



Northumberland County Council

Newbiggin by the Sea Borderlands Place Programme Board Minutes

18th May 2022

17:45 – Newbiggin Maritime Centre, Church Point, Newbiggin by the Sea

Attendees

Name	Representing
Anne Lawson (chair)	Northumberland County Council
Cllr Liz Simpson	Northumberland County Council
Cllr Jim Laing	Northumberland County Council
Cllr Jill Woodman	Newbiggin Town Council
Cllr Ami Wootton	Newbiggin Town Council
Eddy Peat	Newbiggin Community Trust
Lynn Burns	Newbiggin Community Ventures
Brian Chilton	Newbiggin Heritage Partnership
Angela Mason (standing in for Reemer Bailey)	Newbiggin Regeneration Group
Michael Farr	Bernicia

Officers

Name	Representing
Chris Walker	Northumberland County Council

Apologies

Name	Representing

Minutes (Action points in red)

Item	Details	Actions
1	Declarations of Interest The summary of DOIs was presented by AL. No additional changes were required to the summary which is hosted on the town's webpage at: (https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Economy-Regeneration/Programmes/Borderlands-Place-Programme/Borderlands-Place-Programme.aspx)	

	<p>Declarations of Interest will be reviewed at every board meeting and the online version updated as changes occur.</p>	AL/CW
2	<p>Place Plan development</p> <p>AL presented an overview of the work required to develop Newbiggin's Place Plan and subsequent Town Investment Plan. Linking into recent work on the initial consultation and ongoing Neighbourhood Plan, the presentation explained the process for development of the overall plan. The presentation would also be published on the town's webpage.</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
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 three groups.</p>	
4	<p>SWOT analysis</p> <p>The board was then asked to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with regard to Newbiggin 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.</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 – 29th June 2022 (unconfirmed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on Place Plan progress 	CW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priorities and themes for the Place Plan projects 	
6	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No other business was declared</p>	
7	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting was proposed for the 29th June 2022 (CW to confirm venue and time)</p>	CW

Appendix I - Alignment with other programmes and investments

Group 1

Recent

- Lifeboat ramp levelling and accessibility for all (lighting)
- Mary Portas high street fund – good shop fronts (although not very business participated)
- Rocket House – NHP

- Changing Places – NHP
- NMC (Newbiggin Maritime Centre)
- Beach reprofile (took some time)
- Beach wheelchair (NMC)

Currently ongoing

- The 'Hub' – library, community centre & sports centre
- Football fields
- Community garden (sports centre)
- Heritage trail (NHP)
- Golf studio – NEC
- Sports centre upgrades

Pipeline

- Milburn Park (tennis court)
- Sandy Bay lodges
- Sandy Bay caravan park extension

Group 2

Successful

- Portas town team
- Marketing NBS events
- Business support
- Promenade assent
- Park runs
- Unique shops & local businesses
- Go Build Heritage
- Sculpture (couple)
- NMC
- Football club which has enabled investment from NCC (took some time)
- Managing People Aspirations

Unsuccessful

- Old Colliery school site (12 years)
- Beach management
- Engagement with both caravan parks
- Not working together/collaboration

Group 3

- Shopfront scheme (historic)
- The ramp on the promenade (finished 2022)
- The leisure centre (in progress) including allotments
- The couple statue (completed 2007)
- New town council building (completed 2014/5)
- New public toilets (14/15)

- Housing – flats above (14/15) and new approved housing
- Planned car park improvements (opposite McColls)
- Northumberland Line
- Redevelopment of the Alcan site (commenced 2017)
- Ashwood business park
- Britishvolt development - planned

Appendix II – SWOT analysis

Internal Town Factors

External Factors

Strengths of the town

- The beach
- Community togetherness
- Accessibility/connectivity
- Transport
- Cycling routes
- The promenade
- Age and knowledge of residents
- Independent shops and businesses
- Visitors/holidaymakers
- Education (primary school)

Opportunities for the town

- Capture spend of cyclists/visitors
- Development of the promenade
- Holiday homes/tourism
- Provision for youth/young people
- Housing development
- Options for development (either side of railway)
- New large employers/job opportunities
- Beachfront policies, events and activities
- Development on land owned by Advance & Bernicia

Weaknesses of the town

- Accessibility to facilities
- Pathways – size and gradient
- Negativity from the community in general
- Negativity on social media
- Age profile of residents
- Lack of a night-time economy
- Lack of educational options
- Lack of youth facilities
- Lack of EV charging points
- Diversity of shops/retail offer

Threats for the town

- Low level of income amongst residents
- Poverty and rising cost of living
- Holiday homes
- Increased house prices/housing market
- Strain on existing infrastructure
- Overdevelopment
- Sustainability of large employers (closure threats)