

## HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**I GIVE NOTICE THAT** an online meeting of the Hexham Town Council Planning & Infrastructure Committee will be held on Friday 22 May 2020 at 11.00am when the following items will be discussed:

### **A G E N D A**

1. To agree the Committee Chairman.
2. To note Committee members are Councillors R Hull, S Ball, T G E Gillanders, J Ord, C Hanley, J V R Hare and D Bell.
3. Apologies for absence.
4. To receive minutes of the Planning and Infrastructure Committee meeting held 7 May 2020, enclosed.
5. Matters arising.
6. Declarations of interest (see enclosed).
7. To comment on Planning Applications received (see enclosed).
8. To consider advice on the Hexham Neighbourhood Plan (see enclosed).
9. To consider the use of glyphosate weed killer.
10. To consider correspondence received (if any).
11. To agree a date and time for the next meeting.
12. Any urgent matters at the Chairman of the meeting's discretion. *(Matters to be raised under this item should be written out (if possible) and handed to the Chairman of the meeting or the Town Clerk before the meeting begins.)*



Jane Kevan  
Town Clerk  
18 May 2020

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Hagenda 0520 No2 PlanningInfrastructureCommittee

**HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2020**

1363.	PRESENT: Councillor T G E Gillanders in the chair and Councillors R Hull, J Ord and C Hanley.
1364.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillors Bell and Hare.
1365.	MINUTES of the Committee meeting held 14 April 2020, having been circulated, were AGREED.
1366.	MATTERS ARISING: It was noted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Confirmation that the Council supports the Local Electricity Bill was sent.</li> <li>b. A request has been sent to Top Signs regarding a quote for additional recycling bin information.</li> </ul>
1367.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.
1368.	PLANNING APPLICATIONS: It was AGREED there was no objection to, or comment on, the applications received in accordance with the list circulated and attached to the agenda, except to support the neighbour's comments requesting privacy relating to 20/01131/FUL (Glenfield, Leazes Lane).
1369.	WEST ROAD VERGE: It was NOTED that the wildflower verge is still being mown and that the Operations Manager is contacting a local farmer regarding cutting and taking the hay.
1370.	WEEDKILLER USE: Concern regarding use of Glyphosate at Tyne Green by the County Council was noted. It was AGREED that the Town Council discontinues use of this and to request that the County Council also does so.
1371.	NEXT MEETING: It was AGREED that the next Committee meeting will be held online at 11.00am on Friday 22 May 2020.

**Action Log**

Pursue more quotes re heating the Chapel and electrical supply and vehicle charging points (minute 1347a)	Clerk
Further research tractor options (minute 1347b)	Clerk/ Operations Manager
Respond to the Pennine Journey Supporters Club (minute 1347d)	Clerk
Raise HTC and NCC use of Glyphosate at Full Council (minute 1370)	Councillor Hull/Gillanders/Ord

Chairman.....

## HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 3 September 2012 Councillors must declare if they have a disclosable interest in any matters under consideration.

To do so Councillors must use one of the following statements:

1. “I have a disclosable pecuniary interest  
in..... (for example) Agenda item 3, Planning  
application number 14/1234”.  
(NOTE: Code of Conduct paragraphs 11&15 apply).
  
2. “I have a disclosable personal interest  
in..... (for example) Agenda item 4, Grant  
aid application by Hexham Youth Initiative  
(NOTE: Code of Conduct paragraph 13 applies).

Councillors should familiarise themselves with the Code of Conduct regarding the definitions of (A) pecuniary interest and (B) other personal interest and their obligations when declaring any such interests.

To ensure Councillors interests are correctly minuted please use one of the above statements when declaring an interest.

NB. Should a Councillor wish to take part in the consideration and voting on a matter or matters in which he/she has a disclosable interest then they may request a dispensation be granted to enable them to take part in the discussion and voting on it but at least 10 days’ notice must be given for any dispensation request.

**HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Planning & Infrastructure Committee**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY**  
**COUNCIL FOR COMMENT ON 22 MAY 2020**

<b>Reference</b>		<b>Applicant</b>
20/01324/FUL	Proposed construction of swimming pool outbuilding within the residential curtilage of Clontibret, Allendale Road, Hexham	Mr Michael Coe
20/00572/LBC	Various internal and external alterations including repainting shop front at 25-26 Market Place, Hexham	Mrs Susan Crozier
20/01337/FUL	Erection of single self-build dwelling with integral garage, incorporated renewables, and provision of wildlife habitat to deliver net gain for biodiversity at land east of Lowgate Nursing Home, Lowgate, Hexham	Mr Paul Brooks

**Applications to be commented upon under Committee's delegated powers (minute 6588 refers).**

**Any objections made on applications must be 'material planning considerations'. To be material, a matter must relate to the "purposes of planning". The views of local Councils and other consultees can only be taken into account by the planning authority if they are material. Such comments must always bear in mind that:**

*"The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development" (Paragraph 6 National Planning Policy Framework)*

There is no definitive list but examples are:

- National planning policy
- The local planning authority's planning policies (including Neighbourhood Plans)
- Overlooking/loss of privacy
- Loss of light or overshadowing
- Parking, means of access, highway safety and traffic
- Noise, odours
- Effect on listed building and conservation area
- Layout and density of building
- Design, appearance and materials
- Nature conservation
- Flood risk
- Crime prevention and community safety
- Previous planning decisions
- Views of parish and town councils
- Views of statutory consultees: Highway Authority/Environment Agency/English Heritage/Sport England/Others (neighbouring LPA, HSE, etc.)

**Non-material planning considerations include:**

- Loss of view
- Negative effects on the value of other properties
- Land ownership or restrictive covenants
- Applicant's personal circumstances or past conduct (unless exceptional, such as relating to a physical disability in certain circumstances)
- Business competition
- Matters controlled under building regulations or other non-planning legislation
- Disabled person's access
- The nature of the applicant or owner
- Prospect of a "better" proposal

*These are subject to change in national legislation or planning policy.*

NB All planning applications (and related decisions) are online at:

<http://publicaccess.northumberland.gov.uk/online-applications>

If Hexham Town Council objects to an application listed above the objection is lodged online.

**HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Planning & Infrastructure Committee**

**Hexham Neighbourhood Plan Considerations**

The following has been provided by Dave Clegg, Chair of the HNP Steering Group, as a practical guide on considerations relating to the HNP.

**Hexham Neighbourhood Plan** **Practical Guide** **May 2020**

The Plan's referendum is deferred; NCC must give its provisions 'significant weight'. The Plan's provisions are, as the Independent Examiner has confirmed, the result of 'comprehensive and robust' consultation across the Town's population.

**Two overarching Planning Policies** that address **Sustainability** in widest sense – to sustain/expand Hexham's economic, social and community well-being base as well as environmental concerns:

**HNP1** p18 supports e.g. expansion of community facilities and recreation, new (market and affordable) housing, increasing local employment e.g. tourism, development that increases travel on foot or by bike; use of brownfield for above. All **inside** existing greenbelt boundary (greenbelt dev subject to national policy).

**HNP2** p19 establishes **principles for design**: positive attention to local character (different in different parts of town) (developers can be asked how they have met this), with attention to appearance, scale, massing, height, density, access, landscaping, highway safety, residential amenity (e.g. retail, public transport, noise)

**and for low carbon technology**: embedded renewables (solar, geo-thermal), low carbon build technologies (reduced carbon footprint into future, e.g. insulation, glazing), reduction of water run-off (Sustainable Drainage Systems - SuDS), plus net biodiversity gains or enhancement nearby.

**Built Heritage Environment**, uniquely strong in Hexham, visually the Hexham story.

**HNP3** p21 **Design in the Conservation Area**. Makes existing national CA regulations Hexham-specific. Local character to be sustained or enhanced, with attention to character and setting (neighbours): i.e. views into and out of Hexham, with historic and unique roofscapes, and 3 key historic buildings, lay-out of streets and narrow chares.

**HNP4** p25 **Non-designated Heritage Assets**: special protection for specific buildings that have value to local community (list at Annex A). Can be added to.

**HNP5** p26 **Shopfront Design**, must respect 2018 NCC Hex Shopfront design guide.

**HNP6** p28 **Market Place**: conserve or enhance character, respect highway safety, pedestrians, especially old or with disability, and cyclists.

**HNP7** p29 **Designated/Listed Assets**: names buildings, parks, gardens and monuments for clarity.

**New Housing**, including to redress the imbalance in available housing and respond more strongly to local people's needs.

**HNP8** p31 **Site Allocations**: lists 10 sites with sizes and special considerations.

**HNP9** p40 **New Housing Developments**: these must demonstrate how they have considered: trees, wildlife corridors, heritage assets; vehicular and non-vehicular movement and safety; high quality design (see HNP2 and Building for Life 2015); the locally needed mix of housing: more 2- and 3-bedroom houses and bungalows.

**HNP10** p41 **Affordable Housing**: market schemes of 10+ houses must include 10%, 15% and majority of town 25% affordable homes, to rent or buy, according to NCC/HNP Viability Zones (see map). Some data from Housing Needs Assessment Report provided. Emphasises 1-, 2- and 3-bedrooms.

**HNP11** p41 Older People's housing: including sheltered, supported and bungalows, well served by public transport.

**HNP12** p42 **Rural Exception Sites**: follows national policy for new dwellings on greenbelt – must be small sites of affordable homes to benefit local people.

### Natural Environment and Wellbeing

**HNP13-17** pp44-49 **Green Spaces**: lists the protected green spaces the public value, and covers also protection for Tyne Green, wildlife corridors, allotments (+increased provision), and hedgerows/trees/verges (any new build could impact negatively on these, and replacement can be required).

**HNP18** p50 **Dark Skies** – link to policy of Northumberland National Park and 'astro-tourism'.

**HNP19** p51 **Community Facilities**: no loss of these, as listed, unless defunct.

**HNP20** p52 **Community Renewable Schemes**: support for these, with caveats.

**HNP21** p53 support for **Improvements to Walking and Cycling** expected in all applications where it is relevant, and impact of new development on access and safety to be explicitly avoided.

### Local Economy

**HNP22** p56 **Primary Shopping Area**: aims to maintain the vitality and viability of this crucial area, and explanatory text offers tests to ensure any change of use will contribute positively; conversion to residential above ground floors is supported.

**HNP23** p57 **Hotel and Tourism Accommodation** is supported to develop what Hexham offers and to encourage longer stays; Hexham's proximity to key areas (Hadrian's Wall, Dark Skies, North Pennines AONB) can lead to visitor hub status.

**HNP24** p58 **New Business Units** for small scale businesses and live-work units. Earlier developments have been very successful.

**HNP25** p59 New **Car Parking Facilities**: much needed, but new proposals must meet design criteria HNP2+3, with cycle storage included; if multi-storey, impact to be carefully considered, on setting, views and roofscape.

### Section 9 Monitoring and Review

Para 9.1.8 provides a framework for monitoring, registering and reporting achievements within the Plan's policies.

A review of the Plan, also a formal opportunity to make small updates and modifications (e.g. post-pandemic) was planned for 2020 (from 2018). This will presumably now be scheduled for 2022.

NB Also available and useful are NCC/HNP viability zones map and HNP town centre policies map.