

## Minutes

### **Lazonby Neighbourhood Plan – Lazonby Parish Council & Steering Group**

#### **Public Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday March at 7:30pm**

#### **Lazonby Village Hall**

---

On the whole there were a total of 27 attendees at the public meeting. It was imperative for this meeting to be held so that the results of the questionnaire could be addressed. The underlying purpose of the meeting was that it would give the community an opportunity to voice what they consider to be the most important factors in terms of what the Neighbourhood Plan is set to establish.

**Virginia Minihan** – opened the evening, welcomed everyone that had committed their evening to attend the session – closed by introducing Tom Woof and myself (Katie Jones).

**Tom Woof** – Presented the power-point of the results, this is attached. It was also agreed that the presentation as well as the questionnaire and a series of minutes recording both Parish and Steering Group meetings and public meetings, will be made available on the parish website. This would be made public to view, give an indication as to which stage the Neighbourhood Plan currently sits, but overall documents the whole process; which further establishes good community engagement throughout the process.

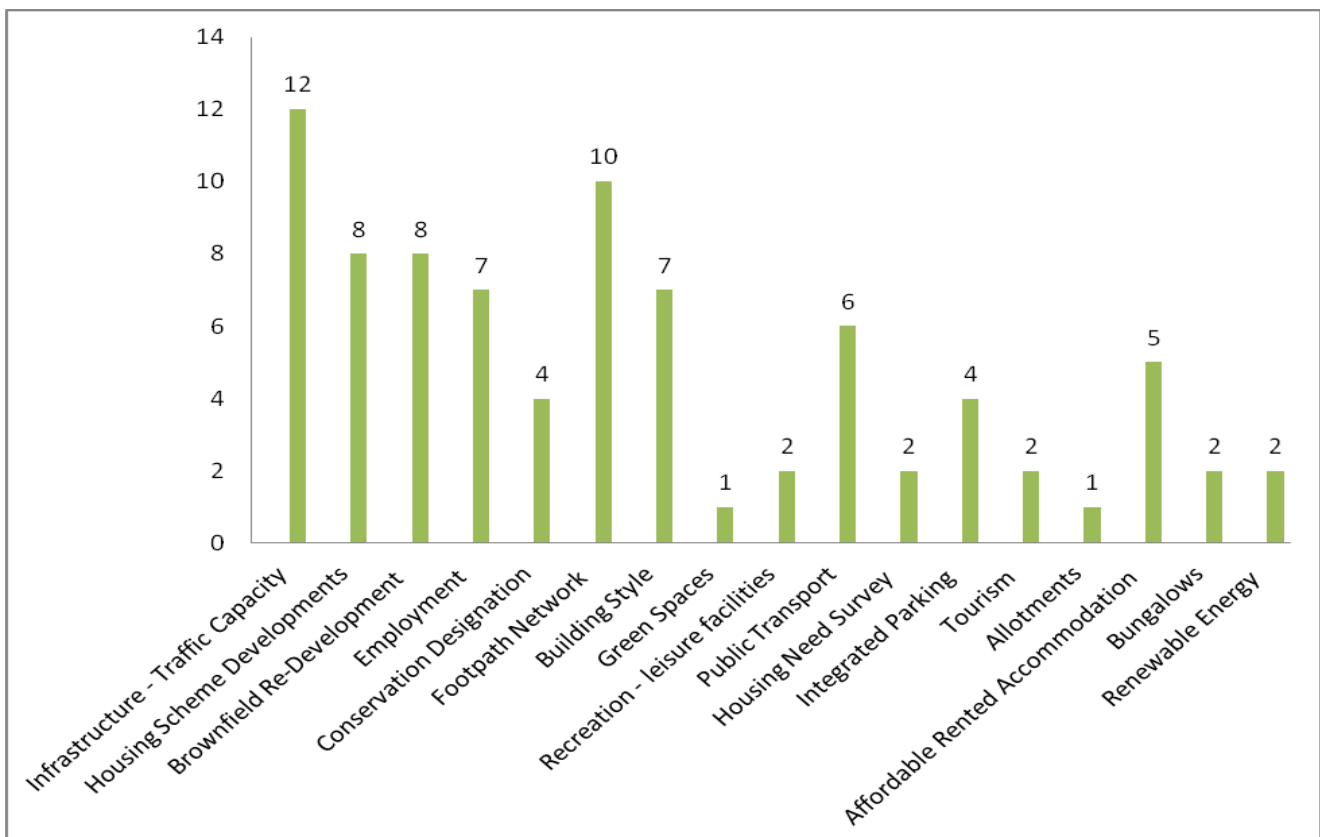
**Questions** – The presentation ended in the norm, with an opportunity for the attendees to voice their questions, issues and contributions. The following was raised.

- Traffic – speed, road crossing, volume and integrated car-park;
- one large scale housing development which would address the future housing need of the village;
- phased development;
- Public transport or lack of;
- 20mph speed limit along the B6413 (main road through the village);
- Pavements and Streetscape
- Street lighting – visibility for pedestrians is poor and considered dangerous;

- Protection of older buildings with a view falling towards Lazonby establishing a designated conservation area;
- Incentives for Landowners to put forward existing buildings for change of use and appropriate land around the edge of the settlement for small scale housing developments;
- A number of questions raised clarified that there is current misinterpretation and misunderstanding as to what role a neighbourhood Plan plays and how much weight it is given during planning applications in line with the District’s Local Plan. The recently dismissed appeal involving 85 dwellings in Northamptonshire was refused due to the adverse impacts it would have with regard to conflict with a submitted neighbourhood plan, signifies the degree of influence a neighbourhood plan holds.

**Break -----Break -----Break -----Break -----**

Following a brief break, the attendees were asked to think of 3 issues they wish to be included in the plan. The Graph below shows where the majority vote lies; with infrastructure and traffic capacity having the highest ranking, of which continues to be highlighted as a concern for Lazonby at its current form and the implications for its future growth. It is quite clear as to what the attendees from the meeting consider to be important for the longevity of the village. However, this graph and the results from the questionnaires must balance out. Looking at both the graph below and the results from the questionnaire, it is evident that there are already similarities, therefore indicating clear focuses for the Neighbourhood Plan document to acknowledge.



It is also necessary to mention that there were a couple of disputes between the sizes of new housing scheme developments that are considered acceptable for the village. In the meeting there were arguments over having one large scale housing development, which would be constructed in a phased timescale, while others argued that this would cause constant disruption to the neighbouring properties and the daily running's of the village, with such a development having an on-going timescale – “It would be never ending”.

With reference to the results of the questionnaire, and those who voiced their concerns during the meeting, small scale, integrated housing schemes of less than 10 (parking accommodated on plot) in various locations within, around and on the edge of the village are favoured, as it would be sympathetic to the required future growth and be in keeping with the village form. The scale of such proposals development would be accepted as well managed development that has been sensibly and sensitively established, and overall would not overwhelm or drown out the village scene.

It was also apparent that the community wants to retain the ‘village feel’, and that it is feared, such large developments would be detrimental to this.

It was additionally pleasing to hear the term ‘Sustainable’ and ‘Sustainable Development’ being used. However, there is far greater scope which relates to achieving such a term. Its use indicated that there is support and awareness that for the longevity of Lazonby to be sustained, new growth must be accommodated. Younger people and families must be encouraged to settle in Lazonby, therefore a mixture of housing types, tenures and aesthetic styles are necessary, as well as specialised and niche business and employment opportunities. Thoughts about renewable technologies and community renewable projects; such as solar, community district heat (heating swimming pools, schools, local facilities etc), or Combined Heat and Power (CHP) should be considered. New energy technology manufacture and designs are becoming less intrusive and incongruous in areas that would be considered as sensitive, but more visually accepted with their contribution to energy production having great benefits.

Improving the footpath network, public rights of way, bridleways, and recreational areas also ranked high; such ideas are supported as they would promote community health and well-being. While votes for a conservation designation are also valued, as such would create a sense of civic pride for Lazonby, and this is exactly what the Neighbourhood plan adheres to achieve.

Before ending the evening, all attendees were asked to indicate on the maps and stickers provided where they would like to see housing, employment, green-spaces and recreation and other suggestions to be located. The map below takes account of an ‘average location’ of the suggestions received.

The next scheduled meeting is a **Parish and Steering Group Meeting**: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm – Lazonby Methodist Church.

**Legend**

**Employment**



**Green Spaces/Recreation**



**Housing**



**Mixed use –**



**Employment/Business/Housing**



**Conservation**

