

Neighbourhood Planning Position Statement – May 2017

There are three neighbourhood plan areas which have been designated in the Hartlepool Local Plan area. These are identified in Appendix 1. Details of the current status of the Neighbourhood Plan areas are set out below.

Hartlepool Rural Plan Area

The Hartlepool Rural Plan was the first neighbourhood plan in Hartlepool. It was one of the Neighbourhood Planning Frontrunners, established in 2011. The area covers the rural parishes of Elwick, Greatham, Hart, Dalton Piercy and Newton Bewley. Representatives from each of the parish collectively make up the Rural Plan group.

A draft neighbourhood plan has been prepared and formal consultation has taken place. The plan is currently being considered for soundness by an independent examiner. The Rural Plan group is hoping to continue with the process to get the Rural Plan made upon receipt of the report from the examiner.

The Hartlepool Rural Plan website is www.hartlepoolruralplan.co.uk

Policy areas: Housing, Rural Economy, Transport & Movement, Community, Natural Environment, Built Environment and Heritage & Conservation.

A response to the questions in relation to the inter-relationship between the Rural Plan and the Hartlepool Local Plan proposals at Elwick, Hart and High Volts, development at High Tunstall and the South West Extension is set out below.

- 1) The proposal of development at Elwick within the Local Plan is considered to be in general conformity with the level of development in the Hartlepool Rural Plan. The Hartlepool Rural Plan outlines 25 additional dwellings to the 14 which already have approval whereas the Local Plan allocated 35 on the same site. Therefore the Local Plan proposes an additional 10 dwellings over the Rural Plan proposals.
- 2) The Local Plan has identified an additional site in Hart Village when compared to the Rural Plan, and where the Rural Plan has identified the Nine Acres site for 23 dwellings, the Local Plan has identified the site for 30 dwellings. Hartlepool Borough Council has produced a development brief for the site, this details specifications such as green space and design within the development and we believe is in line with the Rural Plan's aspirations. The Rural Plan does not identify the Glebe Farm site within the village envelope, whereas it is proposed for 20 dwellings in the Hartlepool Local Plan. The local authority believes that the two sites together provide a logical strategic extension to the village.
- 3) The Rural Plan does identify a number of sites in Greatham which are not allocated in the Local Plan, these would be considered as windfall sites within the Local Plan and have the potential to support the sustainability of the village.
- 4) Rural Plan Policy NE2 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy) identifies that '*any medium/large wind turbine proposals should be directed to High Volts or Red Gap*'. Therefore it is considered to be in conformity with Local Plan Policy CC4 (Strategic Wind Turbine Developments).
- 5) Policy H5 (Housing Development on the Edge of Hartlepool) in the Rural Plan sets a criteria based policy which would cover the Greenfield Developments on the urban fringe (this would include High Tunstall and the South West Extension) – reference is given within the Rural Plan to the level of housing required as set out in the Local Plan. The focus of housing related policies in the Hartlepool Rural Plan is towards village development and isolated dwellings in the countryside.
- 6) In addition the Rural Plan Group has made representations on the Local Plan at the various consultation stages, demonstrating an ongoing dialogue.

Headland Neighbourhood Plan

The Headland Neighbourhood plan group was established in 2012, it is a subgroup of the parish council. The group was successful in securing resources of support from the Princes Foundation, who assisted in drafting the basis of a draft plan. The group is finalising their draft currently, however given the long timescale in developing their plan, they are planning to undertake additional consultation to verify the priorities of the neighbourhood. Following this the ambition is to undertake formal consultation on the Headland Neighbourhood in Autumn 2017. No date is currently set for an independent examination of for the plan to be made.

Policy areas: Traffic Management & Parking, Heritage, Tourism, Natural Environment, Local Economy, Housing (although no site allocations), Design and Community Well-being.

Wynyard Neighbourhood Plan

The Wynyard Neighbourhood area is a cross boundary area between Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees Local Authority areas. Work on the Neighbourhood Plan commenced in 2013.

Consultation has taken place through a series of events and the group have appointed a consultant and a draft Neighbourhood Plan was prepared in November 2015 and consulted on. A subsequent version of the draft plan has recently been produced in April 2017. The plan covers the following polices:

- W1 Housing Development
- W2 Housing Type, Mix and Tenure
- W3 Housing Design and Layout Principles
- W4 Developing the Local economy
- W5 Wynyard Local Centres
- W6 Safeguarding and Improvement of Community Facilities
- W7 Local Green Space and Protected Open Spaces
- W8 Improvement and Extension of Rights of Way Network
- W9 Developer Contributions towards delivering Community Infrastructure Priorities
- W10 Natural Environment
- Community Project 1 - Improvements To The Highway Network
- Heritage Assets

In terms of the dynamic between the Hartlepool Local Plan and the Wynyard Neighbourhood Plan, given the advanced nature of many of the housing proposals within the Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan is aiming to focus on design principles, appropriate housing mix, protection and enhancement of green and community spaces and the delivery of community facilities.

Wynyard Residents Association lead on the development of the Wynyard Neighbourhood Plan, their website is www.wynyardmatters.org. They have advised that progress is being achieved slowly and would anticipate a referendum in 2018. The Wynyard Residents Association has submitted representations to Hartlepool Local Plan.

Hartlepool Borough Council Officers from the Community Regeneration and Engagement Team have been supporting all three groups as required; Planning Policy Officers have also been involved in supporting the Neighbourhood Planning Groups in the development of the plans to date.