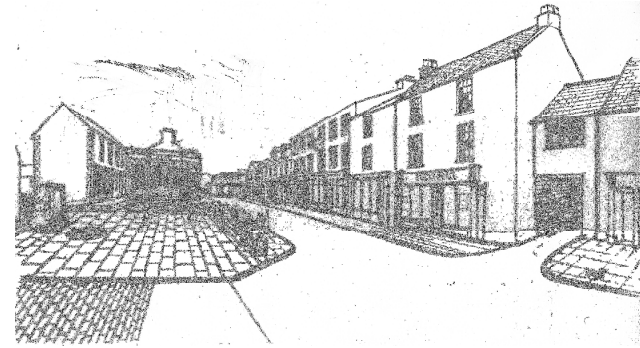


This Town Plan was approved at Town Council on 16th January, 2012. It has been evolving over three years and needs to be regularly reviewed following a Public Meeting and any responses arising out of Public Consultations.

The First Review Public Meeting

will be held on 14th February 2012 from 6pm to 8pm in meeting room 3 on the 1st floor of Haltwhistle Library— come along and comment or bring new ideas.



Haltwhistle Town Plan 2012

During the last three years Town Councils have been encouraged to produce their own Town Plan to assist the County Council and other Statutory Authorities to understand a local community's aspirations and to help the Local Council maintain a consistent policy framework within which to aim for an ever improving quality of life.

Despite the beauty of our environment and our great sense of community, history, and culture, which we enjoy in Haltwhistle national statistics class Haltwhistle as a deprived rural community, illustrating this by reference to: our having a below average population of younger adults and an above average population of older people; the numbers of unemployed and unqualified people being above average; the car ownership and number of dwellings with central heating being below average.

To prepare a Town Plan, Haltwhistle Town Council has held three Open Meetings during the last three years and has studied reports from the Haltwhistle Partnership, Youth and Sports Clubs, the Chamber of Trade, Businesses and Tourist providers and have taken account of the views of many individuals.

There is a consensus that Haltwhistle needs to plan for an improved Business, Shopping and Recreational environment and infrastructure to encourage new residents and more visitors and to provide better prospects for young people and their families.

We can do this by recognising and exploiting our considerable local resources which are:-

Our location in the Tyne Gap – a centre point between the M6 and A1 (M) Motorways and the Euro Route between Ireland and the Baltic States – this should encourage Trade, Industry, Commercial investment and commuter settlement particularly where businesses need links with east and west sides of Britain.

Our proximity to Kielder Forest and the opportunities to develop timber as Biomass related industries and crafts.



Our situation close to the best preserved and most dramatic stretches of the Roman Wall and between the Northumberland National Park and North Pennine Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and within easy reach of the Lake District, Scottish Borders, Kielder, the Northumbrian Coastal Castles and Durham Cathedral makes us a natural centre for Adventure and Educational group holidays as well as recreational and relaxing family holidays – “Tourism experiences for the connoisseur”.

Haltwhistle itself is a compact and characterful Market Town with an Historic Church, Hotels in Bastles, Industrial archaeology, Border Reiver history to touch the imagination, historic, scenic walks, cycle rides, an open air Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre as well as sports and youth facilities, social care provision and a diversity of Church and Community events.

What has been done in recent years

Education

A New Public Library with Lecture/Meeting Rooms

Sport

Improved Football Pitch by the riverside.

Upgrading the Cricket Field.

An improved Gym and an Astro Turf multisport surface on the Tennis Courts at the Leisure Centre.

Old People

Monthly Lunches and Drop In Centre.

Shopping

Improved Market Place Layout

Renovation of Shop Fronts near Town Centre.

Extra Car Parking by Methodist Hall.

Better Christmas Lighting.

Commercial

Improved access from A69 to Hadrian Enterprise Park and to Kilfrost.

Tourism

Upgrade of Burn Walk.

Expanded Walking Festival and Cycle Hub Guides.

Church Floodlights.

Renovation of Alston Arches.

Social

Develop Green Energy at Leisure Centre.

Disabled Access to Methodist Hall.

Improved social facilities in Holy Cross Church.

What more should be done to improve the quality of life in Haltwhistle.

Maintain

The improvements which have been done.

Our open spaces, Village Greens, Streets, Footpaths, Playing Fields and Gardens (sometimes with the help of volunteers).

Education

Support and expand the Adult Education Service.

Encourage Art, Drama, Music and other clubs particularly helping school sixth formers develop out of school activities and interests.

Sport

Increase the number of Playing Fields and where possible upgrade existing Playing Fields.

Old People

Support and encourage the County Council and Health Service to progress the redevelopment of the Hospital and Care facilities.

Youth

Expand and revive Youth Clubs and appoint an outreach worker.

Shopping

Improve signage into Haltwhistle from A69 and B6318.

Is a one way street system becoming necessary?

Commercial

Develop where possible Green Energy.

Use the Localism Act to speed up and simplify the Planning Process for new and expanding small businesses.

Generally support new housing proposals to allow for some growth of population and business.

Tourism

Maintain a year round Tourist and Information Office.

Extend the Burn Walk to Cawfields.

Expand the archives to increase our interpretative leaflet and exhibitions emphasising the Town's Roman, Reivers, Bastle, Industrial, Mining and Railway history.

Social

Support and encourage the Carnival, Plant and Green Fairs, and Music, Art, Photography and Film Projects.