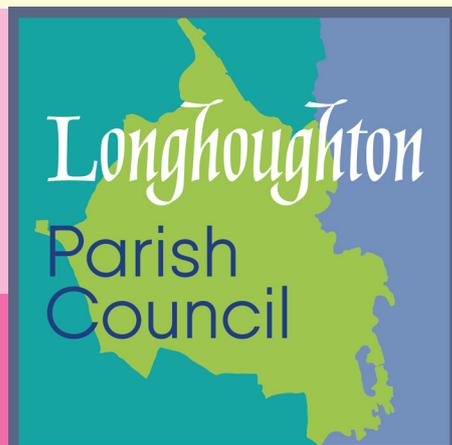


Longhoughton Boulmer and Howick Neighbourhood Plan to 2036 CONSULTATION

We need your views!



PLEASE READ ON

The Parish Council, through a Steering Group which includes representatives from the local community, is preparing a **Neighbourhood Plan** to enable the local community to guide where and how development happens in the future as well as protecting and enhancing what is important to us. Our plan can include a range of policies and allocate sites both for protection and development. Once adopted, any planning applications in our parish will be assessed against the policies within the plan. **Your input is therefore vital.**

We have undertaken a lot of background work and we feel it is important to obtain feedback from residents, stakeholders and other consultees before we prepare draft planning policies and land allocations. This document summarises the outcome of the work to date. More information on the evidence that we have compiled to support the proposals is contained in several background papers which are available on our web site www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk/consultations

The web site also contains an interactive map showing possible housing sites and the possible sites for Local Green Space and Protected Open Space.

Unfortunately, as a result of COVID restrictions we are unable to hold drop in events, therefore in order to help you understand the work and our proposals we have prepared a number of films discussions around specific topics and the links are available on our website.

HOW TO RESPOND In order to inform the preparation of the neighbourhood plan we are inviting comments on the issues identified within this document or the supporting papers. Comments can be made by:

- Completing the on-line response form on our web site at www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk/consultations
- Email to: adrian.hinchcliffe@btopenworld.com or
- Write to: Longhoughton PC, The Croft, Boulmer, Alnwick, NE66 3BW.

Comments must be received by Wednesday 30 June 2021

NEXT STEPS

We will use your feedback to inform the preparation of a draft plan and will ask for further feedback on the plan later this year. The plan will be revised and submitted to Northumberland County Council who will organise an independent examination. When the plan passes examination, residents of the parish will be asked to vote on whether they support the proposals contained within the plan in a referendum.

OUR VISION FOR 2036 AND ITS OBJECTIVES

We consulted you on the Vision and Objectives in January 2020 and they have been updated to reflect what you said. The Vision and Objectives can be seen in full on our website.



SUSTAINABILITY THE KEY OBJECTIVE OF OUR PLAN

The sustainability of the parish and our community is a key objective that binds all elements of the plan together. All new development must make a positive contribution to the social, environmental and economic needs of the parish and any negative impacts, particularly those contributing to climate change, are adequately taken into account.

In the Northumberland Local Plan, which contains policies for the whole of the county, Longhoughton is regarded as a 'service village' that services the basic needs of its residents and the adjacent villages and hamlets of Boulmer and Howick. So the plan seeks to ensure that the population is of a size to support basic services; that there are sufficient pupils for the primary school to remain open; that retail shop and other outlets remain viable enterprises; that there is suitable housing for young and old that there are adequate community facilities and a level of business to support local people. It also means that we have to conserve and improve the environment, habitats and nature and protect our special heritage and all that we regard as 'the place where we live'. These are all key questions that need to be taken into account when considering the size of the population and the number of new houses that should be built.

More information on our vision and objectives, including sustainability, is available on our website including a short film. We need your views on the key objective of sustainability!

PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The residents of the parish benefit from a rich and diverse natural environment. This is illustrated through the wealth of international and national designations, which include: the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; North Northumberland Heritage Coast; Northumbria Coast Ramsar Site; Berwickshire and North Northumberland Coast Special Area of Conservation; Northumbria Coast Special Protection Area; three sites of special scientific interest (SSSI).

Feedback has highlighted that you want our plan to protect and improve the natural environment of the parish. We can do this through our plan by: conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB, protecting the integrity of internationally designated coastal sites and supporting the creation, protection and enhancement of biodiversity and green infrastructure networks. More evidence is available in the background paper on the natural environment which is available on the website along with a short film. **We need to know whether you agree with our approach to protecting and improving our natural environment!**

OUR HERITAGE THAT MAKES THE PARISH DISTINCTIVE

The historic assets of Longhoughton Parish are a vital part of its character and are valued by residents. There is strong support for the protection and enhancement of heritage assets across the plan area. There is one scheduled monument, one registered park and garden, and 51 listed buildings/structures. There are a number of non-designated assets in our parish including assets linked to our agricultural and fishing history as well as both world wars. These assets are irreplaceable and should be conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance. Any planning decisions affecting a heritage asset should be based on a sound understanding of their significance. More evidence is available in the background paper on Heritage which is available on the website along with a short film. **We need your views on our approach to protecting and enhancing the heritage of our parish!**



GOOD DESIGN THE KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development. It creates better spaces for people to live and work in. It is fundamental to what the planning and development process should deliver and ensures that new development contributes positively to the local environment and therefore, enhances the quality of life for residents. As part of the evidence base supporting the preparation of the plan, a design guide and code has been prepared to inform policy development. The document describes the plan area and defined design codes. The code sets out high quality and sustainable design and sets out the key principles that should be addressed as part of proposals for new development, while seeking to ensure that the plan does not place unnecessary restrictions on new development. The design guide and code will form part of the Neighbourhood Plan and are available on the website along with a film. **Do you feel our design code has captured the key features of our parish?**

GREEN SPACES WE WANT TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT

Green spaces are important for wildlife and for our mental wellbeing. Within the plan we can designate **Local Green Spaces** which are equivalent to 'green belt' and **Protected Open Spaces** which we wish to protect from future development. The Steering Group has assessed 31 sites and of these has proposed 6 as Local Green Spaces and 19 as Protected Open Spaces. All are shown on the interactive map. **Have we got this 'protection' right? Are there any areas missing? We need your views!** More evidence is available on the Green Spaces Background Paper which is available on the website along with a short film.



COMMUNITY NEEDS AND FACILITIES

Community facilities are identified as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship. These facilities enhance the sustainability of local communities and residential environments. There are a variety of community facilities available across the plan area. The majority of services and facilities are provided within Longhoughton, including a GP surgery, primary school, community and sports centre, church, Coop and café. At Boulmer there is a restaurant/public house and at Howick, there is a tearoom. There are village halls at Boulmer and Howick and a community and sports centre at Longhoughton. The availability of the current level of facilities within the plan area are essential to support the strong sense of community that exists, as well as seeking to resist the loss of existing facilities and to enhance the provision of community services during the plan period. A list of community actions is available on the web site along with a link to a short film.. **Have we captured the key community needs and facilities? We need your views!**

NEW HOUSING AND SITES FOR HOUSING

The provision of housing that is needed by our local community is a key element of sustainable development. The feedback you have provided to us highlights that we need our parish to contain thriving communities. In order to understand future housing needs two separate pieces of work were undertaken to consider this issue in more detail – **a housing needs survey** and a **housing needs assessment**.

Some responses to the survey highlighted that no suitable homes were available locally, the current home was too large, or that the current home was too small. The highest demand identified was for two bedroom bungalows, as well as two and three bedroom houses. Issues were also identified with the cost of homes in the parish and access to affordable housing. The housing needs assessment identified that the parish has an overabundance of large bungalows and large houses. It suggested that there is a need for more one to three bedroom dwellings, in order to provide an appropriate mix of housing to meet future needs. The assessment highlighted that the income required to buy an average market home for sale is higher than those on or below average household incomes can afford. As a result, it suggests that there is a need to provide affordable routes to home ownership.

Continued over/

Full information at www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk/consultations

Both the housing needs survey and the housing needs assessment clearly identify that there is a need for further housing to support the sustainability of our local community. **We need your views on what the evidence is telling us.** Both reports are available on our website.

As we believe there is a clear need for further new housing in the parish over the period of the plan to 2036, we have looked at possible sites for new housing. Twenty-one sites have been identified, with only six in Longhoughton considered potentially suitable for housing. In Howick two sites were assessed by the Steering Group as being potentially suitable and Northumberland Estates put forward one site in Boulmer which was also assessed as being potentially suitable. All these sites are identified on the interactive map. **We need your views on the results of our assessment work!** More information is available on our website. This includes: the Housing Site Assessment Background Paper and a short film presentation.

SECOND HOMES AND HOLIDAY LETS

A high level of second homes and holiday lets can impact upon the viability and vitality of a community. Our research has shown that Longhoughton and Howick do not have a high level of second homes or holiday lets but Boulmer is badly affected with a level of 37.5% of all properties. This has the impact of forcing up the price of properties that come on the market to a level well out of reach of local people who work in the area. We believe this issue needs to be addressed and that the Neighbourhood Plan should include a policy to require all new properties in Boulmer Ward to be for 'permanent occupation only'. If this issue becomes a problem in Longhoughton or Howick, the Plan can be revised to add policies for those areas. More evidence is available on the web site along with a short film. **We need your views on whether we should be looking to restrict the occupation of new homes in Boulmer to permanent occupation only!**

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS TOURISM AND EMPLOYMENT

The economy of the Parish is an essential element and especially important to the local community. Existing businesses must have the facilities, expertise, skills and information to be successful and develop and the conditions should be right to support new businesses. Many of the support mechanisms lie outside the planning process. However, the Neighbourhood Plan has an important role to support new economic development but it is essential that this does not adversely impact on the built, historic and natural environment or the amenity of occupiers of neighbouring properties. More evidence is available on our website along with a short film. **We need your views on how our plan can support the local economy!**

TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

The walking and cycling network in the area includes those routes that are used by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. They provide recreation and leisure opportunities and also promote healthy living. Routes also include established pathways and cycle routes, public rights of way, bridle paths and paths of a more informal nature. The impact of climate change means that we need to promote the use of this network and public transport to decrease the number of journeys made by car.

Accessibility to services is essential for residents in the parish, especially those who do not have their own transport and are not able to use sustainable transport such as walking, cycling or horse riding. For these residents access to public transport is essential.

The COVID Pandemic has demonstrated the need for more people to work from home which brings into focus the need for adequate broadband and mobile phone facilities.

More evidence is available on our website along with a short film. **We need your views on how our plan can improve transport and access across our parish!**



Full information including short films at www.longhoughtonndp.co.uk/consultations