



# Northumberland County Council

## Rothbury Borderlands Place Programme Board Minutes

26<sup>th</sup> October 2022

18:00 – Rothbury Jubilee Hall, Coquet Room

### Attendees

Name	Representing
Anne Lawson (Chair)	Northumberland County Council
Cllr Steven Bridgett	Northumberland County Council
Cllr Peter Colquitt	Rothbury Parish Council
Ken Branson	Jubilee Hall Trust
Dr Billy Hunt	The Rothbury Practice
Abbie Curtis	Northumberland Estates
Rector John Sinclair	Churches Together

### Officers

Name	Representing
Chris Walker	Northumberland County Council

### Apologies

Name	Representing
John O'Brien	National Trust
Cllr Ashley Arkle	Rothbury Parish Council

### Minutes (Action points in red)

Item	Details	Actions
1	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>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: (<a href="https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Economy-Regeneration/Programmes/Borderlands-Place-Programme/Borderlands-Place-Programme.aspx">https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Economy-Regeneration/Programmes/Borderlands-Place-Programme/Borderlands-Place-Programme.aspx</a>)</p> <p><b>Declarations of Interest will be reviewed at every board meeting</b> and the online version updated as changes occur.</p>	AL/CW

2	<p><b>Place Plan development</b></p> <p>AL presented the revised process for Rothbury’s BPP, explaining that a call for projects would now be opened following the submission of the place plan to the programme board.</p> <p>CW presented an overview of the work required to develop Rothbury’s Place Plan and subsequent Town Investment Plan. Linking into recent work on the initial consultation and ongoing Neighbourhood Plan (being developed by John Devlin – Appointed Concepts), the presentation explained the process for development of the overall plan. <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
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 three 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 Rothbury as a town. The groups then fed back to the facilitator who noted each contribution.</p> <p>The SWOT analysis is included in appendix II.</p>	
5	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>Officers will start to populate the Draft Place Plan for the town:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategy</li> <li>• Strategic approach</li> <li>• Consultation</li> <li>• Governance</li> </ul> <p>Work will start on gathering context data for the town</p>	CW

	<p><b>Next meeting</b></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>	
6	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>No other business was declared</p>	
7	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting will take place before Christmas 2022, ideally late November/early December dependent upon diary commitments. CW/AL to suggest dates to board and confirm ASAP</p> <p><b>Next meeting suggested date 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022 18:00 – 19:30</b></p>	<b>ALL</b>

## **Appendix I - Alignment with other programmes and investments**

### **Group 1 – Steven, John & Ken**

#### **Investments**

- Shop improvement scheme (2007/08) – was delivered effectively and oversubscribed, resulting in underspend from other towns being used in Rothbury
- New play park by riverside, jointly funded by the Parish Council & County Council
- Dental/GP services have gone well
- New cycle path on south side of river
- 1500 acre new forest on edge of Rothbury resulting in numerous environmental benefits
- 60 home extension to Whitton View
- Delivery of 17 affordable homes at middle school site
- Refurbished dining hall at first school
- First rural town in country to develop superfast broadband

#### **Ongoing/Pipeline**

- Improvements to respite and nursing care in the pipeline
- Potential new COOP under pressure from other developments
- Changeover at Rothbury House, with proposed use for elderly residents
- Potential of new development at bottom of Woodlands
- Delivery of broadband gigabit throughout Rothbury
- Creation of Muckle's Yard scheme

### **Group 2 – Peter, Abbie & Billy**

#### **Investments**

- Bicycle park – has resulted from good engagement and an emphasis on safety
- Tree Trail – developed with community input and resulting in tales from ten trees (so far). Further marketing/engagement required to promote trail (CW to speak to Pete Mawer – NCC – who developed marketing plan for Hexham's tourism trail)
- Public footpath creating quick and accessible routes to neighbouring areas
- Health – 'hospital' and good take-up of dental services

#### **Ongoing/Pipeline**

- COOP and expansion to new site
- Swimming pool
- Car parking and ongoing work with highways
- Neighbourhood plan – in development and needs to be aligned with Place Plan. Being created by John Devlin

## Appendix II – SWOT analysis (combined)

Internal Town Factors	External Factors
<p><b>Strengths of the town</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close community spirit</li> <li>• Engaged residents/population</li> <li>• A wish &amp; desire to succeed</li> <li>• Happiness &amp; contentment in the community</li> <li>• Environment &amp; location</li> <li>• Experience</li> <li>• 'Do it' mentality</li> <li>• Pubs/hospitality offer</li> </ul>	<p><b>Opportunities for the town</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Leisure opportunities</li> <li>• Walking and Cycling</li> </ul>
<p><b>Weaknesses of the town</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure issues</li> <li>• A degree of apathy</li> <li>• A sense of a lack of development</li> <li>• A 'them &amp; us' situation fostered by a lack of involvement</li> <li>• Perception of 'incomers' taking over</li> <li>• Seasonal economy</li> <li>• Policing and engagement with police</li> <li>• Transport, or lack of</li> <li>• Toilets and general visitor facilities</li> <li>• Poor access to services</li> <li>• Lack of leisure centre</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats for the town</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Politics &amp; politicians</li> <li>• Legal issues</li> <li>• Always 'told' that something 'cannot' be done</li> <li>• Funding uncertainty</li> <li>• Lack of foresight, drive &amp; determination</li> <li>• Too much tourism?</li> <li>• Loss of 'character'</li> <li>• Flooding/environmental change</li> <li>• Loss of public access</li> <li>• Loss of youth/young people</li> <li>• Low childbirth rate</li> <li>• Older demographic</li> </ul>