

THE HEADLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Neighbourhood Planning is central to the Coalition Government's Localism Act 2011. Following interest from the Headland Parish Council, Hartlepool was successful in securing resources to develop and produce a Neighbourhood Plan for the Headland area of Hartlepool. The 10 year land use and development framework will become part of the formal planning process and must be in general conformity with national planning policy and the Local Authority's Development Plan (currently the Hartlepool Local Plan 2006, which will be superseded by the Hartlepool Local Plan 2013 post adoption in early 2013).

HEADLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP

The Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group represents the communities living within the proposed Headland Neighbourhood Plan area; this encompasses the Headland Parish with the addition of Central Park. This green space is adjacent to the entrance to the Headland, and encompasses land prioritised through the imminent Green Infrastructure Strategy.

The Headland Parish Council has been established since 2004 (prior to this, it was a Town Council which came into being in 1999), is well served and has a historical understanding of this unique community and the issues that affect the area.

The Parish Council has had aspirations to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for some time, and believe it will provide them with an opportunity to influence how their neighbourhood is developed in the future. In November 2011, The Headland Parish Council in conjunction with Hartlepool Borough Council applied to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to become a Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner; whilst not successful in securing Front Runner status, the Parish Council have since secured a support package from the Prince's Foundation as part of the 'Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning' programme for the initial stages of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.

A data collection exercise was undertaken by The Headland Parish Council in order to prepare the Front Runner application. The Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is about to build on this with a scoping and development day facilitated by the Prince's Foundation. This will include a 'walk-about' in order to identify community assets, as well as a baselining exercise to gather statistical information and local knowledge about the issues currently affecting the Headland Neighbourhood Plan area. This will form the basis of information to structure a Community Planning Workshop to instigate the neighbourhood planning process for the Headland. The development of the Plan will be subject to a widespread and robust consultation process (Phase 1 will commence in January / February as part of the Prince's Foundation support), in which the views and involvement of the wider community will be sought.

The Headland Neighbourhood Plan Working Group is a sub-committee of the Parish Council consisting of representatives from the Parish Council, local organisations, churches, schools and any groups in the Headland and Central Park area who are committed to the development of the Plan. The Group has its own Terms of Reference and strong working links have been made with Officers within Hartlepool Borough Council's Neighbourhood Management and Planning Policy Teams.

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