

Neighbourhood Plan development programme

Phase 2 Work

As agreed at the neighbourhood planning team meeting, together with Nigel McGurk, on Wednesday 28 September 2016, this is the outline work required for the next phase of the plan:

1. South Lakeland District Council

The Objectives required by SLDC for their environmental & sustainability assessments and Habitat Regulation Appraisal (HRA) will be forwarded to them, after they have been approved by the Parish Council at the next meeting on Tuesday 4 October 2016.

SLDC has intimated that they will undertake this assessment work on our behalf. Tony and Nigel McGurk will liaise with SLDC on this aspect of the plan. They will report back when more is known about the specific requirements for these assessments.

This work is a bit of an unknown quantity but will form an important part of the plan.

This work will continue concurrently with other work we will be developing for the early draft neighbourhood plan.

2. The Steering Group

The Neighbourhood Planning Team can take a short breather, while the Steering Group does what it was originally tasked to do. The group will begin to scope the specific development sites for new dwellings, employment land, green space, 'green belt' (specifically between Kendal and the village), recreational & sporting facilities.

They will work with Nigel McGurk and their findings will be brought to the Neighbourhood Planning team in due course (probably in November) for consultation. Tony will keep everyone informed as things develop.

3. Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Nigel McGurk has been tasked with the following work:

Using the background work, already undertaken by us, he will draft policies that will form the basis of discussion with the Steering Group and contribute to the early draft plan. Nigel is to complete this work by early November 2016.

4. Early Draft Plan.

On advice from Nigel McGurk, we aim to have an early draft plan ready by Christmas 2016. This is, of course, dependant on all of the above, especially the assessment work by SLDC.

5. Community Consultation – Development & Infrastructure

Consultation on the allocation of new development sites will be a key area of work undertaken by the Steering Group. Ideally, this should be organised for early in the New Year, with assistance from the full Team. We may well need professional help with this aspect of engagement. Tony will seek advice on how best to achieve effective consultation and who we might engage to assist us.

6. The full Neighbourhood Planning Team

Whilst this work is progressing, the Steering Group will refer and consult with the team as the policies and development sites emerge. This team will play an important role in this respect.

To everybody:

Nigel McGurk is very impressed by the inclusiveness of our neighbourhood plan team and the work we have all achieved so far.

The objectives we have forwarded to SLDC go far beyond what would be expected at this stage.

He suggests, in his experience, that the numbers of local people attending our Drop In session was very good indeed (many communities get far less attendance). It is very difficult to engage with communities, however hard you try (remember, turnout nationally at community referendums is between 11.2% and 68.7%. Average 32%. The average 'Yes' vote is 89%).

The type of feedback mirror the themes and objectives we have been developing.

Finally, we aim to have completed the main body of work and the final draft plan ready by early spring 2017. This is a realistic and achievable aim. However, there are processes that may slow this down. I think it is important that we all have some idea of the timetable. The examination process and referendum is rather out of our hands, once we hand over the plan.

We can all promote the plan by talking about it to as many in the community as possible. Spread the word. Accentuate all the positives!

Thank you – we're getting there!

Tony