

LONGHOUGHTON VILLAGE – THE FUTURE

ACTION PLAN

We have finalised the ACTION PLAN from the Needs and Issues survey and comments received from residents on the Draft Action Plan. The Action Plan reflects the views of the majority. From what you have said we have produced the following vision for the village:

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

In putting together this Action Plan we have set the objective of improving the economic, social and environmental conditions of residents within the Ward. This includes:

Protecting and enhancing the vitality of the village and enhancing the quality of life of residents. Improving the infrastructure to support the needs of residents and to provide a mix of housing for local people. To provide opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of all residents and to promote accessibility to services and public transport. To contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the natural, historic and built environment and ensure quality design that respects and enhances local distinctiveness and helps to promote a sense of place.

We also want to give residents a greater say in the use of land within the area and are to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will be subject to a referendum, and if approved, will become part of the planning rules and guidance.

HOUSING

More new housing will support the village infrastructure, school, retail outlets and community facilities and improvements that are set out in this Plan.

There should be more **affordable housing** for local people to get on the housing ladder and at the other end of the scale, to allow older people to down size. Housing for **second homes and holiday lets** should be carefully assessed in terms of its contribution to sustainability.

Community - led housing should be investigated and the decisions on the location of new housing and the type of housing should be determined through a Neighbourhood Development Plan.



RETAIL, BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

A long standing need expressed by residents is for the village of Longhoughton to have the facility of a village **public house including a family restaurant and possibly a take-away**. To be viable and sustainable this facility will need to attract tourists and visitors during the tourist season as well as be well supported by the community throughout the year. The location of the facility in Longhoughton will be critical to attract tourists and

visitors and be convenient for all local people. It will require good parking facilities.

Retention of the existing **personal service businesses** is essential to meet the needs of the community. Additionally there is a pressing need for **public toilets** to service the needs of tourists, visitors and residents. A **Post Office** facility is needed in the village and this will be considered in conjunction with the pub/family restaurant or any other retail/service facility as will the need for toilets.

New businesses should be encouraged to contribute to sustainability. The most likely source of new business is tourism and visitors, which is expected to grow in Northumberland over the next few years. There are opportunities to service the needs of cyclists and walkers who are following the national trails or visiting the area. There may be opportunities to engage with other visitors such as caravan owners and mobile homes.

The new café business “**Company B**” has been met with a very warm welcome by the community.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Village Green. There is strong support for the creation of a village green on the former Johnnie Johnston site. This site is owned by the County Council and is earmarked for housing. For the County Council to give up the site will require a very robust business plan to utilise this land as a village green.

Recreational and Green Spaces. Recreational areas and green spaces are important to the community. There is support for the old Recreational Field to be continued as a recreational area and its use should be enhanced by allowing access from Eastfield/Eastmoor, although, we understand that this involves private land. This area is earmarked for housing so there will need to be a plan for it to be retained in part or whole for recreation.

The Trustees of the **Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre Trust** will consider opening up **Westfield Park** to

informal recreation subject to the protection of the existing football pitches and facilities.

Educational Facilities. The Head Teacher of Longhoughton CE Primary School has confirmed that the present site of the School is suitable and adequate and will meet the needs of future pupil projections. Over the last year the County Council, has invested a substantial amount in the building and it is considered to be sustainable. The School currently has capacity to absorb additional children from any new housing or movement of RAF personnel.

Social and Learning Facilities. The Trustees of the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre Trust will offer a greater range of social and learning opportunities to the whole population. The Beacon Community Centre will cater for the needs of the RAF families and especially the needs of the 0 to 5 age group.

Sporting Facilities. The development of the MUGA will be carefully considered by the Parish Council and the Trustees of the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre Trust. Alternative ways of providing improved sporting facilities will be investigated before decisions are taken. Other sports not currently available in Longhoughton will be considered. Finding sources of new funding will be essential.

Facilities for Young and Older People. The 'drop in' facilities for older teenagers will be considered with the RAF. The activities supported in the Review will be pursued with the intention of providing them. Walking Football is already available. Assistance is needed to organise the events and activities.

Living in Longhoughton. All residents will receive an update on the implementation of this plan through the Boulmer, Howick and Longhoughton Community Newsletter issued every two months. Our aim is to involve people in the implementation of these changes especially where there are options to evaluate and consider. If there is a need for more frequent information this will be considered.

HEALTH FACILITIES

The Parish Council will work with Alwick Medical Group and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to improve the facilities and the service in Longhoughton.



The existing Health Centre

ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

Connectivity. The connectivity of the various estates in Longhoughton will be reviewed with the intention of people and children being able to move about the village in a safe and secure manner using a series of green routes (the green necklace). Improved connectivity will have improved health and social outcomes.

The Trustees of the Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre will consider giving access to their site from Chancel Place and through access to the Co-op area.

Access to Services. With a larger number of people coming into the community we will make the case for improved public transport especially during the evening period. We will talk to our neighbouring Parish Councils and the County Council about the importance of the rail services at Alnmouth Station and the inadequate parking arrangements. We will identify residents who do not have their own transport and who find it difficult to use public transport with a view to finding alternative arrangements.

Help and advice will be sought for residents reporting poor **Broadband speeds** and poor **mobile phone** reception.

ENVIRONMENT

Protecting the Environment. We will put forward a scheme to plant up to 100 new trees throughout the village and to establish a Community Orchard. We will encourage recycling and look to provide bottle bank facilities and we will ensure litter bins (incl. dog bins) are situated in the optimum positions. We will encourage residents to volunteer for litter picks and other measures to conserve the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other countryside around the village.

Footpaths and Rights of Way. The public rights of way in the Longhoughton area will be maintained and proposals will be compiled for more permissive footpaths to enable circular walking routes to be established. This will have health benefits and encourage tourism.

Dog Poo. We will look at the case for additional 'dog poo bins' and put on awareness campaigns aimed at all dog owners adopting the NCC Green Dog Walkers Campaign. We will make residents aware of the services of the NCC Dog Wardens.

ROADS AND ROAD SAFETY

We will compile a dossier of the road defects that have been identified by residents and request NCC to take action on them. The owners of hedges that impede safe walking on the pavements will be asked to keep them trim. The position of the bus stops on both sides of Station Road near the entrance to Chancel Place will be considered from a safety point of view. All efforts will be taken to ensure that the 20mph scheme is effectively working and that action is taken against people who exceed the limit. The purchase of a hand held speed camera is being considered by the Parish Council.

The need for pavement surfacing improvements, dropped kerbs and other defects, including the re-surfacing of Crowlea Road/Lacey Street have been submitted to the County Council as a priority in the 2019-20 Local Transport Plan.