

## **Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council - Neighbourhood Development Plan**

### **Report for the Parish Council meeting on 04 September 2023**

The last Report on progress with the Neighbourhood Development Plan was made to the meeting of the Parish Council on 17 July. At that time, it was reported that the Working Group is still awaiting an informal meeting with LDNPA to discuss issues of compatibility between the current Draft version 4 prepared by Louise Kirkup of Kirkwells and existing LDNPA Policies.

It had not proved easy to secure the desired meeting, and as a result I wrote again to LDNPA on 17 July to stress the importance of the proposed informal consultation. On 01 August I received a phone call from Paula Allen (LDNPAs case worker on this matter) who advised me that her responsibilities have changed and that she is no longer working on Neighbourhood Plans. I was advised to write to Mr R Allison, the Head of Section and in particular to provide an indication of the particular issues that the Working Group would like to discuss.

Following consultation with the Working Group and Louise Kirkup I wrote to Rob Allison on 17 August with a background of progress to date and attaching Draft Version 4 of the Plan. The note also outlined the particular policies that the Working Group wished to clarify. I have had a response from Mr. Allison but appreciate that he may need time to digest the content of V.4 of the draft plan.

Louise Kirkup has reiterated her willingness to attend a meeting with LDNPA. She also advises that the grant process is open again and that it would be appropriate to commence with a new Expression of Interest and application. I have started a new Eol and to assist with the application, Louise is sending a revised fee proposal.

The other area of progress is in respect of the Design Codes originally prepared by AECOM. I had conversations with them in late July, during which they confirmed their view that, in terms of the level of detail required by the Working Group, the document was up to date. I checked this with the Working Group and this was agreed. I also checked this out with Louise Kirkup who was pleased to see that this version does include design codes and guidance.

She made several observations (which I have relayed to AECOM) most of which were minor amendments or typos, but as a substantive comment she said:

“As design codes are supposed to be prepared with input from the community the PC should really undertake some informal consultation on this as a 'draft' document. You could do this alongside the formal consultation on the Draft Plan, or before it as a standalone consultation. AECOM should know this, but I would remind them that there may be further changes following informal consultation. The LDNPA are likely to have comments as well. The document should have 'draft' in the title.”

I would recommend that this consultation is undertaken alongside the formal consultation as suggested by Louise, who concluded her comments by confirming that overall, the document represented a good job done by AECOM.

The critical step remains securing the requested informal meeting with LDNPA.

Martin Curry, Secretary to the Crosthwaite and Lyth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

27 August 2023