

NUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

4th May 2020

Mr R Horniman
Middlesbrough Council

Dear Richard

Ref L239 - NUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL - RESPONSE to VISION SUBMISSIONS

Nunthorpe Parish Council submitted a brief vision statement in accordance with the invitation from Middlesbrough Council to outline in advance the key points which the Parish Council would be making at the meeting scheduled to be held on 18th March 2020.

That initial document welcomed the “Big Meeting” initiative as an example of the importance of Middlesbrough Council working in partnership with the Parish Council, just as the Parish Council values its close relationship with a number of organisations in Nunthorpe. The Parish Council’s current focus on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan will deepen these partnerships within Nunthorpe, between Nunthorpe and Middlesbrough Council, and between Nunthorpe and our neighbours in other wards and in other local authorities. Dialogue on an agreed vision for Nunthorpe is the foundation stone for a progressive, unifying, and achievable Nunthorpe Neighbourhood Plan.

The initial document draws attention to the following four aspects of our experience of living in Nunthorpe, the resolution of which the Parish Council regards as critical to the successful development of Nunthorpe.

1. Reiteration of the Mayor’s moratorium on **house-building** until a coherent approach to the development of Nunthorpe is presented by Middlesbrough Council and negotiated with the Parish Council.
2. Presentation of a **transport infrastructure** plan by Middlesbrough Council which could realistically alleviate road congestion in advance of further house-building.
3. Support from Middlesbrough Council for initiatives generated within Nunthorpe to maintain and enhance the **green environment**.
4. Support from Middlesbrough Council to resolve Nunthorpe’s infrastructure deficiencies - particularly a **community centre**, but also a health centre.

Having now had the opportunity to study the submissions from the various organisations based in Nunthorpe, the Parish Council is very pleased to note the considerable alignment of analysis of current issues and visions for future development. The summary from Middlesbrough Council is also very welcome, but, as it is clear that this was designed as a visual starting-point for elaboration, the delayed opportunity for a meeting means that, at this early stage, we have limited information to comment on the Council’s vision.

Our initial feedback is as follows:

1. House-building

Various Nunthorpe submissions echo the point made by the Parish Council about

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house-building. We welcome Middlesbrough Council's honesty in stating that its rationale for house building in Nunthorpe is income (replacing the previous justifications) and we welcome the Council's openness to conversations about more sensitive development in relation to such matters as types of dwelling, density, and quality of design. We would be very pleased for dialogue to continue along these lines. Our main concern is that this approach appears to be sometimes inconsistent with decision-making currently taking place within Middlesbrough Council, and we hope to hear more about how the senior management of Middlesbrough Council will ensure implementation of an agreed vision.

2. Transport Infrastructure

On this issue there is also a consistent message from organisations across Nunthorpe. We welcome the recognition from Middlesbrough Council of the continuing need for "addressing Marton Crawl" - but the Council's submission is silent as to how this might be achieved, other than under the heading of "Park and Ride" where there is acknowledgment of a "long process for bringing it forward." Nunthorpe Parish Council believes that the priority focus should be on the need to increase the number of trains between Nunthorpe and Middlesbrough. We repeat our concern that a roundabout on the bypass (A1043) could result in increased traffic along Guisborough Road, and we reiterate our preference that housing on Nunthorpe Grange be accessed by alteration to the existing Poole roundabout. Above all, we once again appeal for an open consultation on options to alleviate the Marton Crawl.

3. Green Environment

A number of submissions draw attention to the importance of according high priority to the protection and enhancement of the green environment in Nunthorpe. Middlesbrough Council's submission poses the possibility of "more green space" in planning the development of the Council-owned land in Nunthorpe Grange, and we would welcome a conversation about this specific matter. However, Middlesbrough Council has so far not provided an indication of its thinking about how it might support the wide range of initiatives from the Parish Council and others about the protection and enhancement of the green environment in Nunthorpe. We look forward to a dialogue about this.

4. Community Centre

There is unanimity about the urgent need to resolve the deficiency of communal facilities in Nunthorpe - particularly in the context of the saga of the Nunthorpe Institute, to which its Trustees have drawn attention in their submission. The proposals from the NMPFA suggest a very imaginative way forward, having the significant attraction of a comprehensive Community hub easily accessible to pedestrians close to the heart of Nunthorpe. However, as this proposal is not only likely to be expensive in direct monetary terms, but also appears to rely on a significant land contribution from Middlesbrough Council (with associated opportunity cost), it would be very helpful to know the response of Middlesbrough Council to the NMPFA plan at the earliest opportunity. As an alternative option, Middlesbrough Council indicates the potential of establishing a community hub on a site further from the centre of Nunthorpe, under the intriguing heading of "Early Delivery" - and the whole of Nunthorpe is eager to know how close this plan is to implementation.

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For all these reasons, Nunthorpe Parish Council is delighted that so much progress has already been made towards reaching a consensus on the way forward, and we look forward very much to continuing the conversation at the next stage, and during all the stages which will follow. ‘

Yours sincerely

Nunthorpe Parish Council
Angela Livingstone Clerk