



WHITTINGHAM, CALLALY & ALNHAM PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

Dear Steering Group member,

Please find below the Minutes of the Meeting of the NP Steering Group on **Tuesday 22nd 2026 at 7:30pm at Whittingham Memorial Hall.**

Present: Paul Bradley (PB), Neil Blackshaw (NB), Jacqui Pringle (JP), Chris Breeze (CB), Stuart Knox (SK), Sandra McCormack (SMc), Charles Ashby (CA),

Apologies: Karen Weech (KW), Elidh Gardiner (EG)

1. Apologies for absence received.
2. Minutes from previous meeting reviewed, updates:
 - **PB** still awaiting response from Northumbrian Water regarding population forecasting used for the upgraded sewage works in Whittingham
 - **KW** has heard back from the Rural Housing Facilitator (CAN), Vince Walsh and a meeting is arranged for Tuesday 6th October.
3. **PB** provided an update on the draft survey. 73 surveys have been returned to date. Reminders have been posted in the Parishes and a Facebook post will be issued highlighting the upcoming deadline of 30th September. Thanks to all for posting the reminders. **All**
4. Discussions continued on approaches to Settlement boundaries. **JP** has looked at other equivalent sized Parish Neighbourhood Plans; approaches appear similar with Housing Needs Assessments not included being criticised by Inspectors. **PB** has been collating and saving information with sources for Whittingham. Some questions over validity of population estimates from 2011 Census. 2021 represents current Parish boundaries and to be used.

Research on other Parish Settlement Boundary approaches to be circulated to the group. **JP**
5. **NB/PB** provided an appraisal on updates to the Local Plan (LP) and recently released National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). A Teams call was attended presented by Sarah Brannigan (NCC). NPPF will focus housing developments around sustainable housing with developments 800m from Stations likely to be approved. Northumberland housing will likely focus around



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the extended trainline from Newcastle. We're unlikely to hear of any allocation to Whittingham until April/May next year. A reminder that NP's should focus on Local Issues that matter to communities e.g. site allocations, where they are appropriate, local character, green space, community facilities. No not repeat Local Plan or National requirements. Hamlets will likely be excluded. There will be substantial weight where a local need has been demonstrated. String recommendation to define Settlement Boundaries.

6. Questions for Vince Walsh discussed.

- Provide some info on CAN
- How best to frame and carry out an appropriate housing survey in a rural parish like Whittingham, Callaly and Alnham.
- Is there any support for either the preparation and planning of a survey and /or the analysis of the responses?
- Are there up-to-date examples of broadly similar Parishes having successfully negotiated this process so as to make provision for appropriate non-market housing?
- Provide more info on working with Housing Associations and Community Housing
- Should HNA be done by independent people and not the SG

Bio for Vince Walsh [Our Team – Communities CAN](#)

7. Date of next meeting 6th October 2026, Whittingham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm.