

HARTLEPOOL RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - 2016-2031

CONSULTATION STATEMENT

Introduction

In the Summer of 2011, Cllr Hilary Thompson was approached to take part in Neighbourhood Planning. Gemma Day of Hartlepool Borough Council informed her that £20,000 was available for a front-runner pilot scheme. This was discussed with Cllr Thompson and, given the issues facing the rural area, such as concerns with the emerging Local Plan appearing very urban-centred and not reflecting the issues of the rural area, Cllr Thompson agreed to apply for front-runner status and embark on producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

At the same time, parish representatives from across the Borough formed a Working Group to assess the implications of the Hartlepool Local Plan upon the rural area. Cllr Hilary Thompson interacted with the group in her capacity of Rural Ward Councillor. The Working Group carried out a Village Audit of Elwick, Greatham and Hart.

Adele Wilson, Hartlepool Borough Council's Community Regeneration and Development Coordinator, facilitated a meeting with the aforementioned group in order to discuss the role of Neighbourhood Planning and how to proceed with the front-runner bid – Neighbourhood Planning was added to the agenda.

At this first meeting Adele Wilson and Tom Britcliffe discussed and explained rural planning issues, and the group decided to go forward with a Neighbourhood Plan. From this point, the group became known as the Rural Plan Working Group.

The Working Group met routinely at the end of 2011/beginning of 2012 to understand more about Neighbourhood Planning and formally constituted the Group with Chairman, Treasurer etc, and looked to designate a Rural Plan boundary. The Rural Neighbourhood Plan boundary was designated in November 2012 following a period of statutory consultation and a decision made by the Council's Planning Services Manager. Given the changes to HBC's governance arrangements and the withdrawal of the Local Plan 2013, a review of the procedure in relation to the designation of neighbourhood areas was undertaken in 2013. Ratification on the Rural Plan boundary was therefore sought from the Council's Planning Committee on 18 December 2013

The Chairman and Vice-chairman attended the Building Community Planning Camp organised by Locality and funded by DCLG at the Eden Project in Cornwall between 5th and 7th February 2012.

In accordance with the front-runner toolkit, advice from Tees Valley Rural Community Council, the progress of other Neighbourhood Plans, and in an effort to reach the wider public, the Group began to engage in its first round of consultation.

In general, consultation took the form of displays in Village Halls and, in the case of Newton Bewley where there was no hall, in the Blue Bells Inn. Times were carefully thought out to make the consultation accessible to as many people as possible, and consultation events were advertised in the local press and Village newsletters – "Village Life" covering Elwick, Dalton-Piercy and Hart Villages and "Greatham Beck" and "Village View" for Greatham. Members of the Working Group were on hand for explanation and to answer any questions. Surveys were also used, hand-delivered and collected around the Villages, with those in more remote areas receiving theirs by post with SAEs included. Information was also uploaded onto the HNRP website. In the later stages of consultation, the hamlet of Brierton was included, with events in the Quad Bike Centre so as to be even more inclusive. As Dalton Piercy Village Hall is at the rear of the Village, a large gazebo was the consultation venue on the Village Green so the HNRP could be much more visible. This had a very positive effect as residents were curious to see what was on offer.

Chapter 1

In February 2012, a power-point presentation was given in the Villages' Community Halls by the Chairman of Elwick Parish Council, Mr Chris Banks, who was also Chairman of the Rural Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. This explained the concept of Neighbourhood Plans and how the steering group had embarked on the journey. The presentations were attended by residents from across the rural area. Further detail relating to this stage is set out in chapter 3.

Chapter 2

In February 2012, Planning Aid England seconded Professor Colin Haylock from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, a visiting professor at Newcastle University and, at the time, President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, to assess the potential for development within the Villages. Initial meetings to introduce the Neighbourhood Plan in each Village were followed up by Prof Haylock's leading, with support from members of the Working Group, a "Place Check Walkabout" again in each Village. This was also open to the public and took the form of a visual audit, looking at strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, a SWOT analysis of the Villages. Members of the Working Group accompanied Prof Haylock on his survey, contributing local knowledge. He identified on each Village map areas where he considered building might be possible.

Chapter 3

The first public consultation took place during May and June 2012 using the Village Halls (Blue Bells, Newton Bewley), every household and business in the rural area having been circulated with a leaflet inviting people to come along and be involved. A presentation was given explaining the concept of Neighbourhood Planning, its vision and objectives as agreed by the initial steering group. Residents were invited to comment using post-it notes on charts identifying each of the issues and also encouraged to join a Working Group. Questionnaires were available to complete and return. After this consultation, the Rural Plan's policies were developed, leading to the first draft document.

Chapter 4

Surveys went out in October 2012 to all the rural area due to what was felt to be disappointing attendance at the above events, and included an additional supplement for rural-based businesses and those working from home. The group hand-delivered within the Villages and posted to outlying households/businesses with SAEs for reply. A £50 Voucher was offered as an incentive to return the surveys and a 40% return rate was achieved.

Chapter 5

Responses were analysed and collated with statistics produced by HBC and this was followed by a development day for the Rural Plan on 12th December 2012 at Hartlepool Historic Quay. This event was sponsored by HBC and was open to the Working Group and wider membership of the Parish Councils involved in the Rural Plan. Much discussion took place regarding the results of the survey.

Chapter 6

In light of all of the above, the Working Group processed the information they had received so far and made a first attempt at writing the aims and objectives for the Plan. In liaison with HBC Planning Officers in June, it was decided that the Group required further professional input.

Chapter 7

In March 2014 after another HNRP Working Group development day, a letter was sent out to the Parish Councils, (Parish Meeting in Newton Bewley), asking for their aspirations for their areas and

also for a list of any events taking place in the Parishes that the Working Group could attend in order to promote and consult on the Plan.

Chapter 8

In June 2014 at Greatham Community Centre, the Working Group met with Chris Anderson and Rosemary Kidd from Planning Aid who looked at project planning the production of the Plan. At this point, the Group realised that significant intervention was needed to assist its progress. “Places, spaces and faces” that needed to be included in consultation at the “Issues and Options” stage were identified.

Chapter 9

The second consultation took place during September/October 2014 in order to collect the public's views and comments on the Plan's vision, aims and objectives. Posters were displayed in Village shops, halls, Post-Offices and notice boards. Vision, objectives, proposals and priorities were displayed for discussion and comment. A questionnaire was sent out by post to outlying areas and hand-delivered to Villages. A £50 prize draw was an incentive to return the questionnaires. The working group linked in with Village events, eg Elwick Fête on the 7th September, and consultation dates were also advertised in the local press. The HNRP website became live that month. There was also a request for a member of the Working Group to speak to a group of retired Head Teachers in Hartlepool and this informed some of the wider community of the work being undertaken. Despite the £50 incentive only a 10% return of questionnaires was achieved with 107 replies.

Chapter 10

In April/May 2015, a copy of the Draft Rural Plan was given to all Parish Councillors and Clerks in order for them to give support, views and direction.

Chapter 11

The third consultation took place during May and June 2015 on the Rural Plan's policies. Parish Councils updated residents at their Annual Parish Meetings during May 2015. Letters were sent to all rural households as to when consultation was being held in their area and included a Housing Needs Survey – again hand-delivered in the Villages and posted with SAEs further afield, to be returned to the HNRP, care of the Local Authority. The letter to the outlying areas included a resumé of the policies whilst in the Villages the policies were available at Consultation venues alongside the Draft Plan, and at other points eg Post Offices, public houses etc. A video explaining Neighbourhood Planning in general and the HNRP in particular was produced and played on a loop at each consultation venue. Questionnaires and posters were also sent, by email where possible, to relevant local groups, eg Greatham Residents Group, West Park Residents, Fens Residents, Wynyard Residents Association, The Ramblers' Association, with a copy of the Plan attached. Consultation was also undertaken with 150 stakeholders such as Northumberland Water, Highways England, Natural England, the Local Authority etc. All these documents were also uploaded onto the HNRP website.

Because of a slow response rate due to logistical issues, additional flyers and policy resúmes were hand-delivered to all residents within the Villages and the reply deadline extended by two weeks – from 3rd July to 17th July. Responses were analysed as in previous consultations and the Rural Plan amended/added to as necessary.

In light of all of the above, the Final Draft Hartlepool Rural Neighbourhood Plan was produced in May 2016.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS (SPRING/SUMMER 2015)	
STAKEHOLDER	DATE SENT
PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	12/5/2015
HARTLEPOOL CIVIC SOCIETY	13/5/2015
GREATHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	11/5/2015
GREATHAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	11/5/2015
GREATHAM SPORTS FIELD ASSOCIATION	11/5/2015
FENS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	14/5/2015
BISHOP CUTHBERT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	14/5/2015
RIFT HOUSE COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM	14/5/2015
KILMARNOCK ROAD FAMILY CENTRE	14/5/2015
HART STATION RESIDENTS GROUP	14/5/2015
WYNYARD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP	14/5/2015
SARAH SCARR HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL - CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE	14/5/2015
PERSIMMON HOMES TEESSIDE	14/5/2015
NORTHUMBRIAN WATER	14/5/2015
	1/6/2015
ENGLISH HERITAGE	14/5/2015
Now HISTORIC ENGLAND	
NATURAL ENGLAND	14/5/2015 1/6/2015
TEES ARCHAEOLOGY	15/5/2015
THIRTEEN GROUP	15/5/2015
TEES VALLEY UNLIMITED	15/5/2015
BARTON WILLMORE (FOR CHURCH COMMISSIONERS)	15/5/2015
HIGHWAYS AGENCY HIGHWAYS ENGLAND	15/5/2015
HOSPITAL OF GOD AT GREATHAM	18/5/2015
R.S.P.B. (INCL. MANAGER SLATHOLME)	18/5/2015
PRISM PLANNING	18/5/2015
QUARRY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION	18/5/2015
SPAWFORTHS	18/5/2015
RURAL HOUSING TRUST	18/5/2015
SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL	18/5/2015
SIGNET PLANNING	18/5/2015
SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS	18/5/2015
SPORT ENGLAND	18/5/2015
STOCKTON BOROUGH COUNCIL	18/5/2015
TEES VALLEY BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP & TEES VALLEY WILDLIFE TRUST	18/5/2015
TEES VALLEY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM	18/5/2015

ROAD HAULAGE ASSOCIATION	18/5/2015
PLANNING POLICY HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL	18/5/2015
THE COAL AUTHORITY	19/5/2015
THE HOME BUILDERS FEDERATION	19/5/2015
THE RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION	19/5/2015
THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY	19/5/2015
TRIMDON FOUNDARY PARISH COUNCIL	19/5/2015
TRIMDON PARISH COUNCIL	19/5/2015
UNITED UTILITIES No longer need to be consulted	19/5/2015
WINGATE PARISH COUNCIL	19/5/2015
WOLVISTON PARISH COUNCIL	19/5/2015
AIRPORT PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	19/5/2015
ANCIENT MONUMENTS SOCIETY	19/5/2015
BILLINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL	19/5/2015
CASTLE EDEN PARISH COUNCIL	19/5/2015
GRINDON PARISH COUNCIL	19/5/2015
HASWELL PARISH COUNCIL	20/5/2015
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	20/5/2015
FISHBURN PARSIH COUNCIL	20/5/2015
HARTLEPOOL WATER	20/5/2015
HUTTON HENRY PARISH COUNCIL	20/5/2015
GENTOO	20/5/2015
GEORGIAN GROUP	20/5/2015
I.N.C.A.	20/5/2015
KEBBELL DEVELOPMENTS	20/5/2015
HARTLEPOOL CYCLE CLUB	20/5/2015
HARTLEPOOL SPORTS COUNCIL	20/5/2015
NORTH OF ENGLAND CIVIC TRUST	20/5/2015
CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY	20/5/2015
COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF RURAL ENGLAND	20/5/2015
HOME & COMMUNITIES	22/5/2015
MARINE MANAGEMENT	22/5/2015 1/6/2015
D.E.F.R.A.	22/5/2015
GRAND CENTRAL RAILWAY	15/5/2015- 26/5/2015
AMBULANCE HQ	15/5/2015- 26/5/2015
ANCHOR HOUSING ASSOCIATION	15/5/2015- 26/5/2015
ASSOCIATION OF NORTH EAST COUNCILS Not well placed to comment?	15/5/2015- 26/5/2015
BARRETT HOMES	15/5/2015- 26/5/2015
BELLWAY HOMES	15/5/2015- 26/5/2015
BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLC	15/5/2015- 26/5/2015
CAMPING & CARAVAN CLUB	15/5/2015- 26/5/2015

C.A.M.R.A.	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
CLEVELAND CYCLING CAMPAIGN	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
CLEVELAND EMERGENCY PLANNING	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE HQ	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
COUNTRY LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
DEAN & CHAPTER OF DURHAM CATHEDRAL	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
DEFRA FLOOD MANAGEMENT DIVISION	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
DURHAM BAT GROUP	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
EDF BRITISH ENERGY	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
ENDEAVOUR HOUSING ASSOCIATION	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
GLEESON HOMES	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
HM INSPECTOR OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
HARTLEPOOL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
HARTLEPOOL COUNTRYSIDE VOLUNTEERS	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
HARTLEPOOL CRIME PREVENTION PANEL	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
HELPING HAND FOUNDATION (RHM site)	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
LEEBELL DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
WILLIAM STRIKE LIMITED (Klondyke)	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
THE WOOLAND TRUST	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
WYNYARD PARK LIMITED	15/5/2015-26/5/2015
INCONTROL-ABLE	1/6/2015
HART GABLES	1/6/2015
HARTLEPOOL SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP	1/6/2015
HARTLEPOOL BLIND WELFARE ASSOCIATION	1/6/2015
MILLER HOMES	1/6/2015
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE	1/6/2015
MOBILE OPERATORS ASSOCIATION	1/6/2015

MONK HESLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL	1/6/2015
Mr IAN WRIGHT M.P.	1/6/2015
MUSLIM WELFARE ASSOCIATION	1/6/2015
NATIONAL FARMERS UNION	1/6/2015
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF GYPSY LIAISON GROUPS	1/6/2015
NATIONAL GRID PLC	1/6/2015
NETWORK RAIL	1/6/2015
NHS HARTLEPOOL & STOCKTON-ON-TEES CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP	1/6/2015
NHS PROPERTY SERVICES LTD	1/6/2015
NORTH TEES & HARTLEPOOL NHS TRUST	1/6/2015
NORTHERN GAS NETWORKS LTD	1/6/2015
NORTHERN RAIL LIMITED	1/6/2015
NPOWER RENEWABLES	1/6/2015
OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION	1/6/2015
BRITISH GAS	1/6/2015
EON	1/6/2015
SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN ENERGY	1/6/2015
EDF	1/6/2015
Other responders	
HEDLEY PLANNING (Hart sites)	
ID PLANNING (RHM site)	
GVA Grimley Limited (Wynyard)	
CLEVELAND INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY	
GEORGE F. WHITE (Elwick Site)	

STAKEHOLDERS WHO RESPONDED SHOWN IN RED