

Motion: Invitation to representatives of Gentoo, Homes England and Northumberland County Council to attend the Full Council Meeting of Prudhoe Town Council to discuss the Prudhoe Walled Garden

Proposed by: Cllr Carol Stephenson

In view of the continuing uncertainty about Gentoo's plans for/commitment to the future of Prudhoe Walled Garden as a promised asset to the community and the very serious concerns the local and wider community have about the continued deterioration of the Grade 2 listed buildings associated with the Walled Garden, this Council resolves to invite representatives of Homes England, Gentoo and Northumberland County Council (officers associated with preservation of listed buildings) to attend a full meeting of Prudhoe Town Council in November 2027.

Representatives are asked to come prepared to:

1. Discuss the 2023 structural engineer's report that Gentoo were required to carry out as a result of a planning order by Northumberland CC. How has this been used to develop a maintenance and preservation plan for the Walled Garden, how has that plan has been implemented including time scale and budget?
2. Address questions relating to the oversight of the developer's obligations. What steps Northumberland County Council and Homes England have each taken to ensure that Gentoo preserves and maintains the Walled Garden in accordance with its obligations as owner and developer of a Grade II listed structure.
3. Make clear the current condition of the Walled garden and what plans, if any, Gentoo have for the garden. What the present physical condition of the Walled Garden is, when it was last formally assessed, and what works are outstanding or planned.
4. Address residents' questions and find a way forward. To hear and respond to questions submitted by Prudhoe residents; to agree a way forward on the maintenance and preservation of the site; to agree on a collaborative process that harnesses support from Gentoo's for the development of the Walled Garden as a community asset, as originally intended.

This Council asks that: Written responses to these questions are requested from any organisation unable to send a representative.