



HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

I GIVE NOTICE that an online meeting of the Hexham Town Council Planning & Infrastructure Committee will be held on Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 9.30am when the following items will be discussed:

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To receive minutes of the Planning and Infrastructure Committee meeting held 12 March 2021, enclosed.
3. Matters arising.
4. Declarations of interest (see enclosed).
5. To comment on Planning Applications received (see enclosed).
6. To consider a request from the Hexham Town Twinning Association (forwarded to Committee members on 30 March).
7. To consider correspondence received (if any).
8. To agree a date and time for the next meeting.
9. 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.*)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Kevan'.

Jane Kevan
Town Clerk
30 March 2021

Hexham Town Council, Council Office
St Andrew's Cemetery
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Hexham
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Hagenda 0421 PlanningInfrastructureCommittee

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ONLINE PLANNING AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2021

1560.	PRESENT: Councillor T G E Gillanders in the chair and Councillors R Hull, J Ord, C Hanley and T Dodds.
1561.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Ball.
1562.	MINUTES of the Committee meeting held 22 February 2021, having been circulated, were AGREED.
1563.	<p>MATTERS ARISING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. WELCOME TO HEXHAM SIGNS (minute 1553a and action log refers). It was noted these will be installed next week. b. CHAPEL HEATING (minute 1553b and action log refers). It was noted that a visit from Westalls is being arranged. c. MARKET PLACE BIN (minute 1553d and action log refers). It was noted that a new bin outside the Betfred premises has been sited. d. TYNE GREEN SIGN (minute 1553g and action log refers). It was noted that this is to be discussed in April. e. FISH PASS INFORMATION BOARD (minute 1553h refers). It was noted that the Tyne Rivers Trust submission of information for the board has not to date been received. f. ALLOTMENT GUIDANCE (minute 1553j and action log refers). It was noted that combining allotment guidance and publicising an award is pending. g. HEXHAM COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING COMPANY (minute 1556 and action log refers). It was noted that an invitation to the Council meeting in June was accepted. h. LEAF VACUUM OPTIONS (minute 1557 and action log refers). It was noted this is pending. i. CARAVAN PARKS (minute 1558b and action log refers). It was noted it was agreed to pursue this post-lockdown so remains pending.
1564.	There were no DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.
1565.	<p>PLANNING APPLICATIONS: It was AGREED there were no objections to, or comments on, the applications received in accordance with the list circulated and attached to the agenda, except for 21/00496/FUL (land east of Dukewilley, Lowgate) on the grounds of intrusion into the green belt and 21/00296/ADE (First Floor, 5 Cattle Market) as it still does not comply with the Hexham Shopfront Design Guide. Application 21/00240/FUL (The Potting Shed, 1-3 Broadgates) was also considered and it was AGREED there were no objections.</p>
1566.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) FAIRFIELDS (20/03984): It was noted that Councillor Gillanders had submitted a written objection for the Local Area Council – Tynedale meeting on 9 March.

	<p>b) POST OFFICE (20/02847/ADE): It was noted that this application had been withdrawn at the applicant's request.</p> <p>c) The Flat, 25-26 MARKET PLACE (20/03705/LBC): It was noted that this application had been withdrawn at the applicant's request as deemed not required.</p> <p>d) WYDON PARK PLAY AREA: It was noted that Karbon Homes is offering to transfer this to the Council at nil cost. It was AGREED to consider this offer.</p> <p>e) TOWN TWINNING MEMORIAL TREES: It was noted that a formal proposal was required regarding two trees being planted at the Cemetery.</p> <p>f) WORK AT RAILWAY STATION: It was AGREED to pursue information on the delay and check if the information board is still there.</p>
1567.	NEXT MEETING: It was AGREED that the date of the next online Committee meeting will be Wednesday 7 April 2021 at 9.30am.

Action Log

Advise Highways of replacement signs dimensions and locations once on site (minute 1563a).	Clerk
Arrange a draft design for a new sign at Tyne Green (minute 1563d)	Councillor Gillanders
Recontact the Tyne Rivers Trust (minute 1563e)	Clerk
Combine allotment guidance and publicise award (minute 1563f)	Councillor Gillanders/ Clerk/Admin Officer
Discuss leaf vacuum options (minute 1563h)	Councillor Gillanders/ Operations Manager
Post-lockdown, contact NCC about caravan parks (minute 1563i)	Clerk
Consider the Wydon Park play area (minute 1566d)	Clerk/Operations Manager
Contact NCC re the Railway Station (minute 1566f)	Clerk

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 7 APRIL 2021

Reference		Applicant
21/00651/LBC	Removal of chimney and turret at Blinkers Flat, Hallgate, Hexham	M and G Reed
21/00869/LBC	Listed building consent to remove modern roof trusses in the rear offshoot and replace with structural steel supporting beam; extend modern floor structure to the full span of the roof space at 4 Temperley Place, Hexham	Mr Robert & Mrs Beth Carter
21/00523/LBC	Listed building consent to erect illuminated and non-illuminated external signage at the Globe Inn, 7 Battle Hill, Hexham	Star Bars
20/04018/VARYCO	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of application 18/02796/FUL – alterations to elevations and floorplans to change proposed scheme – at 27 Elvaston Road, Hexham	Mr Robert Parker
21/00569/FUL & 21/00570/LBC	Courtyard extension with roof over existing walls; internal arrangement to consist of WC, utility and boot room: left side rear kitchen window to be replaced with heritage/conservation style door to match existing style at Summerrods West, Allendale Road, Hexham	Rhys and Naomi Thomas
21/00767/FELTPO	Fell one self-seeded sycamore and replace with white beam or rowan; fell one ash and replace with yew; reduce crown spread of one oak by 10m by pollarding; reduce crown of one multi-stemmed sycamore by removing eight lower 2m branches; reduce crown of small sycamore by removing left crooked branch at fork at 20m to leave single trunk at 3 Intake Way, Hexham	Mrs Samantha McIntyre
21/00850/FUL	Replacement of existing shop front at Hadrian Veterinary Group, Dene Avenue, Hexham	Mr Jason Atherton
21/00274/PREAPP	Various workshops, offices, storage, mess and other depot facilities at NCC Depot, Tyne Mills, Hexham	Mike Turner

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 Neighbourhood Plan Considerations

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 also covers 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.