

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Planning & Regeneration Committee meeting held at 6:00pm on Tuesday 29 September 2015, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ashington, NE63 8RX

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Mark Purvis (Chair)	Louis Brown
	Vicky Brown	Marjorie Chambers
	Avril Chisholm	Glyn Davies
	Stephen Fenwick	Lawrence Henderson
	Maggie Lang	Wyn Stewart
	Pauline Thompson	Ely Turnbull
	Bob Walkinshaw	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk
Sue Coulthard – Snr. Admin. Officer
Members of the Public – 0

P&R15/100 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Victor Bridges, Keith Chambers, and Liam Lavery.

P&R15/101 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of personal and prejudicial interest.

P&R15/102 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Planning & Regeneration Committee meeting held on 25 August 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

P&R15/103 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

P&R15/95 Planning Application No. 15/1926/FUL (Land on Station Road, North of Kingdom Hall) : In response to a member's question, the Town Clerk confirmed that Northumberland County Council had yet to make a decision regarding this application.

**P&R15/104 5. PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT NORTH SEATON
(APPLICATION NO. 14/03715/OUT)**

The Town Clerk reminded Members that this Outline Planning Application had been considered and discussed at a meeting held on 25 August 2015, following a third presentation by Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners (NLP), the consultants acting on behalf of the applicant. A copy of the briefing note received from NLP Consultants had been circulated, outlining key information regarding the housing development and the reasons why the applicant believed why developing the site for homes was the right use for the area.

The Town Clerk stated that following the first two presentations, concerns had been expressed regarding vehicular access to the development and how this would impact on the traffic flow on Newbiggin Road and the safety of pedestrians crossing the road. Members were reminded that the matter of whether the area should be used for economic development had not previously been identified as a concern the County Council. Members were advised however that that NCC Planning Officers had now raised this as a key and fundamental issue.

In Section 1.22 of the NLP Briefing Note, Ashington Town Council was asked to write to NCC and support the view that the provision of homes on the development site would be beneficial to the area, rather than the provision of further industrial units.

The Town Clerk asked Members to consider and discuss the contents of the briefing note and also the request for support from Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners. Following a lengthy discussion, and without prejudice, it was the view of members that members that the proposed housing development would be more beneficial to the area.

Resolved:

That the Town Clerk be asked to write to Northumberland County Council confirming the Town Council preference to see the identified land developed for housing rather than further economic development.

P&R15/105 6. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no other items of urgent business.

P&R15/106 7. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

To be agreed.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.