

Boulmer Howick & Longhoughton

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

Sunflowers are guaranteed to put a smile on your face and this little group of winners and runners-up were chuffed to receive their prizes. A hundred packets of sunflower seeds were delivered to Howick, Boulmer and Longhoughton, encouraging the children to see who could grow the tallest. There was also a prize for the best picture of wildlife attracted to the sunflower head. We are sure you will agree that we had a fine display growing outside the church, cheering up everyone driving and walking by.

Winner of the tallest sunflower at 9' 10" is Jack Davison, aged five



(photo, 3rd from right) who grew it on his allotment. Jack also won the biggest sunflower head category at 10". Co-winners of the sunflower and wildlife photo also pictured here are Abbie Weatheritt, aged eight (2nd from left), and Jack Davison. Both attracted lots of lovely bumblebees. Runners-up sweets were presented to Jay, aged ten and Finley, aged two (1st & 3rd left), and Grace Davison, aged two (2nd right). Having started a new tradition we're looking

forward to next year, and a bumper crop of sunflowers to cheer the whole Parish in 2021!

COVID COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM CONTINUES

A community team of volunteers was formed on 14 March at the inception of the pandemic to respond to the needs of residents in the parish. A team of over twenty keen volunteers was formed and quickly embraced responding to whatever need residents had as lockdown hit the parish. Priority was given to our more vulnerable residents. From March until the ease of the first lockdown, the team worked seven days a week, delivering vital food and medicines. Co-op shopping was delivered across the parish amounting to over four hundred bags. Queuing in the wind and rain seemed to be the norm in March and April for prescriptions (over 70 were delivered); doing garden makeovers and weekly grass-cuts still continues. Making calls to GPs for very vulnerable residents and seeking out favourite speciality magazines for individuals continues; and telephone befriending on a weekly basis. 44 large Age UK food parcels were delivered; Easter eggs and cards too; small plantings around the village; jigsaw puzzles and sweet trolley-service; a surprise street

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Longhoughton Parish Council

Boulmer Ward

Adrian Hinchcliffe (Vice Chair)
01665 572888

2 Vacancies

Howick Ward

John Haughie 01665 577020
1 Vacancy

Longhoughton Ward

Jacqueline Barras 01665 577824
Peter Bromley 01665 577071
Kris Cochrane 01665 572923
Carole Green 01665 572610
Ellie Phillips 01665 577563
(Chair)

County Councillor

Wendy Pattison 01665 579137

Parish Clerk

Elizabeth Taylor 01665 830040
parishclerk@hotmail.com
[Please contact the Clerk about the parish councillor vacancies.](#)

Websites

northumberlandparishes.uk/longhoughton
www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk

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Please let us have your newsworthy items for the next edition before the next **deadline on 21 November**. Thank you.

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birthday party was planned along with an Easter Sunday street mini-service (thank you to the very Reverend Ian Knox for the blessing and hymns); two children's competitions were run to help keep our little ones busy; rock painting and grow your own sunflower; twiddlemuffs were knitted to help ease anxieties by people with dementia; an access to cash system was set up for those who could not reach an ATM and much more. As lockdown eased some of the volunteers returned to work, but there remains a core of volunteers who continue to respond to local needs.

If you know of anyone who might need assistance and support then please call Ellie Phillips on 01665 572315 or the telephone numbers on page 1.

Parish News

LONGHOUGHTON, BOULMER AND HOWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following the consultation last January on the vision, objectives and policy themes, progress on developing the plan for the period to 2036 has been steady, mainly due to the hold-up caused by Coronavirus. Nevertheless the steering group has met on three occasions in the last two months and is working through the background papers and other topics that are necessary to accumulate the essential evidence.

Background papers on the Environment, Heritage, Green Spaces and Second Homes have been considered and nominations have been made for Local Green Spaces and Protected Open Spaces. In addition, the group has been looking at potential sites for housing within the parish and will use a Site Assessment Methodology developed by the Group's planning professional, Jo-Anne Garrick Ltd. Business development in the parish is also being reviewed, and following the business survey carried out last February a report has been compiled and considered by the Group.



The steering group applied to the Government for a project to develop a Design Guide for the parish. This was successful and a company by the name of AECOM has been appointed to do this work, which is due to be completed in November. A specification for the work has been agreed with AECOM and representatives of the company have already visited the parish to obtain a good understanding of it and our vision and objectives for the parish. The Design Guide will be an essential piece of work that will back up the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan and set out quality standards for any development within the parish.

Meetings have also been held with Northumberland Estates and the RAF.

BOULMER PARKING ISSUES

Unprecedented levels of visitors parking at Boulmer have continued over the summer. In an attempt to find a solution, the parish council has had three online meetings with the county council to discuss the urgent need for new off-road parking and for ways to be found to alleviate the congestion. The county council proposed the introduction of 'no-parking' cones to deal with road safety issues and these have been installed. They also proposed a consultation on a Residents' Parking Scheme for Boulmer, similar to the one approved by Craster Residents. However, due to the county council having no staff available to do the survey because of Covid-19 restrictions, Councillor Adrian Hinchcliffe volunteered to do the survey and report back to the county council and the parish council. This was agreed by the county council and Councillor Wendy Pattison.



The consultation took place during the last week in August and a report was sent on 30 August. The main points of the report are set out below and the full report can be found on the parish council website at www.northumberlandparishes.uk/longhoughton.

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- **Additional off-street car parking** is urgently needed to accommodate tourists, visitors and the needs of Boulmer Memorial Hall and the Fishing Boat Inn. Residents voted in favour of this in 2018.
- **Parking fees:** The users of the existing car park should pay parking fees.
- **Double yellow lines** should be installed in place of the 'no-parking cones' where they are currently located and on either side of the bridge, voted for by residents in 2018.
- **Parking Restrictions Scheme:** The county council should prepare a formal parking restrictions scheme for consultation with residents to be ready for implementation should the number of visitors to Boulmer in 2021 be at a similar level to that of 2020.
- **Parking Restrictions:** Ideally these should be introduced at the same time as the opening up of additional off-street parking and the introduction of parking charges.
- **Consultation:** Boulmer residents should be consulted and informed at key points in the implementation of these changes.

The parish council has held further discussions with the county council on proposals that they have put forward for additional parking in Boulmer. This was discussed by the parish council on 21 August and a response has been given. This is documented in the parish council minutes.

KEEPING BOULMER RESIDENTS INFORMED

During the Coronavirus lockdown there was a need to keep Boulmer residents aware of what was happening in relation to the lockdown and associated events. Knowing that it was not possible to meet, Adrian Hinchcliffe, the Parish Councillor for Boulmer, set up an email group with the consent of residents that complied with data protection requirements. Over the four months to July, 54 emails were sent out to the group that now covers 64% of Boulmer residents. This method was extremely useful for keeping everyone informed and enabled two-way communications at a time when proper discussion was not possible.

More recently it has been used for reporting acts of vandalism; Police Liaison sessions; the completion of a local competition; issues relating to a parking restrictions scheme; what is taking place in the village and again it will be used in the new Coronavirus emergency.

The parish council recognises that those who are not connected to the internet are not receiving these emails. However, working with Longhoughton Community and Sports Centre it is hoped that training could be given to those residents who would like internet training so that they are able to benefit from what is becoming an essential part of life.

LONGHOUGHTON COMMUNITY & SPORTS CENTRE OPENS FOR BUSINESS AGAIN

A comprehensive risk assessment has been completed and we are now able to accept a maximum of 30 people in the building at one time – however this number may be reduced dependent on specific usage, determined at the time of booking. Full compliance with Covid-ready guidance is adhered to, with all systems in place to ensure we keep user groups as safe as we can while using the facilities. Trustees are working hard to secure funding for a number of projects planned and to ensure we have sufficient income to cover running costs throughout the pandemic as income has been cut by over 80%.

Football activities continue following the Government and Football Foundation guidance with 14 teams playing per week. Our very own Longhoughton Rangers FC is out practising in all weathers which hopefully will translate to lots of wins for them throughout the season.

Understandably some groups are reticent about returning yet, and may not do so until the new year, depending on the status of the pandemic. Last week we hosted Longhoughton Indoor Bowls Club AGM and received positive feedback on the way the centre safely accommodated each individual member of the group. This was the first time members had come together since lockdown so they were understandably enjoying the catch-up with each other. The group donated generously to the cost of the new function room curtains and were happy to see them now up, ready for their photo-opportunity at the AGM with two of the main cup-winners, David Gibson and Sheila Abercromby.

Indoor keep-fit activities (Zumba, Pound, Pilates, Metafit) are running on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at the moment. The Zumba teacher ran her classes outside in the better weather earlier this year and provided music while the footballers played, and a few were even encouraged to share a few moves on the pitch!

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If you want to book a place on any of the keep fit activities then please contact:

Metafit – Saturday 8-9am call Andy Crosby 07368 637858

Zumba/Pound/Pilates various classes, call Sophie Hastings on 07825 002702

Please call Ellie Phillips on 01665 572315 for enquiries about a booking. She can advise you on procedures and guidance to follow.

BRIDGE OVER THE HOWICK BURN

Howick Estates has agreed to the rebuilding of the bridge. The parish council is looking for offers of funding, materials and labour for the job to go-ahead. A funding bid is being made to the Community Chest and the parish council may make a contribution.

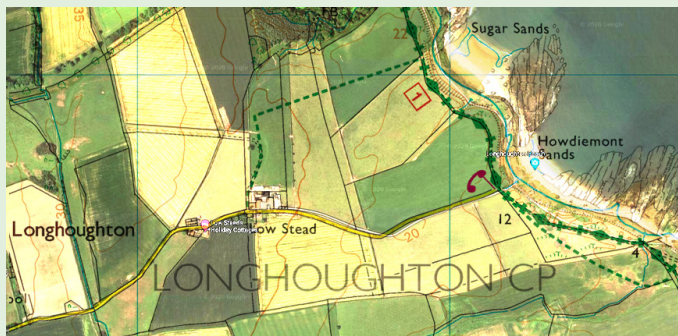
A FINAL THANK YOU FROM THE VICARAGE

Ian and Claire would like to thank everyone for their leaving gifts, kind words and messages. "We have been truly overwhelmed by the kindness you have shown," they wrote.

BEACH ROAD BRIEF

The issue of Beach Road Longhoughton has been included in the Longhoughton Traffic Review that is taking place between now and the end of October. Councillor Peter Bromley was asked by the county council to put together a brief for Beach Road to look at the options and this was agreed in principle at the Parish Council meeting on 21 September. The brief highlighted that there are five key interlinking objectives for any changes to traffic management, which are:

- Reduce the amount of traffic using Beach Road
- Reduce the size of vehicles
- Reduce the speed of traffic on Beach Road
- Make the road safer for pedestrian, cycle and horse traffic.
- Protect the landscape and ecology of the coast and adjacent areas, in part by safeguarding farming viability



The report states that the partners should come up with an action plan to deliver on these objectives over a period of time, possibly two years. The action plan is likely to include signage and re-prioritisation of the road; traffic management and calming measures; restricted parking on the headland and dunes; on-site interpretation.

PERMISSIVE ROUTE NORTH OF LONGHOUGHTON

The Footpaths Group had suggested a permissive route in the field north of the allotments to connect up with the existing footpath that goes up the side of the quarry. This would avoid walkers having to walk on the road round the two dangerous bends. The Estate has said that they are open to discussions on this.



CYCLING & GREEN ROUTE OPPORTUNITIES

Longhoughton Parish Council is working with Lesbury Parish Council to pursue the opportunity to develop more off-road cycling and green routes. This has come about following the announcement by British Cycling and Sport England of a £15m fund for the development of cycling networks. The two councils are to form a group to identify suitable projects and to make application for the funding. Longhoughton Parish Councillor Jacqueline Barras will represent Longhoughton on the group. One of the objectives would be to have an off-road cycling route connecting Longhoughton to Alnwick possibly via Hipsburn and the much talked about Aln Valley cycling route. This would be a splendid addition to the local off-road cycling network.