

PONTELAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the

Evaluation and Analysis on Community Consultation September 2014

Introduction

This evaluation has been taken from the written and electronic responses received during the Ponteland Community Consultation on Visions & Objectives 19th-30th September.

The information contained in this document provides a summary of responses from the community during this period of consultation at the drop-in-sessions at the Memorial Hall on the 19th/20th September and 26th/27th September and from the 19th-30th September on the website. www.pontelandneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide a clear summary on the communities view on the Vision Statement and on eight Topic Group Objectives. This in turn will produce the next step in the process.

Background

The design and subject content were based on all the past activities involving the community, over the past 2 years, from the initial survey (2012), local events (2013) and the questionnaire (2013)

Methodology

The Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan Group (PNPG) intends to prepare a development plan identifying draft policies and draft projects covered in this analysis as areas of community concern.

The initial publicity was through a 1 page article in the Pont News & Views in the September edition of this monthly local magazine delivered to 4,500 households in the civil parish of Ponteland. To coincide with this publicity all information was also displayed on the PNPG website. www.pontelandneighbourhoodplan.co.uk

The 1 page article was also publicised on 6 parish notice boards.

The Community Consultation Event started on the 19th-30th September 2014 available through the website and drop-in sessions at the Memorial Hall on 19th/20th/26th/27th Sept.

Community responses were fed back via A4 Handout at the drop in sessions, a take away Community Consultation Document and via a gizmo/interactive reply system on the website.

Community Consultation Results

Vision Statement	93% agree	6% disagree
Conservation & Heritage	89% agree	7% disagree
Natural Environment, Open Spaces & Habitats	93% agree	4% disagree
Housing & Affordable Housing	88% agree	6% disagree
Retail, Business & Employment	87% agree	6% disagree
Transportation & Highways	87% agree	9% disagree
Drainage & Potential Flooding	92% agree	1% disagree
Healthcare & Care of the Elderly	90% agree	3% disagree
Education & Youth Activities	69% agree	

Concerns highlighted from the general comments:

- The importance of the Character Statement
- Protection of the Greenbelt, Natural Environment and the separation between the Newcastle International Airport (location & expansion) and Ponteland.
- Housing Development, Housing need & Housing mix. Use of Brown field sites & infilling.
- Ponteland an area prone to Flooding & flash floods, concerns over existing infrastructure overload, maintenance of the river-watercourses & ditches.
- Retail, regenerate Merton Way & the Broadway encourage a greater variety of shops. Possible relocation of Industrial Estate closer to Airport.
- Manage traffic congestion; improve public transport, parking and think about a possible relief road, cycle ways.
- Healthcare over capacity at Medical Centre. Housing needs for the elderly.
- Education-school places for local children and the use of school facilities for all.

Planning Issues and Recommendations:

- Role of Ponteland in Northumberland
- Life of the Plan and Beyond

Refer to Castle Morpeth District Local Plan Each Topic section, Introduction, Implementation, Relationship to NPPF & Core Strategy and Sustainability.

Projects and Recommendations

- Relief Road
- Education Campus
- Conservation Area Character Appraisal

- Housing Allocation and Delivery
- Sites for Business
- Meadowfield
- Merton Way & Broadway
- Other Projects in the Conservation Area
- Flood Protection

Supporters group

Attendees of the Community Consultation were invited to become a Neighbourhood Plan “Supporter” as part of a focus group to be set up in the New Year 2015.

15 attendees registered to become a “Supporter” of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Steering Group never envisaged this group to be large in number but would consist of residents who could support with a variety of expertise and skills. They will be encouraged to play a more active role in the progress of the Steering Group and some may take on the role of Advisors if appropriate.

Comments and Observations

The overwhelming number of residents attending the drop in sessions spent a great length of time viewing the displays, past and present, including the power point presentation in the Memorial Hall.

Members received comments from the community on the whole experience of the consultation having been extremely complimentary to the Ponteland Neighbourhood Plan Group. Their professionalism and exhaustive investigations in preparing, presenting clearly and comprehensively issues of major concern to the community have been expressed by residents. Many comments appreciated the opportunity to pass on their views and indicated they wished the PNPSG to give more detail in the future.

Other Invitations

Apart from all civil parish residents receiving an invitation to respond to the consultation comments were also invited from:

- Statutory Organizations
- Local Government
- Community facilities
- Education, Businesses
- Social amenities
- Youth facilities.