

Dalston Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2030

Dalston Parish Neighbourhood Plan is finished and been accepted by the Parish!

The Dalston Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015 - 2030 Referendum was held on 22nd February 2018 with polling stations in Dalston and Gaitsgill.

585 parishioners voted, (a 26% turnout of 2241 electorate).

513 voted "YES" to the Plan (87.7%)

72 voted "NO" to the Plan (12.3%)

On 9th April 2018 Carlisle City Council Executive adopted the Dalston Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2015 - 2030 and it will become part of the local planning legislation supporting the "Carlisle District Local Plan 2015 – 2030", to guide the future use of land in the Parish of Dalston.

At the Parish Meeting on 24th April 2013, a steering group was set up consisting of an equal number of members of Dalston Parish Council and interested parishioners.

A short preliminary survey was distributed and with a series of roadshows across the Parish, returns identified issues concerning parishioners which were compiled into aims and objectives to drive the Plan forward.

On the 15th October 2013, Carlisle City Council confirmed Dalston Parish as a Neighbourhood Area under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulation 2012.

What followed were many months of consultation.

In September 2013 the Dalston Housing Need Survey was completed giving an overall picture of what housing development was essential to the life blood of the Parish.

During early 2014 an "Environment and Open Spaces Report", a "Hamlet Status Report", and a "Dalston Historical Settlement Report" were all completed. From April 2014 to January 2015, surveys were carried out seeking the views of Businesses, Farms, Schools, Churches and Young People in the area.

From January to June 2015 the "Dalston Visions" survey was hand delivered to every household in the Parish and returns used as evidence to support the "Aims and Objectives" of the Plan.

The Steering Group also contacted statutory consultees such as the Fire Service, the Police, Carlisle City Council Planning Department, English Heritage and the Environment Agency to gain their contribution to forming the policies of the Plan.

This enormous amount of data has taken a small army of volunteers to help collect, analyse, write reports and discuss at the Steering Group meetings and make essential decisions to form the plan.

During August 2016 a 6-week consultation was held inviting comments from the public and the statutory consultees, of the “Draft Neighbourhood Plan”. This was achieved by holding drop in events around the Parish and a public meeting in Dalston Victory Hall. All the comments received were acknowledged and these led to modifications to reflect the majority views.

Membership of the Steering Group changed with the requirements of the Plan. As time went by, volunteers joined the group to lend their expertise in certain areas and, having completed that piece of work withdrew. This meant the Steering Group was able to gather expertise and evidence in all the areas considered important to the Parishioners of Dalston.

During the whole period producing the Plan there have been many training sessions. Outside professional planning consultants and Carlisle City Council Planners held workshops for the Steering Group and other interested parties to help fine tune the Plan’s policies. Members of Carlisle City Councils Planning Policy Team provided invaluable advice, help and support throughout the preparation of the Plan.

All the information was considered, and policies finalised into a submission draft of the Plan. In 2017 this was offered to the Parish to view and comment upon. After this consultation the Plan was inspected by an independent planning inspector to check that it met the legal criteria for a Neighbourhood Plan and due process had been done. With minor modifications the Plan was considered fit to be put to the Parish for approval in a referendum.

Dalston Parish Council thanks all those who took part in the production of the Plan (over 50 individuals and many organisations) who spent so much of their time to produce a Planning Guide for future land use in Dalston Parish that truly reflects the wishes of the majority, guarding and providing a planned future for generations to come.

Dalston Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group