

Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council - Neighbourhood Development Plan

Report for the Parish Council meeting on 02 October 2023

The last Report on progress with the Neighbourhood Development Plan was made to the meeting of the Parish Council on 04 September. 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 and that the Caseworker on the C&L Plan had been re-assigned.

I also reported however that Rob Allison who is LDNPA Head of the Section dealing with N. Plans had contacted me to confirm that LDNPA had received my earlier request for a meeting and that he and his colleagues would consider initial comments on Draft 4. On 05 September, he emailed me to ask if there was a Word Version of Draft 4 that he could have in order to make initial comments direct onto the Plan.

I did not have one so I requested this from Louise Kirkup but due to an email glitch this request was not acted on until 19 September when the Word Version was sent to LDNPA. At the same time, on advice from Louise, I attached the AECOM Design Code document with the observation that Louise believes it to be a well-prepared document and suitable for our needs. I suggested that it should be looked at in parallel with the Draft V4 of the Plan to ensure that it is compatible for National Park policies.

On 26 September, Rob Allison gave me the following update:

I've sent (Draft V4) to colleagues in Development Management to have a look at and they've passed me back some draft comments. Unfortunately, I've not been able to have a proper look at it yet, and I'm away from tomorrow for a few days so I might be struggling to look at it before then. I would hope to be able to respond by the 11th October though.

On a couple of the points you asked in the email I can add our initial thoughts to these points:

- **(We expressed the concern):** that it is unlikely that the NP can contain a policy allowing the set-up of a Housing Trust to build permanently affordable rentable homes and – *setting up a housing trust is not an act of development so I agree that containing a policy would not serve any particular purpose. A policy is not required to set up a housing trust for example. They could include in a policy supporting affordable housing a specific reference to a Housing Trust as well as other registered housing providers.*
- **(We expressed the desire):** that the Plan should make provision for to enable the owners of older homes with no Local Occupancy clause to voluntarily impose one. An attempt by a local resident to do so in recent years was defeated. – *Again this wouldn't be an act of development so not really something which can be addressed by policy. Nothing to stop individual owners adding covenants to their property restricting occupancy. Something Lakeland Housing Trust are exploring – might be worth contacting them?*

I am now awaiting further comment after 11 October and hope that this will lead to the informal meeting with LDNPA as requested.

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

30 September 2023