



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WYLAM PARISH COUNCIL
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP
HELD ON 25th SEPTEMBER 2025**

Present: Councillors A Armstrong, D Carney (Chair), L O'Donnell and N Stromsoy.

Also present: S Brannigan (NCC Neighbourhood Planning), K Carrick (NHPSG Member), P Hetherington (NHPSG Member) and T Wood (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

Questions from Members of the Public.

Two members of the public were present, D Carney (Chair) invited them to join in with the presentation from A Armstrong on the Local Green Spaces.

- 1. Apologies for absence**
Councillors C Percy and C Thomas
- 2. Declarations of Interest from members on items on the Agenda**
None declared.

The Chair proposed that the order of the agenda be changed. Item 6 would be the first item discussed. This was agreed.

3. Neighbourhood Plan Funding

S Brannigan informed the group that funding for ongoing work will be honoured. No funding is available from Locality/AECOM for a Design Code or a consultant to write the Plan. Northumberland County Council Neighbourhood Planning team will continue to provide support to Wylam Parish Council for the production of the Plan, which will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment. Northumberland County Council is responsible for the consultation process with Wylam residents. N Stromsoy reported to members on a Neighbourhood Plan presentation he had attended and the useful Neighbourhood Planning information document that had been circulated. S Brannigan would send a copy of this for circulation.

Resolved that:

- i. Clerk to confirm costs associated with Environmental Impact Assessment.
- ii. S Brannigan to send information on Wylam Parish to the Clerk.

Signed: Date:
Chair of Meeting

- iii. Clerk to circulate Neighbourhood Planning document for Wylam Parish to members.

4. Non- Designated Heritage Assets

The Clerk had circulated the report of the Non-Designated Assets Focus Group. Members of the NDHA Focus Group, had met on a number of occasions to discuss the village heritage. Members confirmed that the only section needed to progress the Neighbourhood Plan was the long list of Non-Designated Heritage Assets (NDHA) which would be recorded on individual forms, and on a map showing their location in the Parish of Wylam. Completed forms will be uploaded to the shared drive for review by NCC Neighbourhood Planning team. The report included a list of famous Wylam residents. S Brannigan confirmed that this section was not relevant to the Neighbourhood Planning process in terms of policy, but could be included in the community actions section. The Group had discussed whether a Wylam Conservation Area could be designated. This proposal would require further research and consultation with NCC and residents. Members discussed creating a Design Code for inclusion in the Plan. The final draft of the NDHAs long list would be presented to the Parish Council on 13th October 2025.

Resolved that

- i. C Percy and N Stromsoy to complete the long list of Non-Designated Heritage Assets.
- ii. C Percy and N Stromsoy to upload the completed documents with accompanying photographs to the shared drive.
- iii. S Brannigan to send Design Code information to the Clerk.
- iv. S Brannigan to send Conservation Area contact details to the Clerk.
- v. Thanks were noted to C Percy, N Stromsoy, D Carney and members of the focus group for the work to compile a list of Non-Designated Heritage Assets.

5. Local Green Spaces

The Clerk had circulated the report by the Local Green Spaces Focus Group. Members of the LGS Focus Group had met on a number of occasions to identify Local Green Spaces in Wylam. The remit of the group had widened to include Green Belt sites following NCC's 'Call for Sites' as part of the review of the Local Plan. The group had produced a long list of sites which had been mapped onto the Wylam Parish map. Members of The Clean Tyne Group, were in attendance and highlighted the impact of development on waterways through sewage drains leading to the River Tyne. They spoke about the concept of a river having rights.

Resolved that

- i. A Armstrong to complete the list of Local Green Spaces.
- ii. A Armstrong and the Local Green Spaces Focus Group to upload completed documents with accompanying photographs to the shared drive.
- iii. Thanks were noted to A Armstrong and members of the focus group for the work on Local Green Spaces.

6. Draft Masterplan – Falcon Centre Site

The Clerk had circulated the second draft of the Masterplan Options Report from AECOM. Members discussed the future of the Falcon Centre and the future of Wylam Library. S Brannigan confirmed that she would organise a meeting between members of the Parish Council, NCC Strategic Estates, Library Services and the Neighbourhood Planning Team. The Parish Council does not own the site and S Brannigan informed the group that the Falcon Centre site is not suitable for a Community Asset Transfer but that if the land was sold for development, Section 106 funding may be made available to Wylam Parish. The draft Masterplan Options Report includes three options for development on the site. AECOM has advised that the options provided cannot be changed as government funding has been withdrawn. NCC will send feedback directly to AECOM. The Parish Council will collate their feedback and send it to AECOM. The future of the

Parish Council Railway Museum will be discussed once the meeting with Strategic Estates has taken place. Census data for Wylam Parish for 2011 and 2021 would be useful to inform development of the village as a balanced community.

Resolved that

- i. Members to send feedback on the draft Masterplan Options Report to the Clerk.
- ii. Clerk to forward Parish Council comments to AECOM.
- iii. S Brannigan to send a copy of NCC comments to the Clerk.
- iv. S Brannigan to send Strategic Estates meeting dates to the Clerk.
- v. S Brannigan to send Design Code information to the Clerk.

6. Minor items and items for the agenda of a future meeting

N Stromsoy requested an interim meeting before the next planned Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting.

Resolved that

- i. Clerk to circulate dates for an interim meeting of the NHPSG.

7. Date of next meeting

The date of the next Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will take place on Thursday 27th November 2025 at 6pm

The meeting closed at 8.40pm