in time for that meeting then a meeting of the LDF Working Party would need to take place in late September.
- A Special Full Council meeting in mid-October will also be needed to approve the submission of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD to the Secretary of State.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm