



21<sup>st</sup> September 2022

Attendees

Minutes (Action points in red)

Item	Details	Actions
1	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The summary of DOIs was briefly discussed with no changes required to be made.</p>	CW

	Any changes or updates to the summary should be sent to CW or AL by 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2022. <b>Declarations of Interest will be reviewed at every board meeting</b> and the online version updated as changes occur.	
2	<p><b>Place Plan Development – Chris Walker</b></p> <p>AL presented an overview of the work required to develop Bellingham’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. It was explained that the process for investment has now changed; a call for projects would follow submission and approval of the place plan, with the Town Investment Plan to follow. <b>The presentation would also be published on the town’s webpage.</b></p> <p>It was explained that CW 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>	CW/All
3	<p><b>Alignment with other projects in the town</b></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"> <li>• What has been delivered recently?</li> <li>• What went well?</li> <li>• What were the challenges</li> <li>• What is currently being delivered?</li> <li>• What do we believe to be in the pipeline?</li> <li>• Who else should we talk to, to understand the project pipeline better?</li> </ul> <p>Appendix I demonstrates the work completed by the board, separated into two groups.</p>	
4	<p><b>SWOT analysis</b></p> <p>The board was then asked to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with regard to Bellingham as a town/village. 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.</p>	CW/ALL
5	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>Officers will start to populate the Draft Place Plan for the town strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic approach</li> <li>• Consultation</li> <li>• Governance</li> </ul> <p>Work will start on gathering context data for the town</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>CW/ALL</p>

	<p>Next meeting – provisionally 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 which will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update on Place Plan progress</li> <li>• Priorities and themes for the Place Plan projects</li> </ul>	
7	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 – 18:00pm. Bellingham Town Hall</p>	CW/ALL

## Appendix I - Alignment with other programmes and investments

### Group 1 – Lindsay, Steve, Martin & Ben

#### Communications

- Fibre Broadband (Gigabit)
- Village Wifi

#### Tourism

- Railway line access for multiple users
- Possible electric bike charging
- Community pantry
- Events

#### Business

- Business Pods (Station Yard)
- Indian restaurant opening

#### Infrastructure

- Removal of parking spaces
- Possible car parking spaces

#### Challenges

- Lack of space for football pitch, sports facilities and leisure facilities
- Lack of volunteers to run clubs etc
- Development of school premises for the community
- Removal of signage for tourists etc/Foundry yard parking

### Group 2 – Anthony & Brian

- Housing estates x2
- New COOP
- New brewery – First & Last at Station Yard
- Black Bull Public House (under new management)
- School – half-term holiday/sports provision (summer 2023)
- Community pantry
- Tree planting for Queen Elizabeth II
- Youth group provision/scout group
- Gas yard – car park
- After school clubs – Wark football club
- Bellingham show
- St Cuthbert's – St Cuthbert Way
- Baafest at Brownrigg
- Council depot/car park/community use
- Community minibus/transport
- Bowling green

## Appendix II – SWOT analysis (combined from both groups)

Internal Town Factors	External Factors
<p><b>Strengths of the town</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community spirit &amp; cohesion</li> <li>• Strong community identity</li> <li>• Rurality and lots of land</li> <li>• Beauty spots – Heritage Centre &amp; Hareshaw</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Potential tourism opportunities</li> <li>• Dark skies</li> <li>• Service centre for a wide area</li> <li>• Local shops and services</li> <li>• Village feel – not commercial</li> <li>• Growing in population</li> <li>• Schools 4-13yrs – low class sizes</li> <li>• Various charitable groups to help boost the area</li> </ul>	<p><b>Opportunities for the town</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased sport provision</li> <li>• Increased youth groups</li> <li>• Food and retail outlets</li> <li>• Electric charging (bikes and cars)</li> <li>• Boost to tourism and economy/jobs</li> <li>• Boosting local skills and self employment</li> <li>• Boost to local environment and wildlife</li> <li>• Increased resilience (power, etc)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Weaknesses of the town</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remoteness/rurality</li> <li>• Limited facilities for sports</li> <li>• Limited employment opportunities</li> <li>• Cost of goods locally</li> <li>• Lack of parking</li> <li>• Lack of training &amp; skills opportunities</li> <li>• Lack of local community support for new activities yet tourists are attracted – engagement</li> <li>• Volunteers – support from locals</li> <li>• Ageing population</li> <li>• Too reliant on tourism – double edged</li> <li>• Draw of Kielder detracts from Bellingham</li> <li>• At the end of bus routes – no through-buses</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats for the town</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of support from NCC (eg. School)</li> <li>• Effect of increased population on services and infrastructure</li> <li>• Current economic situation and cost of living</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Leverage and match investment due to current economic climate</li> <li>• New businesses &amp; relocation of COOP</li> <li>• Loss of tourism - mainly due to economic issues</li> <li>• Loss of remaining services and businesses</li> </ul>