



Northumberland County Council

Bedlington Borderlands Place Programme Board Minutes

31st May 2022

18:00 – East Bedlington Community Centre

Attendees

Board Members	Organisation
Anne Lawson (Chair)	NCC
Alex Wallace	County Councillor
Rebecca Wilczek	County Councillor
Christine Taylor	County Councillor
Adam Hogg	Town Council
Dennis Fancett	Senrug
Tracy Machnicki	BV FutureGen Foundation
Officers	Role
Peter Mawer (Town Lead)	Community Regeneration Officer
Chris Walker	Community Regeneration Officer

Apologies

Name	Representing
Malcolm Robinson	County Councillor
Bill Crosby	Parish Council
Keith Grimes	Parish Council
Victoria Thompson	Town Council
Michael Black	Advance

David Fellows	TT Electronics
Chris Johnson	Leading Link

Minutes (Action points in red)

Item	Details	Actions
1	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Board members were asked to confirm that their DOIs summarised on the town's webpage at: (https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Economy-Regeneration/Programmes/Borderlands-Place-Programme/Borderlands-Place-Programme.aspx) remains accurate. All members present confirmed this to be the case.</p> <p>Declarations of Interest will be reviewed at every board meeting and the online version updated as changes occur.</p>	AL/PM
2	<p>Place Plan development</p> <p>AL presented an overview of the work required to develop Bedlington's Place Plan and subsequent Town Investment Plan. Linking into recent work on the initial consultation, the presentation explained the process for development of the overall plan. The presentation will also be published on the town's webpage.</p> <p>It was explained that PM would be responsible for much of the desk work involved in developing the Place Plan but that the input from board was vital to ensure the above points were maintained.</p>	PM
3	<p>Alignment with other projects in the town</p> <p>The board was asked to consider alignment of the place programme with other investments in the town, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What has been delivered recently? • What went well? • What were the challenges • What is currently being delivered? • What do we believe to be in the pipeline? • Who else should we talk to, to understand the project pipeline better? <p>Appendix I demonstrates the work completed by the board, separated into two groups.</p> <p>A third group will be added if members unable to attend the meeting would like to pass their comments under each heading to peter.mawer@northumberland.gov.uk no later than COP Friday 10 June 2022.</p>	

4	<p>SWOT analysis</p> <p>The board was then asked to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with regard to Bedlington as a town. The groups then fed back to the facilitator who noted each contribution on a large sheet of paper.</p> <p>The SWOT analysis is included in appendix II. The comments of members unable to attend the meeting will be added if passed to peter.mawer@northumberland.gov.uk no later than COP Friday 10 June 2022.</p>	
5	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>Officers will start to populate the Draft Place Plan for the town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy • Strategic approach • Consultation • Governance <p>Work will start on gathering context data for the town</p> <p>Next meeting – 26 July 2022 18:00-19:30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on Place Plan progress • Priorities and themes for the Place Plan projects 	PM
6	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No other business was declared</p>	
7	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting is 26 July 2022 18:00-19:30</p>	

Appendix I - Alignment with other programmes and investments

Group 1 (Alex, Rebecca, Dennis, Chris)

What is currently being delivered?

Market Place Improvements
British Volt/JDR
Northumberland Line
BMX Track
Sporting Club

What do we believe to be in the pipeline?

Cycle route improvements
Pedestrian/cycle bridge Nth Blyth to Blyth
Heritage and Innovation Centre (East Beds)

What has been delivered recently?

Aldi
Jennings Field Park

- **What went well?**
- **What were the challenges**
 - Lack of appropriate funding
 - Misinformation
 - Accessibility
 - NCC Administration
 - Sponsorships

Who else should we talk to, to understand the project pipeline better?

NCC Administration
Bedlington Development Trust
Leading Link
Sustrans
North of Tyne Mayor
Bernicia
Banks Property

Group 2 (Christine, Adam, Tracy and Anne)

What is currently being delivered?

Town Centre Redevelopment

- Phase 1 – Aldi
- Phase 2 – (Dec 2022) 4 x retail units and 6 apartments
- Phase 3 – delayed indefinitely due to change in retail approach

What do we believe to be in the pipeline?

British Volt and associated supply chain
Northumberland Line
Solar farm – Blue House Farm (planning stage)
Housing – Longridge phase 2 (500 homes)
Neighbourhood Plan (West Bedlington) at final consultation stage

What has been delivered recently?

Lidl

- **What went well?**
- **What were the challenges**

Who else should we talk to, to understand the project pipeline better?

Businesses

NCC officers ref S106 funding

Advance

Community Voluntary Sector

Social Housing Provider (Bernicia)

Police (Community Officers)

Clinical Commissioning Group

Amateur Groups

Group 3 (Keith and Bill)

What do we believe to be in the pipeline?

Refurbishment and re purposing of Bedlington Station library

Appendix II – SWOT analysis

Internal Town Factors	External Factors
<p>Strengths of the town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Spirit • Attendance at events • Heritage (Power, rail, iron works) • Innovation • Natural environment • Location (land and sea) • Connectivity • Attractive to relocators • Public transport • Picturesque High Street • Local businesses • Parks & countryside • Town parks • Free parking • Cultural diversity • Existing parish plan (East Bedlington) • Range and diversity of retail offerings 	<p>Opportunities for the town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British Volt & FutureGen • Northumberland Line • Community Empowerment • Location • Natural Environment • Housing Developments • New shops on Front Street • Available Brown Field Sites • Politics • Build homes on the riverside or coast at Cambois where there is employment • Renewal of Parish Plan • Revitalising shopping area • Better promotion of leisure facilities • Emerging 'green' technologies • Urban planting
<p>Weaknesses of the town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connectivity within the town • Public transport cuts • On street parking – blocked driveways, paths • Lack of traffic enforcement • Lack of leisure facilities for all ages • Nowhere for young people to go • Lack of youth leaders • Business opportunities not maximised e.g. no refreshments in Gallagher Park • Too many homes in Bedlington Central and West where there are no large employers • Lack of vocational/STEM training • Lack of engagement from Academies • Under usage of leisure facilities (Sporting Club) • Traffic management 	<p>Threats for the town</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too reliant on others – NCC, Unions etc • Residents not working locally • Services not growing with the population • Politics • National/Local Government policy changes • Technological Jump • Insufficient funding • Low community engagement • Traffic management issues will increase when Northumberland Line opens

